

Wednesday 25th May, 2016

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

This seminar was the second of a block of three, led by Andrew on reading academic papers with a critical approach. In some journals, directly below a scientific article there are responses to the article, written by a number of different scientists (called 'peer commentaries'). Last week everyone was assigned a commentary to read and understand. This week, we explained the main points of the commentary to others in our group of four.

After the commentaries, the authors of the original article get a chance to say what they think. They get the 'final say' in what is called: 'Authors' Response'.

Preparation for Next Week:

- 1/ Read the 'Authors' Response' to the commentary you read this week
- 2/ Be ready to introduce the main points of the response to the group.

[The 'Authors' Response' starts on page 99 (R1 - R19); their responses are arranged by topic themes (not one response to each commentary). To find the response to the commentary you read, search for the name of the author (in bold).

For example, if you read the commentary entitled 'Parasite Stress, ethnocentrism and life history strategy' by Figueredo et al., you would search for **Figueredo**. The name may appear in more than one section (in this example, R4 and R11).]

Wednesday 1st June, 2016

Outline: CICASP Seminar 32
Critical Reading and Thinking: Science and Society

Last week we heard a range of different scientists' opinions about the paper. This week, we find out what the authors have to say in response. We will then discuss our own opinions of the different arguments.

This exercise develops your critical reading and thinking skills. You first read the article; have your own thoughts about it; then read other scientist's views of it and see how they relate to your own views; then read the authors' responses.