

## Seasons Greetings From PERITIA!

As the end of the year draws near, we would like to extend our warmest wishes for the holiday season. As you will read, not only has there been quite a lot to celebrate, but there are many promising events on the horizon as well.

Without further ado, please enjoy our last newsletter of 2022...

## 'A New Dark Age? Truth, Trust, and Environmental Science'

### Review Article by PERITIA Researchers

Is public trust in science eroding?

Published in the [Annual Review of Environment and Resources](#) (Vol. 47, October 2022), this review article takes an interdisciplinary approach to the alleged crisis of trust in environmental science and its impact on public opinion, policy decisions in the context of democratic governance, and the interaction between science and society.

[Read more](#)

## Other Research From PERITIA

### Two New Philosophy Papers on (Dis)Trust

In their article '[Scepticism and the value of distrust](#)', [Maria Baghramian](#) and **Silvia Caprioglio Panizza** (University College Dublin) put forth four arguments in favour of **mitigated scepticism**, which they deem valuable to democratic governance, even if it may stand in opposition to the cognitive dependency that epistemic trust demands. The authors advocate for the creation of a '**climate of trust**' that encourages the questioning of experts but likewise engenders epistemic trust through institutional means.

Meanwhile, [Rowland Strout](#) focusses rather on the **behavioural manifestations of trust**: '[Betrayal, Trust and Loyalty](#)' lays out a conception of trust that is principally a behavioural aspect and only secondarily a mental one.

## 'Climate communication: How researchers navigate between scientific truth and media publics'

Climate scientists are increasingly under pressure to engage more actively with the public. But audiences within the current media landscape are diverse in nature, making it difficult for scientists to gain their epistemic trust.

For their article published in [Communication and the Public](#), **Donya Alinejad** and **José Van Dijck** investigate how climate researchers imagine the public they are attempting to engage with. They conclude that strategies for gaining trust vary with the media public. The aim of their communication seems to oscillate between filling a '**knowledge deficit**' and communicating complex '**truth tensions**'. [Read more.](#)

### *Expertise, Policy-making and Democracy*

This newly published book by PERITIA researcher and work package leader [Cathrine Holst](#), along with **Johan Christensen** and **Anders Molander**, provides an overview of debates surrounding expertise, policymaking and democracy. Interweaving discussions from political philosophy and the philosophy of expertise with research on the role of experts in policy, the authors' point of departure is that healthy democracies depend on expertise. They analyse lines of argumentation around limiting the role of experts as well as tensions between **expertization and democracy**, and present ways of ensuring the epistemic integrity of policies and securing democratic credentials as well. [Read more.](#)

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## News from PERITIA

### Winners of the 2021 Robert Papazian and PERITIA Essay Prizes

Our warmest congratulations to **Julia Mosquera** and **Kristi M. Jylhä** (Institute for Futures Studies), whose work '[How to Feel About Climate Change? An Analysis of the Normativity of Climate Emotions](#)' earned them the 2021 PERITIA prize. This extremely timely and fascinating article suggests that disagreement around how one 'ought to' feel about the climate crisis can spark distrust, potentially curbing cooperative action.

We are equally delighted for **Amy Sepinwall** (University of Pennsylvania), who won the Robert Papazian prize for her essay '[Shared Guilt Among Inmates](#)'.

The winning essays, alongside other papers shortlisted for the prize, are now available in a special issue on '[Ethics and the Emotions](#)' in the *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*, edited by **Ashley Shaw** and **Maria Baghramian** of UCD. [Learn more.](#)

The *IJPS* has announced the [2022 call](#) for the Robert Papazian and PERITIA Essay Prizes. The topic is '**The Ethics and Politics of Disagreement**'. The closing date for submissions is **30 January 2023**.

### Irish Research Council's Researcher of the Year Awards Highly Commends PERITIA's Own Maria Baghramian

PERITIA Project Leader and Coordinator Professor [Maria Baghramian](#) (University College Dublin) has earned a High Commendation from the 2022 Researcher of the Year Awards for her research into the possibility of objective knowledge in the face of intractable disagreements and incompatible knowledge claims, in both the natural and human sciences. [Learn more.](#)

## Citizens' Forum Workshop Series Underway

The 26th of November marked the inaugural session of PERITIA's Citizen Fora, a series of deliberative workshops organised by [Sense About Science](#) and [The Policy Institute at King's College London](#). The aim is to bring together citizens and experts in London, Berlin, Dublin, Warsaw and Yerevan, to engage in information exchange, public reflection and deliberation on some of the most pressing and controversial topics confronting society today. Not only are participants directly engaged in decision-making regarding policy, but the researchers behind the workshops are also able to assess the impact of such encounters. This helps them in their overarching goal of improving the understanding of conditions of trust in experts and policymakers who work within the sphere of climate change. [Learn more.](#)

## Youth on Trust Awards Essay Collection Now Available Online

In conjunction with the [Irish and International Young Philosopher Awards](#) at the UCD Centre for Ethics in Public Life, PERITIA proudly presents the 12 winning entries of the 2022 **Youth on Trust Awards** in a digital [Essay Collection](#). Also available is a [playlist](#) featuring the winning entries submitted in film format. The winners will also be awarded a trip to the heart of the European Union in Brussels in May 2023.

We invited students between the ages of 13 to 18 from across Europe to share their views in a forum where their voices can be heard on the topic of **trust in our social and political life**. The project could take the form of an **essay, podcast, film, blog post, short story or dialogue**.

Now in its third incarnation, the International Young Philosopher Awards are accepting entries related to the theme of [belonging](#) until **31 March 2023**.

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## Events & Calls

### Call for Abstracts: 'Rethinking Policy, Expertise and Trust'

*University College Dublin, Ireland, 23-25 March 2023*

The **final research conference** of the PERITIA project will focus on the key themes of the project including but not limited to:

- Scope and nature of public trust and distrust
- Role of experts in policy decisions
- Factors contributing to trust and distrust in experts
- Critical assessments of the role of experts in policy decisions
- Role of social media in establishing trust and distrust
- Key indicators of the trustworthiness of the experts
- Psychological, affective and cognitive mechanisms relevant to (dis)trust
- Empirical studies of trust and trustworthiness

**The deadline for the call for abstracts has been extended to 4 January 2023.**

## Save the Date! PERITIA Final Event in Brussels

European Parliament [InfoHub](#) in Brussels, Belgium, 4-5 May 2023

The **closing event** of the PERITIA project will present the latest **empirical and theoretical findings** through **panel discussions**, a **policy roundtable** with experts in the field, a **trustworthiness toolkit** for policymakers, a **Trust Data Hub** for researchers and journalists, a series of **policy briefs**, outcomes of the PERITIA **Citizen Fora**, and, finally, an **awards ceremony** for the 12 winners of the [Youth on Trust Awards](#) student competition from across Europe.

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## Behind the Scenes

[Sense about Science](#) is an independent charity that promotes the public interest in sound science and evidence. A stalwart [PERITIA partner](#), this organisation counters misrepresentations of science and evidence in public life and holds the responsible parties accountable. Among their campaigns are [Evidence Week](#), which provides a chance for members of the public, parliamentarians and researchers to exchange knowledge and insights that will assist politicians investigate evidence; [What Counts?](#), an inquiry into the extent to which the Government's evidence for COVID-19 decisions served society; and [the Harding Prize](#), which you can read about below. [Learn more.](#)

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## Our Science Communication Corner

### 'The Harding Prize for Trustworthy Communication'

In association with [Sense About Science](#) and the [Science Media Centre](#), the [Winton Centre for Risk & Evidence Communication](#) celebrates those in the UK who tackle the communication of evidence well, with the annual [Harding Prize for Trustworthy Communication](#). There will be two categories for the 2022 prize: communication of evidence for a general audience, and for a specialist audience. The closing date for applications is **31 December 2022!**

The Harding Prize for 2021 was jointly won by the [ONS Covid Infection Survey](#) and the [Cochrane Review of Hydroxychloroquine for Covid-19](#). [Learn more.](#)

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## Did You Know... we can train our brains to be more responsive to the climate crisis?

### Evolution and Climate Change

Why is it so difficult for us to take the necessary actions to mitigate the climate crisis? Paediatric neurosurgeon **Ann-Christine Duhaime** may have the answer...

In her new book, *Minding the Climate: How Neuroscience Can Help Solve Our Environmental Crisis*, Dr Duhaime outlines how our brains have evolved to make short-term decisions. "**Survival pressures**" from another evolutionary era contributed to our neurology, making us focus on circumstances related to food, for example. Not only is climate change longer term, the outcomes of our ecological actions are still primarily imperceptible.

But there's hope! An experiment called 'Eco-Teams' had neighbourhood leaders enlist local households to create a team, who were then taught how to modify certain behaviours, such as reducing energy usage, and how to track their outcomes. Teams met regularly to share tips and support, and engaged in friendly competition with one another. Even after the programme ended, the participants still continued their ecological practices. Dr Duhaime's analysis? "They incorporated something new into their self-image. In other words, **their brains changed.**" [Learn more.](#)

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