# Empowering Reality, Rationality, Creativity, Empathy

Scientists and Engineers: Facts, Truth, Democracy?
Statistical Mechanics, Demons, and Democracy
Joe Andrade
University of Utah Dept. of Bioengineering

IBE April 1, 2017

# Who am I? Why should you listen to me?

Born 1941; 75 years old
Univ of Utah Faculty 1969-2012
Professor of Bioengineering, Materials Science,
Pharmaceutics; Distinguished Prof.
Dean of Engineering; 1983-87
Chair of Bioengineering
Science without Walls; The Leonardo; The CALL
Emeritus Prof. 2012-present
Ran for Congress, Dist. 2 Utah, 2012; Lost; The RUN
Amateur Novelist: State Change: A Chemical Fantasy
(www.statechange.us)
Novel #2: Deliver Us From Euil - Pending

# The 2017 IBE Annual Conference theme -

# Convergence -

transdisciplinary integration of life sciences, physical sciences and engineering for developing deeper understanding of complex living systems (creating the science of new biology) and for engineering novel solutions to address the grand challenges of our times – to promote a framework of enabling science with network of partners from all fields of life sciences, physical sciences, engineering, etc.

But need also to consider Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences - and especially Politics and Government



# Hard Rules -- "Soft" Rules

- The Hard Rules -- The Sciences
   The way the physical and natural World works;
   The Rules of the Game -- apply everywhere,
   all the time, to all; no favorites; no supernatural
- The "Soft" Rules -- The Humanities
- Societies and Cultures;Philosophies and Religions;
- Politics and Law.

BUT... soft eventually hardens...

E. O. Wilson:

Consilience: The Unity of Knowledge,1998

Carl Sagan:

Science as a Candle in the Dark, (subtitle of A Demon-Haunted World)

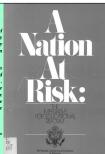
Cosmos, 1993

April, 1983: Dr. David Gardner, President,

"Our nation is at risk...The educational foundations of our society are presently being croded by a rising tide of mediocrity that threatens our very future as a nation and as a people...

A high level of shared education is essential to a free democratic society and to the fostering of a common culture... citizens must be able to reach some common understandings on complex issues, often on short notice and on the basis of conflicting or incomplete evidence.

America is at risk."



# How Ignorance Became a Virtue

How Ignorance Became a Virt

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The Scientific and Engineering Community has been largely uninterested and uninvolved in the education and awareness of the general public

The lack of effective science and technology education in the K-12 years over many decades has resulted in:

- an electorate which is largely scientifically, technologically, and numerically/mathematically illiterate,...
- an electorate which can not deal objectively with a wide range of issues, and
- · decreasing numbers of students electing to study the sciences.

www.theleonardo.org slvsef.org



Working 'with' Legislature , I learned: It's not about 'Science' - it's Ideology - Belief



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-L6ofvMaRpw

"The issue is NOT Science...the issue is BELIEF. If you choose to Believe in something very strongly and you choose to adopt a position very strongly - no amount of science will change your Belief. It takes a private revelation...to really change....We must understand that rationality is quite rare... We must identify those totally Mike Noel, Kanab, State Legislator,
BA Biology, UC Berkeley
Denialist, Believer

them."

Joe Andrade UU Conf 2-2010





# Awareness and Exposure

"Most of the population is semantically sheltered and isolated - 'protected' from issues, concepts, and problems. I tried to break through the very right, conservative echo chamber in which most Utahns reside. As people hear these words spoken and written - by people and candidates which otherwise seem to be reasonable, informed, educated, and interested - the words will begin to seem less of a threat."

The RUN by J Andrade 2012

# Engagement Needed

"One of the reasons our nation is in the mess it's in - where ideology rules and critical thinking is almost non-existent - is because the most educated in our society have chosen to be among the least involved. This is especially true in academia. Academic and professional apathy often prevails."

# Assumptions, Fear, and Revelation... impending dystopia...\*

"...most people know major changes are coming - they know their historical expectations are in flux. They are afraid of such change. They are afraid of the climate change they hear about and work to deny. They are afraid of impending drought. They are afraid of carbon fees or taxes. They are afraid of higher energy costs. They are afraid of higher energy costs. They are afraid."

\* Second Coming, Armageddon, Rapture, ...from parents to youth...young adults...

My discussions with high school kids:





# Rodrigo Rodriguez, chapter in Politics of Panem:

Collin's message is clear:

quoting Katniss: "...look at the state they left us in, with the wars and the broken planet. Clearly, they didn't care about what would happen to the people who came after them."

Collins seems to believe that the work of building a more equitable world is a project that ultimately falls to the young.

...the goal of the dystopian genre to 'place a mirror before readers, challenging them to examine the world they inhabit and the obstacles it places on the path to social justice'.



# Why Write Fiction?

Reality is so diverse, so complicated, so interesting - why waste time on fiction? on fantasy?

That was my position for most of my career. But with age and time (gerontological 'wisdom'?) I realized fiction, especially novels, can reach many more people than factual media do: newspapers, papers, documentaries, texts.

I read and reread some novels that had major socio-political impacts. I learned you can say and 'do' in fiction things which might get you arrested and jailed if said as fact (this was several years before the President of

And I realized that if you self-publish you don't need to be constrained by editors, lawyers, agents, or publishers.



So after many years of reading and study about mental constraints, rigidity, ideology, politics, plutocracy, voter and citzen apatiny and misinformation, genymandering, and outright ron-ethical, immoral, and even itigal behavior and actions. I devised a novel hypothesis and an experiment to hopefully address our impending political catestrophs and resultant dystepia.

# The first implementation of that hypothesis is State Change - (www.statechange.us)

a 450 page amateur novel in which a set of rigid, obstructionist political ideologues are illegally 'treated' to facilitate their transformation to more rational and reasonable citizens, officials, politicians.



The most effective, most pragmatic, most realistic solution is to directly change the mindsets of existent afflicted rulers and elected leaders.

Given the urgency of the problems which must be solved, those entrenched mindsets can only be rapidly changed by direct chemical means – by chemically-facilitated revelations and epiphanies.

That is the subject of this book.

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"Perhaps, but remember engineers and physicians – especially surgeons – often tend to be conservative – they like things simple."

"[Charles Koch] extrapolated his engineering rules and laws directly into the public sector. He assumes that the simplistic 'rules' and assumptions applied by his father, by Ayn Rand, by Hayek are as reliable in the social arena as Newton's Laws and the rules of chemistry are in the physical science arena.

Charles and David Koch, Paul Ryan, Ted Cruz, and Robert Mercer are simplists: smart guys who prefer seductive simplicity to the complexity of social and political (and environmental) reality.

It probably was not Einstein, but it's been said:

Things should be as simple as possible, but not simpler.

also, Aldous Huxley:

Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored.



# Engineers of Jihad: The Curious Connection between Violent Extremism and

Education

★★★★☆ 1Review

See All Formats & Editions >

f • 9 6

The violent actions of a few extremists can alter the course of history, yet there persists a yawning gap between the potential impact of these individuals and what we understand about them. In Engineers of Jihad, Diego Gambetta and Steffen Hertog

leverage to narrow that gap: they find that a...

See more details below

*Engineere	liko	hombe	and	circuitn/2"	lay acknow

"Yes, in part, but engineers really like ..."

"Rules ... simple, reasonable rules," Bill interrupted. "Just like adolescents."

"Yes – the world is confusing and complex – and certain mentalities strive for simplicity, for rules, for order."  $\label{eq:confusion}$ 

"And some of those people choose engineering."

"Yes – and that's why a disproportionate number of active, 'successful', jihadists are engineers."

"And some of them become libertarians, Ayn Rand wannabees – and plutocrats."

"The book cites some psychology literature about the search for simplism – defined as exaggerated simplicity and oversimplication."

"Sounds like libertarianism, tea party patriots, and some engineers I know," Bill said.
"And jihadists."



English has one word, TRUTH,

with Two Definitions:

- 1. In accordance with fact or reality the real world;
  - A firmly held opinion or conviction as in the spiritual world.

TRUTH is What Is or What I Believe

Russian has two different words for TRUTH:

# истина, пожалуйста

Real, Unshakeable, Factual Truth

# Правда, пожалуйста

Surface, Subjective, Superficial Truth

 $\label{limits} \mbox{https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/15/opinion/to-understand-trump-learn-russian.html?\_r=0:}$ 

"You can fiddle with the pravda all you want, but you can't change the istina."

# Charles Blow: NYT 1-26-2017: https://nyti.ms/2kvMlzt

on liars, lying, fake news, truth, science

"Donald Trump is a proven liar. He lies often and effortlessly. He lies about the profound and the trivial. He lies to avoid guilt and invite glory. He lies when his pride is injured and when his pomposity is challenged.

Indeed, one of the greatest threats Trump poses is that he corrupts and corrodes the absoluteness of truth, facts and science.

It is no coincidence that the rise of Trump is concurrent with the rise of "fake news." It is no coincidence that his rise comes during an age of severely damaged faith in institutions."







# Ehe New York Eimes https://myii.ms/2kd55nq science In Age of Trump, Scientists Show Signs of a Political Pulse By AMY HARMON and HESRY FOUNTAIN FEB. 6, 2007 Michael Eisen, an evolutionary biologist, is among the elite of American scientists, with a tenured position at the University of California, Berkeley, and generous funding from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute for his research on fruit fless. But late last month, dismayed over the Trump administration's apparent disdain for evidence on climate change and other issues, Dr. Eisen registered the Twitter handle @SenatorPhD and declared his intention to run in the 2018 election for a seat in the United States Senate from California, life camping languar. "Liberty

Equality, Reality."







# Major Science/IBE Societies: Twitter handles and membership

 Amer. Chem. Soc.
 @AmerChemSociety
 160,000

 AAAS
 @AAAS
 120,000

 Union Concerned Scientists
 @UCSUSA
 100,000

 NSTA
 @NSTA
 50,000

 Amer Physical Soc.
 @APSPhysics
 50,000

 IBE
 ???
 200

 BMES
 @BMESociety
 7,000

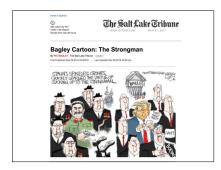
 Soc. for Biomaterials
 @SFBiomaterials
 1,000

 IEEE
 400,000

# Internet in a Minute!

Over 2 Million Google searches over 300,000 Tweets about 3 Million YouTube views over 20 Million WhatsApp messages

If you Facebook, Tweet, post, blog, comment, like, followthen
"You are a publisher!" says Adam Sharp.
"You are part of 'the media'



# Twitter Followers

 @NeilTyson
 7 Million (M)

 @ProlBrianCox
 2.5 M

 @RichardDawkins
 2 M

 @LKraus1
 300K

 @MichaelEMann
 50K

 @danlevition
 20K

 @PaulREhrliich
 10K

 \_JoeAndrade2012
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Other Tweeters ar Followers:	nd their
@HillaryClinton @MichelleObama @BarackObama @realDonaldTrump @POTUS @FLOTUS	17 M 7 M 86 M 27 M 16 M 7 M
@TheEllenShow @ladygaga @Oprah @LeoDiCaprio @StephenatHome @KatyPerry	66 M 66 M 36 M 17 M 13 M 100 M!















"... replacing just one coffee hour a month with an outreach activity is a reasonable goal."

# Gabrielle Kardon

In the case of Tweeting, direct your Tweet to one or 2 who need the input, the education. It may only be a 'nano' effect, but they add up. Be a Maxwell's Demon via social media. Increase the Pressure!

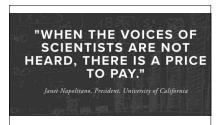


Koch-Funded Group Tries to Persuade 200,000 Science Teachers That Climate Change Is Debatable

The Heartland Institute is trying to nurture the next generation of climate change deniers.

The conservative and libertarian think tank has sent out 25,000 copies of the organization's book, Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warming, and an accompanying 10-minute DVD to 25,000 science teachers this month, according to a Frontline report. The book argues that climate change is not settled science.

Twenty-five thousand science teachers opened their mailboxes this month and found a package from the Heartland Institute, a libertarian think tank that rejects the scientific consensus on climate change.



@314Action www.314action.org



I hope you saw Dr. Michael Mann's message. Yesterday, he was the only witness who defended the scientific consensus on climate change before the House Science Committee.

After Dr. Mann cited a peer-reviewed article in Science magazine, Chairman Lamar Smith responded, "that is not known as an objective writer or magazine," This is the same climate denier Congressman who has written arti

At yesterday's climate change hearing, Dr. Michael Mann was the lone voice for science, facing down hostile questions from fossil fuel industry-funded members of Congress. Please chip in \$5 or more before tomorrow's quarterly deadline to







# What can WE do? Don't be apathetic or passive - Be Informed:

Local Paper, TV, Radio
State Paper - Governor, Legislature
NY Times - Science Times
Washington Post, LA Times
Wall St Journal and USA Today
New Scientist
The Economist
SCIENCE
NATURE



# What Else?

Do you have teen age kids? Time for quality time!

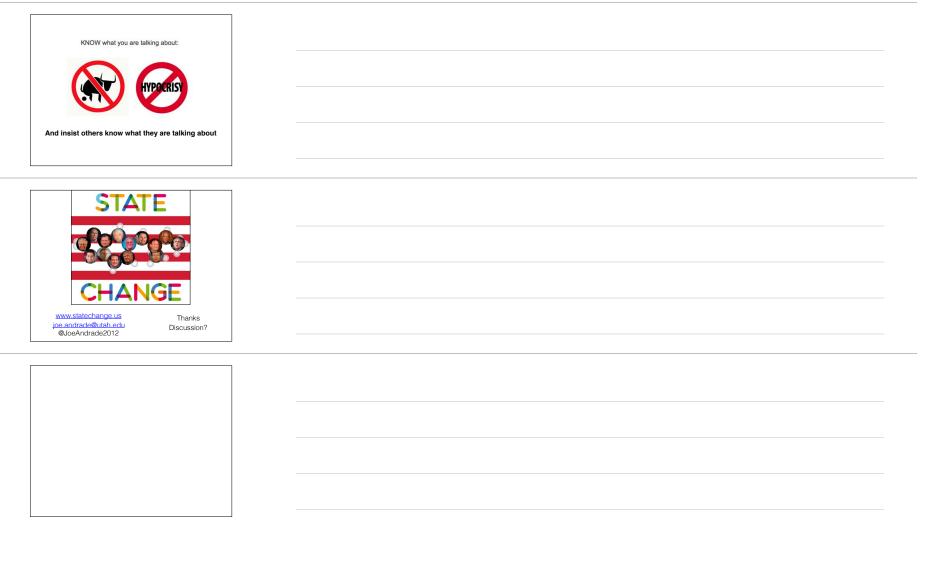
What are they reading? What are their concerns, interests? Get them fact-checking

Teach them to separate fantasy from reality, to diagnose ignorance, to call out lies.

Follow your Congressperson, contact her regularly. Ditto for Governor, local legislators Correct local officials, reporters, politicians. Don't tolerate lies, BS, or hypocrisy - call it out.

How about 15 minutes/day - every day?!





"Perhaps the sentiments contained [herein] ... are not yet sufficiently fashionable to procure them general favor; a long habit of not thinking a thing wrong, gives it a superficial appearance of being right, and raises at first a formidable outcry in defence of custom.

But the tumult soon subsides. Time makes more converts than reason."

Thomas Paine

"Too much sanity may be madness and the maddest of all – to see life as it is, and not as it ought to be."

Don Quixote via Cervantes



If we appear to seek the unattainable, it has been said, then let it be known that we do so to avoid the unimaginable.

-Tom Hayden, Port Huron Statement

Too much sanity may be madness - and the maddest of all - to see life as it is, and not as it ought to be.

-Don Quixote by Cervantes

The New York Times https://nyti.ms/2lrJHwl

# A Chelsea Manning-WikiLeaks Opera, Seen in a New Light

By ZACHARY WOOLFE FEB. 21, 2017

When you make art about current events, there's a catch: Events change,

"The Source," Ted Hearne's slippery, stunning opera about Chelsea Manning and WikiLeaks, had its premiere at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in 2014. The year before, Ms. Manning had been sentenced to 35 years in prison for leaking secret material on the Iraq war and other American military and diplomatic activities. Many on the left viewed WikiLeaks with wary sympathy for publishing her

Since then, of course, WikiLeaks has become a liberal pariah for publishing hacked emails belonging to Hillary Clinton's political advisers. And Ms. Manning, who transitioned from male to female in prison, will be freed in May since her sentence was commuted by President Obama.



both published 2009

### Daniel G. Nocera http://nocera.harvard.edu/DanielGNocera

Nocera is a frequent guest on TV (CNN, ABC Nightline, PBS, ABC Nature's Edge, Jim Lehrer News Hour, This New House, NOVA, CBS, CNBC, Discovery Channel, The Science Channel Brink and Plum in the U.S. and Explora and RAI in Europe), radio (NPR, Bloomberg News, CBS, CBC, BBC, All Things Considered, Here and Now, Climate Connections, Voice of America, Radio New Zealand) and is regularly featured in print (New York Times, National Geographic, Forbes, Discover, Wall Street Journal, Time Magazine, The Statesman, The New Republic, U.S. News and World Report, ON, Outside Magazine, Wired, Technology Review, National Review). His 2006 PBS show was nominated for an Emmy Award.

He worked with Robert Krulwich of ABC News to develop the pilot that was used to launch the PBS NOVA show, ScienceNow, which is now a regularly scheduled science program on PBS. He also worked with Mr. Krulwich and the web designer OddTodd to develop a five part series on The Lifestyle of Carbon. He opened the Mountain Film Festival 2007 in Telluride CO, the Aspen Forum in Aspen CO in 2008 and 2009, and the World Science Festival in NYC in 2008. He sits on several advisory boards and is currently working with several artists in the U.S and abroad, actors and producers in Los Angeles and major business leaders in the U.S. to help them develop a position that contributes positively to the energy and sustainability challenge confronting this planet. In 2008, he founded Sun Catalytix, a company committed to bringing personalized energy to the non-legacy world.

### The 'new' District 2 - brilliant gerrymandering

- Most of Salt Lake City, Bountiful
  Universities, College
  UU, SUU, Dixie, Snow, Westminster
  Most of Western Utah
- Tooele, Delta, Milford

  2/3 of Southern Utah
- St. George, Cedar City, Kanab, Richfield
- National Parks and Monuments
  Zion, Bryce, Capitol Reef,
  Canyonlands (1/2), GSENM, ...
  Major Military (not Hill AFB)
- · South half of Great Salt Lake



To T-shirts and signs! ---→