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Postnormal Science and the maturing of the structural contradictions of modern European science

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Abstract

To analyze the sometimes paradoxical features of contemporary science, I use the concept of "contradiction", namely a problem that cannot be solved within the confines of the system in which it is set. I study such contradictions as knowledge and power, knowledge and ignorance, the True and the Good, innovation and property, elitism/democracy, and reality and safety. I then sketch the reactions that have occurred so far, both official and popular, and advance some ideas of my own, including awareness and non-violence.



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