## Succeed with Inquiry: Insights, Knowledge, Action

In2:InThinking Network 2014 Forum

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Yámana Science and Technology



## The Fragility of Knowledge:

# Science in a Time of Transition

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## We are in interesting times...

Our global systems are under stress: ecological, financial, political ...

## Science is no exception...

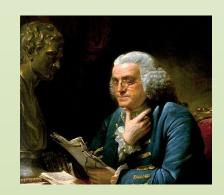
### Confluence of Three Eras

The academic institution (~ 1000 yrs)



 The age of enlightenment (~ 400 yrs)

The White House Historical Association



 Vannevar Bush's policy for science in the United States

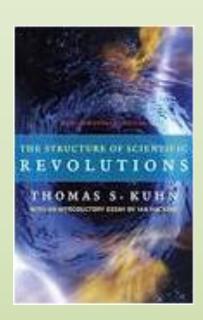
(~ 70 yrs) Her Majesty's Stationery Office



## Three Points Today

- Science is undergoing a paradigm shift
  - 'Being' a scientist

The science itself



Science as a participant on the planet

### Modern Era

 Vannevar Bush's policy for science in the United States



Her Majesty's Stationery Office

### A growing need for STEM education....

#### SUCCESSFUL K-12 STEM EDUCATION

Identifying Effective Approaches in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Committee on Highly Successful Schools or Programs for K-12 STEM Education

Board on Science Education and Board on Testing and Assessment

Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

"16 of the 20 occupations with the largest projected growth in the next decade are STEM related

but only 4 of them require an advanced degree."\*

#### **SCIENCEINSIDER**



BILL BRANSON/NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

In trouble? The U.S. biomedical research system, including labs such as this one at the National Institutes of Health, is in need of reform, according to four prominent researchers.

## Rescuing US biomedical research from its systemic flaws

A call from the scientific elite to "confront the dangers at hand and rethink" how academic research is funded, staffed, and organized.

## Who says?

#### **Bruce Alberts**

Former president of the National Academy of Sciences and former editor-in-chief of *Science* 

#### Marc W. Kirschner

Founding chair of the Department of Systems Biology at Harvard Medical School

### **Shirley Tilghman**

Former president of Princeton University

#### **Harold Varmus**

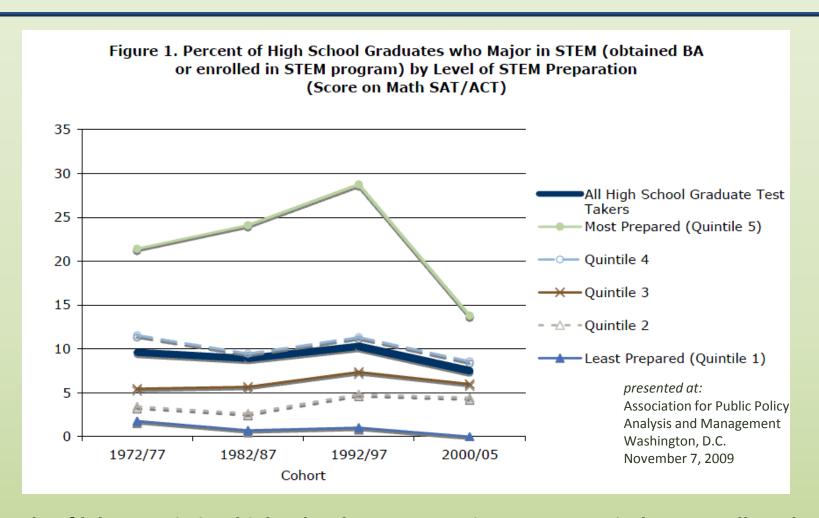
Nobel laureate, Director of the National Cancer Institute

## What do they say?

"Critical action is needed on several fronts by many parties to reform the enterprise"

## Steady as She Goes? Three Generations of Students through the Science and Engineering Pipeline \*

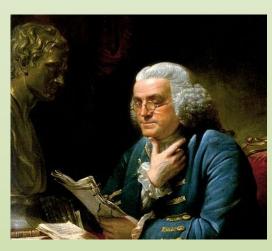
October 2009



Study of labor statistics, high school test scores since 1972; B. Lindsay Lowell et al.

### The Second Confluence

# The age of enlightenment (~ 400 yrs)



## The Amgen Study

Amgen scientists reported they could only replicate 6 of 53 of cancer drug preclinical research results deemed landmark studies

(eg a 11% replication rate)

### Amgen

"...the inability of industry and clinical trials to validate results from the majority of publications on potential therapeutic targets suggests a general, systemic problem. "

"On speaking with many investigators in academia and industry, we found widespread recognition of this issue."

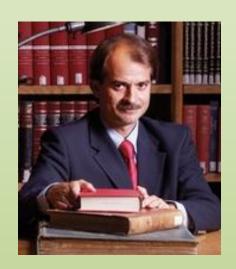
## John Ioannidis MD, DSc Stanford Medical School

BRAVE THINKERS NOVEMBER 2010

## Lies, Damned Lies, and Medical Science The Atlantic

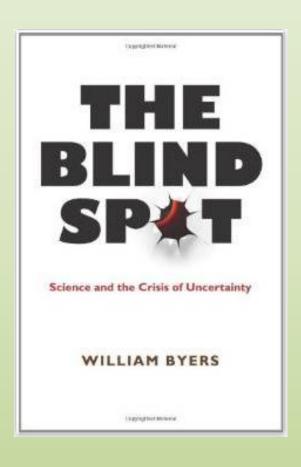
DAVID H. FREEDMAN | OCT 4 2010, 6:16 PM ET

"Simulations show that for most study designs and settings, it is more likely for a research claim to be false than true. "



# The Blind Spot: Science and the Crisis of Uncertainty

by mathematician William Byers



- The nature of our rational consciousness precludes absolute, objective information
- Reminds us that science is open, not closed

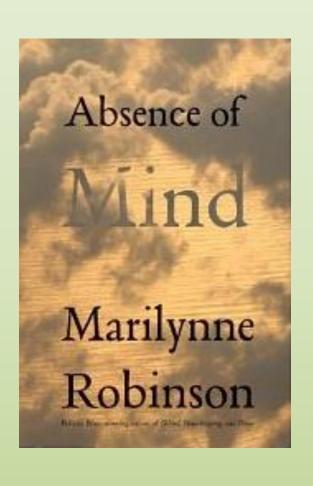
# The Blind Spot: Science and the Crisis of Uncertainty

- Savants that do math nearly instantaneously use a different path for thinking and calculation
- Idiot savants that can tell you if a 6 digit number is prime or not, yet didn't understand multiplication or division
- Much richer, intuitive mental process

## The Blind Spot

- Even more interesting, there is an inherent ambiguity, even for the most basic of mathematical constructs
- One of the myths of science is that the participant mode can be dispensed with

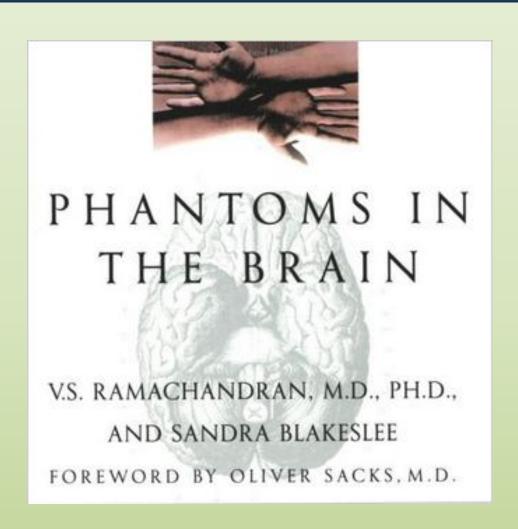
### Absence of Mind



Eloquently calls into question the basic assumption that interior logic is free from the organic/self of the mind

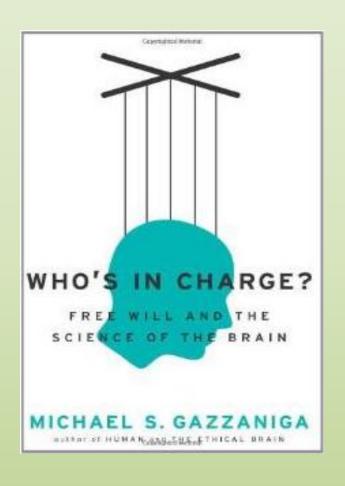
- Perception is spread over 7 billion individual awarenesses
- And it can never be different

### Even our visual system is processed



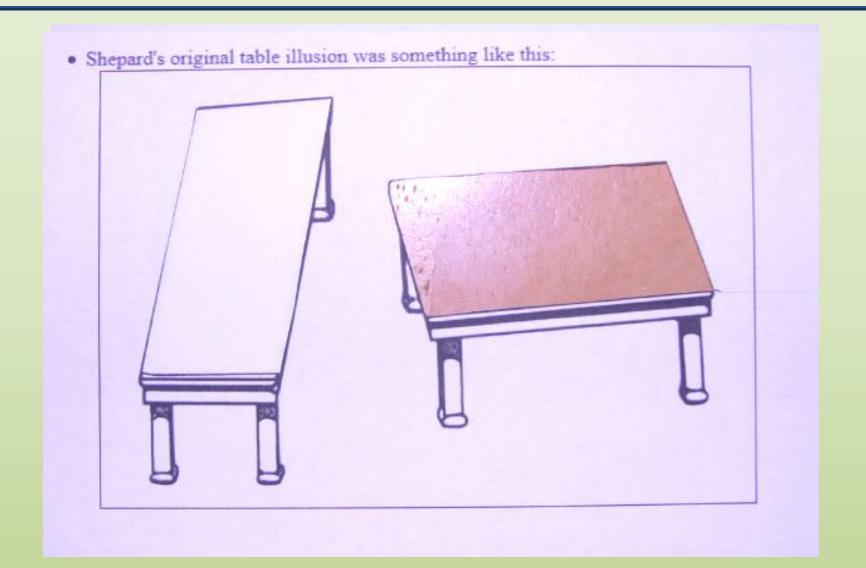
## Who's in Charge?: Free Will and the Science of the Brain

### by Michael S. Gazzaniga



Neuroscientist involved in the early split brain assessments, where the corpus callosum was severed as a means of treating severe brain seizures

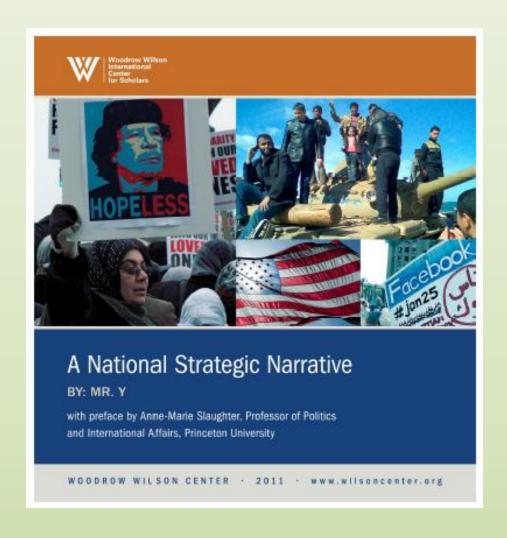
## ...and we think we're logical



### Rhetoric and Its Relationship to Organizational Culture

Kenneth Burke "Even if any given [terministic screen] is a reflection of reality, by its very nature . . . it must be a selection of reality; and to this extent, it must also function as a deflection of reality."

### The inspiration of a new narrative...



Call for the United States
Government to embrace a different foreign policy narrative

### From Control to Credible Influence



A shift from top-down 'KING' model to a shared 'Wisdom of the Crowds' model

Allowing a Complex System to self-organize –

HOW?

### Beyond dialog

- James Wilsdon & Rebecca Willis, Demos

### 'See Through Science'



http://www.nanoandsociety.com/framing/papers/SeeThroughScience.pdf



### Confluence of Three Eras

The academic institution (~ 1000-2000 yrs)



The Ivory Tower

The Planet

### **Enough Challenges to Go Around**

**Coral Reef bleaches** 

Fish

Fresh Water (Aral Sea)

Unsustainable fuel sources/outcomes

Micro-environments, new chemicals

Green Revolution ... and outcomes

1973



Aral Sea

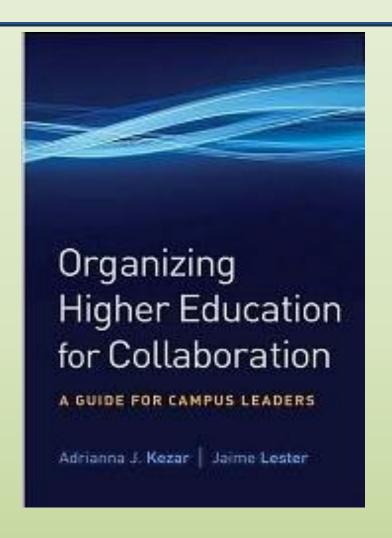


http://bit.ly/JonFoleyInconvTruth

#### Currently



### What's Happening in Universities?



"Collaboration can be one of the most difficult and challenging human endeavors. Part of this difficulty is related to Western philosophies and values (to speak in the most generic terms) that celebrate the individual and structure institutions to support individual activity"

-from Kezar and Lester and references there-in



### Today: what to keep what to change

#### **Adaptive Change:**

## What's Essential and What's Expendable?



Conversation with Ronald Heifetz Harvard Kennedy School of Government June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1999 Claus Otto Scharmer

## What to Keep?

What to Change?