

Social Indicators of Trust

PERITIA Special Issue

How do we decide which experts to trust in the era of online misinformation..?

This central question of the PERITIA project is the focal point of a recently published Special Issue on [Social Indicators of Trust in Experts and Institutions](#), published by Social Epistemology. Edited by PERITIA investigators [T.Y. Branch](#) and [Gloria Origgi](#), it examines so called 'social indicators of trust', which are cues in our environment that we consciously and unconsciously use to help us decide who to trust.

This explainer video briefly describes how people use social indicators of trust, what types of indicators there are, and how they work in society.

[Read more](#)

[Watch video](#)

Contributions by PERITIA Researchers

The Special Issue also contains a series of papers authored by PERITIA researchers:

[Enhanced Epistemic Trust and the Value-Free Ideal as a Social Indicator of Trust](#), by T.Y.

Branch

[Science Advice in an Environment of Trust: Trusted, but Not Trustworthy?](#) by Torbjørn

Gundersen & Cathrine Holst

[Knowledge Brokers in Crisis: Public Communication of Science During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), by Carlo Martini et al

[The Social Indicators of the Reputation of an Expert](#), by Gloria Origgi

All papers are free and open access. These and other papers are available on the [PERITIA website](#).

News from PERITIA

New Book: Questioning Experts and Expertise

A newly published book “Questioning Experts and Expertise” (Routledge) edited by PERITIA investigators Maria Baghramian and Carlo Martini brings together philosophers, sociologists and policy experts to discuss the nature, scope and limitations of expert advice in policy decisions. [Learn more](#)

PERITIA Experts Join Conference on ‘Trust, Distrust and Forgiveness’

On 16-17 September 2022, PERITIA joined forces with the Department of Philosophy at University of California, Irvine for the international conference “Trust, Distrust and Forgiveness”. The two-day hybrid event brought together academics working in different subdisciplines of Philosophy, including law and technology, and featured contributions from PERITIA experts. [Learn more](#)

Misinformation, Expertise and Challenges to Democracy

On the occasion of the annual MANCEPT workshop in political theory, PERITIA co-organised the panel Misinformation, Expertise and Challenges to Democracy. The workshop discussed epistemic challenges to democracy and the role of knowledge and expertise in democratic politics. [Learn more](#)

Paul Stoneman Talks about the PERITIA Survey on Trust in Expertise with the European Science-Media Hub

PERITIA researcher Dr Paul Stoneman (The Policy Institute, King's College London) was featured on the European Science-Media Hub with an interview about the results of our recently released survey on trust in expertise and science. In the article, Stoneman offered an overview of the key takeaways of the survey for understanding how the public perceives policy decisions informed by science. [Learn more](#)

Climate Change: Less than Half Say UK Government Motivated by Improving Lives of Future Generations

Less than half (45%) of the UK public think that, when it comes to climate change, the government is motivated by improving the lives of future generations – the lowest across six countries included in an international study. [Learn more](#)

Public Hugely Underestimate Scientific Consensus on Climate Change, PERITIA Study Finds

The public in six European nations are hugely underestimating the extent of the scientific consensus on climate change, according to a new study. On average, people estimate is that 68% of climate scientists have concluded human-caused climate change is happening – far lower than the reality of 99.9%, as revealed in previous academic research. [Learn more](#)

New Research Paper on Trust in Scientists and Medical Experts Regarding Covid-19 Vaccines

Are scientists and medical experts the most suitable figures to convince the general public to get vaccinated? An interdisciplinary group of PERITIA researchers concluded that multiple and continuous

exposure to information endorsed by medical experts can increase its effectiveness. [Learn more](#)

Events & Calls

2022 IJPS Robert Papazian and PERITIA Essay Prizes on Disagreement

The International Journal of Philosophical Studies (IJPS) announced the 2022 call for the Robert Papazian and PERITIA Essay Prizes. The topic for the 2022 competition is “The Ethics and Politics of Disagreement”. 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. The closing date for submissions is **30 January 2023**.

[Learn more](#)

Call for Abstracts: Rethinking Policy, Expertise and Trust

PERITIA is calling for abstracts for the final conference of the project. The conference will take place at University College Dublin on 23-25 March 2023, and will focus on the key themes of the project. We now invite the submission of abstracts of up to 300 words to reach us by **18 December 2022**. Abstracts and inquiries should be sent to peritia@ucd.ie. A number of conference grants will be available for early career researchers.

[Learn more](#)

Our Science Communication Corner

Policy Recommendations from the Future of Science Communication Conference 2.0

Our PERITIA partner organisation [ALLEA](#) and the German science communication organisation [Wissenschaft im Dialog](#) will

present and discuss a paper with policy recommendations from the Future of Science Communication Conference 2.0 in a Twitter Spaces lunch talk with T.Y. Branch (PERITIA) on **8 November** at 11:30h GMT / 12:30h CET. Save the date and follow [@ALLEA_academies](#) for more information. The Policy recommendations will also be made available in an [interactive portal](#) featuring audio-visual content from the two Future of Science Communication Conferences.

Did You Know...?

“Pre-emptively warning and exposing people to weakened doses of misinformation can cultivate ‘mental antibodies’ against fake news”

Researchers at Google, the University of Cambridge and the University of Bristol found that psychologically “inoculating” internet users against lies and conspiracy theories — by pre-emptively showing them videos about the tactics behind misinformation — made people more skeptical of falsehoods afterward. The researchers wrote that **pre-bunking** worked like medical immunization: “Preemptively warning and exposing people to weakened doses of misinformation can cultivate ‘mental antibodies’ against fake news.” But effective educational tools still may not be enough to reach people with hardened political beliefs, the researchers found. [Learn more](#)

A screenshot from the Inoculation Science video explaining Emotional Language use in misinformation. Credit: Inoculation Science

Behind the Scenes

Meet our partner!

UIO is Norway's oldest institution for research and higher education, with 28000 students, 6000 employees, 8 faculties, 2 museums and several research centers. In addition, UIO has 10 Norwegian Centres of Excellence and has been awarded almost 250 research projects funded by EU Framework Programmes since 2007. UIO's **Department of Sociology and Human Geography, Faculty of Social Sciences** is the largest university department in Norway for these two disciplines. [Learn more](#)

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