

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I had the pleasure of reading your retake on Bernard Forscher's 1963 article, "Chaos in the Brickyard." Your work draws a very thoughtful extension of the metaphor to represent contemporary issues in the scientific method and its social implications. By framing your discussion around the metaphor of bricks, brickmakers, and builders, you succinctly encapsulate the complex dynamics at play in the current state of science.

Your identification of "inferior quality raw materials" as false knowledge and constructs demonstrates a deep understanding of the foundational issues in scientific research. Moreover, your delineation of the consequences of subpar raw materials on the overall construction was well conveyed. This point draws attention to an important issue that can plague scientific research—how prematurely accepted facts can lead to less robust and enduring scientific constructs.

The narrative of the shift from quality to quantity, from purpose to profit, in the brick-making process is compelling and poignant. Your attention to the consequences of this shift, particularly with respect to a less egalitarian global scientific enterprise, was well-articulated. The emphasis on the lack of participation and contribution from less financially developed countries underscores a crucial aspect of this conversation.

The observations regarding the monetary influences on the scientific process and the rise of "open access" storage facilities ring true in today's evolving scientific landscape. You have aptly connected the issues in brick-making (scientific research) to real-world dynamics, such as economic disparity, governmental influences, and the corporatisation of research.

One area for potential enhancement in your work could be the inclusion of a section designed to inspire and motivate the nascent 'brickmakers' and early-career 'builders'. Conveying that they hold the potential for instigating change and crafting solutions to the challenges presented, could add a layer of optimism and motivation within the narrative.

Overall, your retake is a valuable contribution to the dialogue on the current state of scientific research. Your insights could serve as a starting point for deeper discussions on how to promote a more ethical, equitable, and robust scientific process.