

# Review of: "Further Chaos and Dysfunction in the Brickyard and the Systems That Support It"

Adam Grobler<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Opole

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

It is claimed in the paper that the quality of scientific work is systematically decreasing. This reproach may apply to the low-level science just because of enormous rise of the number of people and institutions involved. There is, however, no evidence that the first-rate science suffers from this social phenomenon. Moreover, the phenomenon in question can be observed in other areas of culture. One can see a decline in the quality of writing, journalism, cinema, music, etc. Despite this there are still being created new masterpieces in these areas. The reason of this gap between high and mass culture is just that more and more people are being engaged in creative activities, which does not result in the propagation of talents in the society.

The question is whether we are to complain about this. What is an alternative for the second-rate scientists or other creative workers? Unemployment? Criminality? Will the society be better off without second-rate science? This is the issue that is not addressed in the paper.

Another point that is raised in the paper concerns the publication policies. It is rightly suggested that the funding institutions pay twice for the same product. First, they support the researchers in their doing research, and second, they pay publishers for publishing the results and for the access to the publications. This kind of functioning of publishers can be regarded as socially harmful. Unfortunately, the point is by no means new. It has been much more thoroughly elaborated in Alvin Goldman's *Knowledge in the Social World*, OUP 1999. And the question is debated among scientists and university officials.