

Wednesday 18th May, 2016

Outline: CICASP Seminar 30
Critical Reading and Thinking: Science and Society

This seminar will be the first of a block of three, led by Andrew on reading academic papers with a critical viewpoint; using your critical thinking skills. In some journals, directly below a scientific article there are responses to the article, written by a number of different scientists (called 'peer commentaries'). Some disagree with what the authors of the original article say, some agree, and some develop the argument further (they add more points in support of the article). *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* is one example of a journal that does this.

In this seminar, we read the article critically, before reading what any other scientists had to say about it. In small groups, we discussed the main points of the article and had our own thoughts and reactions to the article. We discussed our thoughts with the class.

Preparation for Next Week:

- 1/ Read the number commentary assigned to you at the seminar.
- 2/ Be ready to introduce the main points of the commentary to the class, briefly.

[If you did not go to this seminar, email Andrew and he can tell you which number commentary to read. There are 21 commentaries: plenty for everyone!]

Wednesday 25th May, 2016

Outline: CICASP Seminar 31
Critical Reading and Thinking: Science and Society

This week we read the article and had our own ideas and thoughts about the article. Next week we will hear a range of different scientists' opinions about the paper. We can then see how our ideas compare and relate to the opinions these academics. This is an excellent exercise to develop our critical reading skills.