

Review of: "Straightening the 'Value-Laden Turn': Minimising the Influence of Values in Science"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

It is an important article, and I completely share its message about minimizing the value-laden scientific texts. I however, have two questions to the author.

The first is: why didn't he pay attention to the most visible and most dangerous "value-laden" attack to the current scientific discourse from the positions of "diversion, equity, equality", "critical race theory", "gender theory" and so on? It goes both beyond the boundary of the philosophy of science and within it; it touches very different aspects of science, from blocking research of certain areas (like influence of the human intelligence to the success in life) to distorting of the interpretation of the observable facts (like explanation of the archaeological findings demonstrating severe violence in the past by irrelevant theories of "peaceful" diffusion of different cultures, just to satisfy the political agenda of the day - see The rise of Archaeologists Anonymous Censorship is driving dissident researchers underground, <https://unherd.com/2022/12/the-rise-of-archaeologists-anonymous/>). It is enough to look at the very informative collective paper "In Defense of Merit in Science", 2023 (<https://journalofcontroversialideas.org/article/3/1/236>), written by 29 authors, including two Nobel Prize winners, which contains a huge number of examples of "value laden" studies to appreciate the importance of the problem.

The second question is: if author is "minimizing", not "zeroing" value-laden intentions, could he give the clear examples when "minimal level" of values within the scientific inquiry is better in certain sense than zero level? Where there is a threshold, if any? It could be very useful for orientation, for if it is some possibility for inclusion of some values - one can make sure that this possibility will be used by many not on a minimal but on any level. The whole purpose of "values" is very often not values per se, but hidden interests (political, economical, etc.), and it is extremely hard to distinguish between the two.