



Scholarship in the Science of Team Science

Jacob Kraemer Tebes, Ph.D.
Yale University School of Medicine

International Science of Team Science Conference
Chicago, Illinois
April 23, 2010

The *American Journal of Community Psychology*

- Emphasis on prevention, health promotion, individuals in social-ecological contexts, community-level processes & interventions, systems and social change, human diversity
- Strong encouragement of submissions that describe researcher-community collaborations and interdisciplinary research
- Three new sections
 - Mixed Methods Research
 - Advancing Science
 - First Person Accounts

Definition of Team Science

- **collaboration** among scientists from different disciplines to conduct research that would not have been possible to complete from the perspective of a single discipline;
- **interdependence** among team members for their independent and creative contributions to the overall scientific collaboration;
- **distributed leadership responsibility** among team members for one or more aspects of the science; and
- **shared recognition** for authorship of publications, ownership of patents, and designation of grant leadership (e.g., Co-PI status)

Implications of This Definition

- Team science is a different way of doing science
- To publish the science itself will be comparable to publishing science done in the traditional way
- However, to publish how the science is done (e.g., the “science of team science”) will require building a community of scientists and an infrastructure that supports this community.

Why is a Community of Scientists of Team Science Necessary?

- No matter how one defines science, what it is in practice will be defined by its community of scientists (Laudan, 1996). This is part of his “normative naturalism.”
- Two elements of “normative naturalism”
 - All knowledge claims should be evaluated through empirical observation (i.e., naturalism).
 - Ground all scientific practices in the norms of one’s scientific community.

The Importance of a Community of Scientists of Team Science

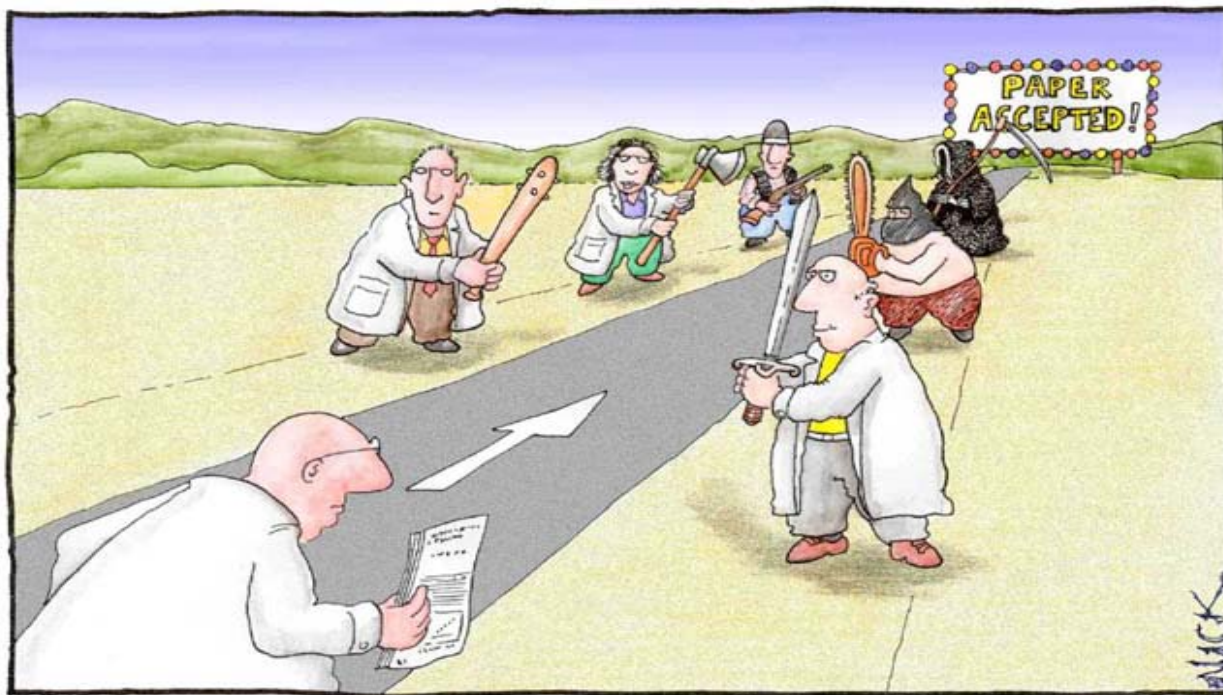
- That community will determine
 - the norms, customs, and values of science;
 - its practices, including the methods and paradigms used;
 - the parameters of what science is, and its knowledge base; and
 - the forms of communication among scientists, and the language that is used.

The Peer Review Process without a Community of Scientists

'On the whole, I found it to be quite marvellous and yet desperately awful at the same time, apart from the mediocre bits'



The Peer Review Process without a Community of Scientists



Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as 'quite an improvement.'

Essential Conditions for Scholarship in the Science of Team Science

- Community of scientists of team science
- Venues for that community to interact on the science
 - Opportunities for informal exchange (e.g., meetings, conferences, listservs, societies, consortia, websites)
 - Scholarly outlets (e.g., journals, monographs, books)
- Economic infrastructure to support scholarly publication
 - Direct funding support (e.g., federal, foundation)
 - Academic incentives (e.g., P & T; university reorganization)
 - Publisher incentives (e.g., Is there a market?)

Types of Journals for Publishing on the Science of Team Science

- Those interested in the impact of how science is done on **scientific practice or policy** (e.g., Science, Nature, Clinical and Translational Science, Social Science & Medicine, Research Policy)
- Those interested in the impact of how science is done on a **specific public health challenge** (e.g., cancer, addiction, climate change, prevention)
- Those interested in a **specific area of scholarship** (e.g., small groups, social networks, measurement, systems or social change, philosophy of science)
- Those interested in **science as a practice endeavor** (e.g., American Journal of Evaluation, Evaluation Review; Evaluation & Program Planning)