

## A Year in Review

2021 ends with trust in science and scientists on the rise worldwide according to the [latest results](#) of the Wellcome Trust Global Monitor. The results indicate one more time that the claim that trust in science is declining in an alleged “post-truth era” is not an accurate depiction of reality.

Yet, the big picture is more complex. There is evidence of a breakdown of trust in specific policy areas. Climate action continues to be slow despite repetitive warnings from scientists. As Covid-19 resists being tamed, vaccine hesitancy prolongs the end of the pandemic. Many see the spread of science disinformation as a disruption of our mechanisms to achieve common knowledge and common ground.

Over the past months, the PERITIA team has geared its research and activities towards addressing these scenarios of contested expertise influencing policy matters. In the last newsletter of the year, we take a step back and select [10 highlights of the project in 2021](#) to build a more comprehensive understanding on the prospects of trust in science for 2022.

[Learn more](#)

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## News from PERITIA

### PERITIA Special Issue on Testimonial (In)Justice

Should we *simply* trust what people say? Which values are at play when assessing the words of others? Are experts or testifiers vulnerable against their audiences? A new PERITIA Special Issue published in the International Journal of Philosophical Studies and edited by Melanie Altanian and Maria Baghramian explores testimonial injustice and trust through ten articles. [Learn more](#)

### Winners of Robert Papazian and PERITIA Essay Prizes

We recently announced the winners of the 2020 Robert Papazian and PERITIA Essay Prizes. The essay competition is a joint initiative led by the UCD Centre for Ethics in Public Life in collaboration with the International Journal of Philosophical Studies (IJPS) and the Robert Papazian Prize. [Learn more](#)

## PERITIA Lectures: 10 Speakers, 1400+ Participants, 200+ Questions

The PERITIA lectures series [Un]Truths: Trust in an Age of Disinformation came to an end with the final lecture 'Expertise, Democracy and the Politics of Trust' by Sheila Jasanoff (Harvard Kennedy School). Her lecture reflected on the changing role of expertise across different political cultures. [Learn more](#)

### Recognising Expertise – A Conversation with Carlo Martini

PERITIA investigator Carlo Martini was invited to The Words Matter Podcast with Dr Oliver Thomson for two episodes on 'Recognising Expertise'. The first episode 'What makes an expert?' discusses the nature of expertise and the second episode focuses on 'Trusting the Trustworthy'. [Learn more](#)

### Heather Douglas on How Values Shape Science Advice

PERITIA Advisory Board Member Heather Douglas discusses the role of values in shaping science advice and touches upon some of the key questions of PERITIA's research, starting by asking: "Can science be a value-free area of epistemic concerns?" [Learn more](#)

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## Help us find young talents!

PERITIA has launched the European Youth on Trust Awards essay competition, jointly with the Irish Young Philosopher Award. On this video, youtuber Adam Levy tells us more about it. Share it with young talents and spread the news!

[Learn more](#)

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## Calls & Events

### The Ethics of Trust and Expertise

*Yerevan, 30 May & 1 June 2022*

Our partners American University of Armenia and University College Dublin are organising the PERITIA scientific conference 'The Ethics of Trust and Expertise' in Yerevan on 30 May and 1 June 2022. The event will focus on ethics and normative issues relevant to public trust, the nature of expertise, and the role of experts in public life and politics. [Learn more](#)

## Call for Abstracts

### Call for the 2021 IJPS Robert Papazian Essay Prizes on Ethics and Emotions

The International Journal of Philosophical Studies (IJPS) has announced the 2021 call for the Robert Papazian Essay Prizes. The topic for the 2021 competition is 'Ethics and the Emotions'. The call is open to researchers from all philosophical approaches and will consist of two main prize categories, the annual Robert Papazian Prize Essays in Ethics and Political Philosophy and the PERITIA Prize.

[Learn more](#)

### Call for Papers: Science and Expert Advice in Armenia's Policy Decisions

Have you observed or studied how scientific and expert advice is used in public policy in Armenia? Then you are invited to submit a paper for a forthcoming publication by AUA as part of the PERITIA project on the topic 'Science and Expert Advice in Armenia's Policy Decisions: Multidimensional Examination'. [Learn more](#)

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## Behind the Scenes

The Vita-Salute San Raffaele University (UniSR) was inaugurated in 1996 with its Psychology course, soon followed by the courses of Medicine, in 1998, and Philosophy, in 2002. Since its establishment, the University has been characterized by a strong integration of teaching and research, in each of its facets: basic, philosophical and social. The mission of Vita-Salute San Raffaele is to answer to the question *Quid est homo*, What is the man, strongly believing that the human kind is biologically, psychologically and spiritually unique. As partner in the PERITIA consortium, UniSR is involved in work packages 9 and 10, focusing on behavioural tools for building trust under the leadership of Carlo Martini. [Learn more](#)

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## Our Science Communication Corner

### Explore the Future of Science Communication

PERITIA was part of the 2021 Future of Science Communication Conference, which brought together over 1000 researchers and practitioners in this field. A multimedia documentary is now available to explore the highlights, videos, documents and graphic illustrations of the two-day event, including many of PERITIA's contributions to panel discussions and workshops. [Learn more](#)

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## Did You Know...?

## People do not always care about scientific accuracy

“Although people generally aim at getting a fair representation of reality, accuracy about scientific issues only matters to the extent that individuals perceive it as useful to achieve their own goals”, conclude PERITIA researchers [Tiffany Morisseau](#), [Ty Branch](#) and [Gloria Origgi](#) in the article 'Stakes of Knowing the Truth: A Motivational Perspective on the Popularity of a Controversial Scientific Theory'. [Learn more](#)

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