

Review of: "Thinking and Acting "Within the Box" and Thinking and Acting "Outside the Box": "Deliberative Democracy" and the Model of Scientific Brainstorming Groups"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I really enjoyed this. I think it is more poetry than prose, but importantly, it does hit on key issues of representation, authenticity, and voice.

Tying the notion of democracy to the scientific principle - and then disrupting that - is a good move.

However, I feel the piece would be stronger if there was a clear reason behind it - that was made more clear to the reader. For example, why should anyone read this? What do you hope they will think and do after reading it that they would not have thought and done before? What is the driving imperative of this piece for the author? It might be implicit, but I think the urgency of your quest would be better served if this was more explicit.

The setting of this scene would be helped by a much clearer abstract and introduction. Perhaps written in short and simple sentences - because you are writing about complex ideas. I do think that writing more simply would make these complex ideas more available and concrete to the reader.

I do like the idea of the broad debates always being set within unacknowledged and circumscribed parameters. It makes me think of the drive against communism in America - where it was 'unAmerican' and thus proscribed to think in any way but a capitalist way. But that was out in the open - perhaps you are making the point that these circumscriptions are now more pernicious because hidden (behind the notion of abstract scientific truth)?

I wonder perhaps also whether you could address 'identity politics'? The public has successfully been divided against itself by the ruling strata?

I know you have written an unconclusion - but perhaps we need a stronger argumentative one? (With the scene set by a much clearer introduction.) Here I am going back to the notion that the reader needs to get a sense of what they can now do?