

Post Truth? Exercise
Intro to STS: Week 10

1. ASSIGNMENT

Overview

We will not meet in person on October 29. Instead, we will conduct an exercise that brings you behind the scenes of academic publishing to explore the “science wars” and their extension into debates about a post-truth era.

Format

Part 1. Editorial Board. *Due Tuesday, October 27 by 1:00 pm. Sent directly to us.*

Your group of board members at the journal *Social Text* is presented with a compelling manuscript, “Transgressing the Boundaries: Toward a Transformative Hermeneutics of Quantum Gravity.” The author is a prominent physicist who seems to be engaging with STS scholarship. The paper is technical and theoretical; it may also be cutting-edge. You are responsible for presenting us (the co-editors in chief) with a judgment on whether the manuscript should be published. Include a justification for your decision that is *no longer than two single-spaced pages*.

Part 2. Interlude: We have received your suggestion. It’s an unusual case, and we decide we want a second opinion. Because we’re connected in the field, we contact some heavy hitters.

Part 3. External Reader: *Due Thursday, October 29 by 4:00 pm. Posted to canvas.*

You are now an external reader. We will contact you each individually by Tuesday at 5pm and ask you to take on the role of either Bruno Latour, Steven Shapin, or Steve Fuller. We will ask you how you would evaluate the paper in light of our concerns. *This response should be no longer than the equivalent of one single-spaced page.*

Part 4. Editorial Decision: On Friday, October 30, we will post a brief editorial decision to each of your boards on canvas.

Anonymized student responses from 2020:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TrJrbPY2yleHS77-IA5S8TAIxNDHDpiQg4VH-uBNVA/edit?usp=sharing>