

# Review of: "If knowledge were simpler, we would all be wiser"

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The point is very interesting and current: sometimes it is difficult to access knowledge to an extent it would be possible elsewhere, because of unnecessary formal barriers carrying very little of substantial. It can be unfortunately said that sometimes it is even deliberate, due to the will to do gatekeeping towards people outside a specific area.

Nevertheless, it is quite far from trivial to simplify knowledge without losing scientific rigor. If on the one hand this is important and could be more easily performed for dissemination purposes, on the other hand in education and especially research it is pivotal to remain precise and not allow space for any possible ambiguity. Often, a certain "difficult" word is not there just because it is "cool" to use it, but on the contrary, it determines a very specific concept, which cannot be analogously rendered with simpler words (specialized language). Some other difficulties foster various kinds of reasoning, which have a valuable role in establishing if a certain student will be proficient in the subject or not.

Let me give an example: periodically a debate arises about the utility of studying Latin in high school. Those contrary support their theses by stating that as a language is not spoken anymore and anywhere, that also under an historical point of view Roman authors wrote about a distant past which has basically no influence on our contemporaneity nowadays, and so on. However, there is a strong adverse position, for which its study helps learn to reason with young students, with positive repercussions on their overall performance, also where STEM disciplines are involved. It could be perceived as peculiar that learning declinations or how Julius Caesar narrated the Gallic Wars could be of some help in coding efficiently or finding data patterns, but it is what actually seems to happen by comparing work performances with respect to studies' curricula.

In my opinion, more space should be given to these latter aspects.