

Slow(er) Science

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I make a case for slow science that focuses not on the exploitation of land, labour and the environment, but on knowledge for its own sake. While modern science over the last century has been aided heavily by its promise of future exploitation (its "usefulness") it has also opened unimaginable windows of our minds, with a large fraction of interesting science being deemed "useless". I argue that science should not be viewed as a "service provider" for exploitative growth, but rather be embraced as a fundamental human endeavour. Decoupling science from exploitation is the first step towards a sustainable science practice.

Isabelle Stenger, the slow science movement

Thanks to Teachers Against the Climate Crisis (TACC)

Knowledge generation

New Technology

Controlling nature

Improving Living Conditions

**SCIENCE
IN
SOCIETY**

Promise for Economic Growth

Growth of Extractive Economy

Big funding comes from the promise of future extraction and exploitation “for the benefit of humankind”

Can we afford to do Big Science?

Knowledge Creation

- *Can this be done without Massive Resources we can ill afford?*
- *Can this be done without Extractive Practice?*

Not if the bottom line is Extractive Profit!

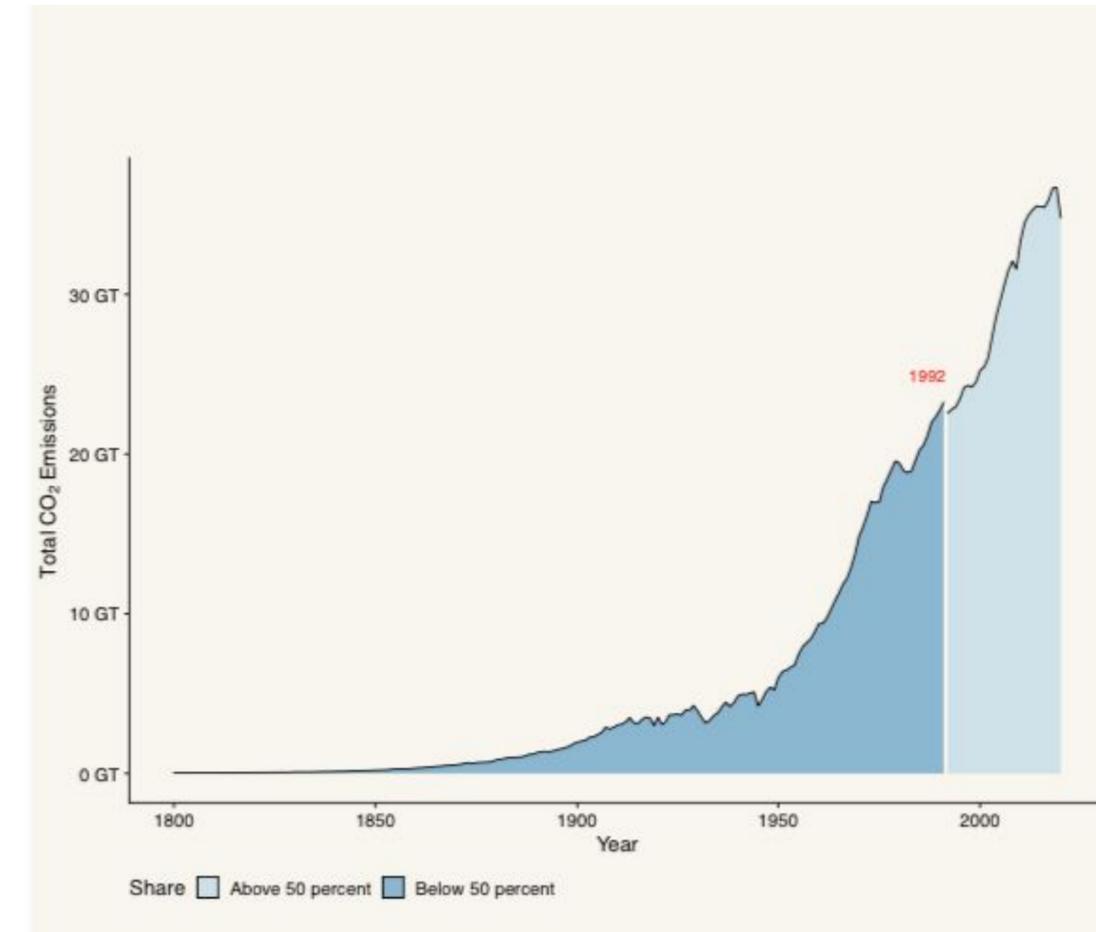
- *Science cannot be a service provider for Extractive Profit*

Not Now

Not in its current practice

“Maximise profit” v/s “profitable”

- Does not lead to a **controllable** steady state
 - 50% of total CO2 emissions in the last 30 years
 - Last 30 years: Hyper-consumerism, hyper-finance, market fundamentalism
- Creation of vast Imbalances
- There is no bottom to extraction



Shouvik Chakraborty, Rohit Azad, based on Our World in Data,

Ritchie and Roser 202

**Epicyclic Reasoning to explain Financial logic, Efficiency, Profitability
—despite evidence that its JUST NOT WORKING!**

- Why do humans DO science?
- What is human curiosity?
- Why do we want to learn more?

**Knowledge
Creation**

Promotions, Awards ,
Honors, More Funding etc

Pennies, really

We engage in science because it is human to want to understand nature

Justification:

*We need to do this to be “useful” to society,
even when it contributes to extractive practice*

Its rather like the Matrix..

Give scientists just enough room to work so that they can produce
knowledge to serve the purpose of extractive profiteering

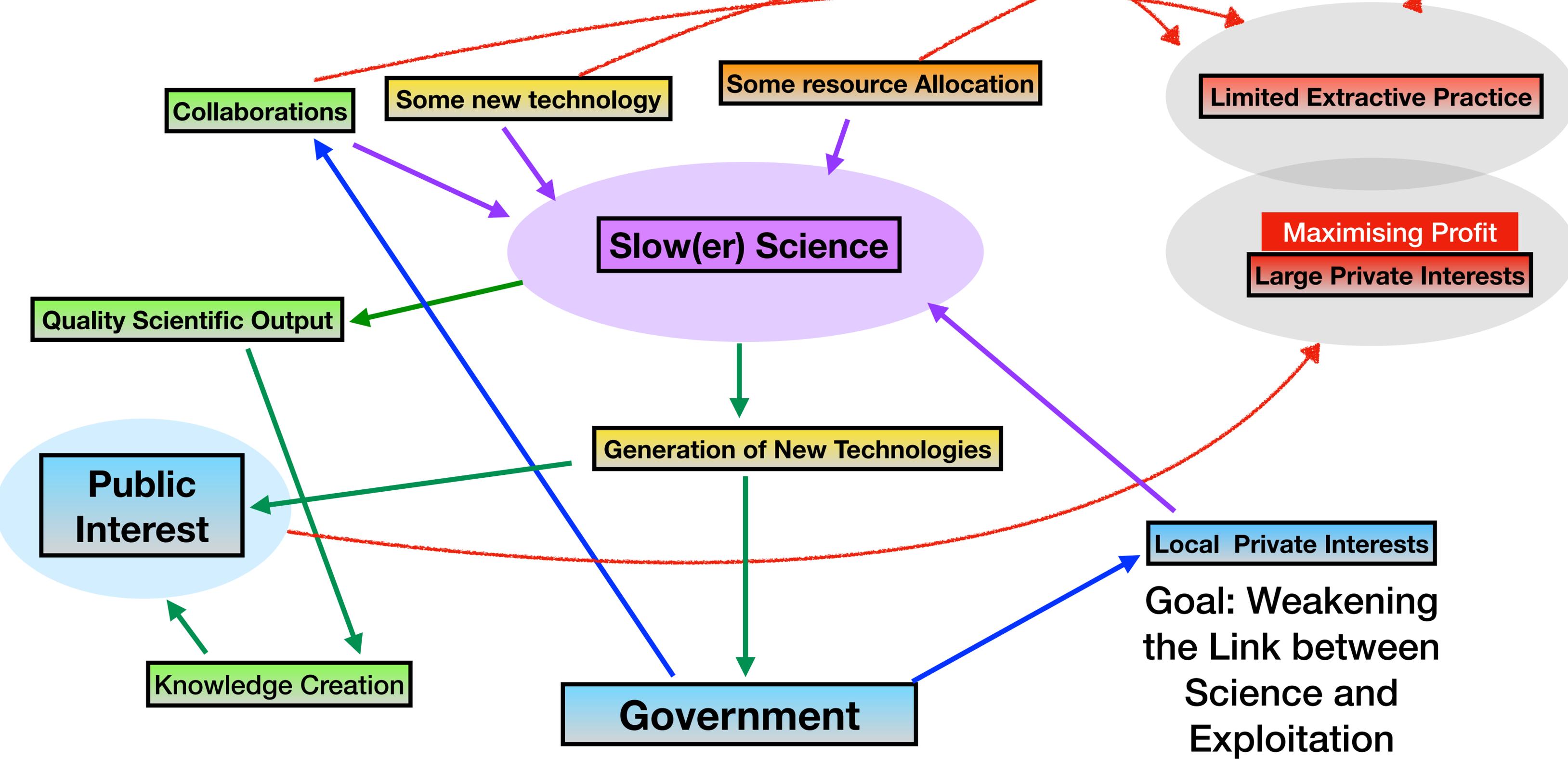
Kaching!! \$\$\$

Isabelle Stenger

“Another Science is Possible: A Manifesto for Slow Science”

- ***“ judgement of an academic pseudo-market ruled by blind competition.”***
- ***“we must admit that we have been successfully compelled to surrender a great part of our freedom to engage in dissent. ”***

A case for slow(er) science



Don't take off your thinking cap



**“Logic” of
Extractive Practice**

*Who does it serve?
How bad is it going to get?
Are there other ways of doing science?*



Don our thinking caps to reclaim science on the way to saving the planet

Isabelle Stengers: Slow Science

Slow science supports [curiosity](#)-driven [scientific research](#) and opposes [performance targets](#). Slow science is a continually developing school of thought in the scientific community. Followers of slow science practices are generally opposed to the current model of research which is seen as constrained by the need for continued funding. The slow science perspective attributes the overinflation of scientific publishing, and rise in fraudulent publishing with the requirement for researchers and institutions to create a justification for continued funding. The term slow science was first popularised in “Another Science is Possible: A Manifesto for Slow Science” by researcher [Isabelle Stengers](#) in 2018.^[1] The idea of “[publish or perish](#)”, which too links limitations in the quality of research to financial constraints, has been around since the early 20th century.^[2] The slow science philosophy has been described as both a way to approach scientific research, and a science led movement which acts as a critique of science's function in [neoliberal](#) society.

Slow science has developed its key principles through the contribution of many scholars and organisations. Key principles include calls to shift from scientific research which places its value in output of research,^[3] research funding reform, and ridding scientific research from coerced political agendas. For especially well known scientists, some have had the freedom to apply slow science principles.^[4] Slow Science development has especially gained prevalence in western European scientific communities, in progressive research universities.^[5] Slow science as a whole has gradually gained support through individuals and organisational advocacy. Criticism, due to the movement's relatively small impact, has been limited.

Eunice Foote : contribution to understanding CO₂ heat trapping.