



Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health

# **Social Responsibility in Science and Higher Education**

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# Moral Issues

Science and technology have a significant impact on society and policy.

In 1955 Albert Einstein, Bertrand Russell, and other eminent scientists issued a manifesto urging scientists to "think in a new way" about their moral responsibilities in the nuclear age.

Today, the need for social responsibility in science and technology extends beyond nuclear nonproliferation concerns to many other issues.



## Paradox

R&D in science and technology as well as higher education are expected to provide benefit to the overall worldwide society through creation of new knowledge and training of engineers and skilled workforce.

### Paradox:

Considering a world as a whole, despite globalization processes, advances in science and technology have not translated to sustainable advances in quality of life for the majority of human race.



## Areas

The need for social responsibility in science and technology extends beyond nuclear nonproliferation concerns to:

- health and especially public health issues (e.g. pharmaceutical industry, neglected diseases etc.)
- the impact of emerging technologies (nanotechnology, biotechnology)
- energy
- environment issues (climate changes)
- etc.



# Social Responsibility and Ethics

Closely connected

Pressure is applied on industry to improve business ethics through public, initiatives, laws and even ISO standards

## Examples:

- Epidemiological studies and marketing in pharmaceutical industry
- Openness / Restriction to information



## Public trust

Higher education institutions and public institutes receive considerable amount of public money.

Public trust, therefore, is associated not only with scientists, but also with the scientists' institutions.

Lack of control in this environment could have devastating financial and political implications.



# Scope of Responsibility

Matters of integrity and reputation have to be scrutinized along with capacity to produce good output, i.e. educated young generation and quality research results

The scope of responsibility, therefore, extends beyond the walls of a single institution into the world.



# Open Questions

Social responsibility  
**performance indicators** in the area of science  
and higher education





# Morals - Social Responsibility Questionnaire

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody/mind/surveys/morals/>

The screenshot shows the BBC website interface. At the top left is the BBC logo with the word 'Home' next to it. Below the logo is the date '7 September 2010' and a promotional box for 'lab uk' with the text 'Take part in real science experiments'. The main navigation bar includes 'Nature', 'Wildlife Finder', 'Science', 'Prehistoric Life', 'Human Body & Mind', and 'Space'. Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: 'You are here: [BBC](#) > [Science & Nature](#) > [Human Body & Mind](#) > [The Mind](#) > [Personality and individuality](#)'. A 'Psychology tests' button is visible on the right. The main content area is titled 'Morals - Social Responsibility Questionnaire' and contains a list of bullet points describing the questionnaire.

**BBC Home**

7 September 2010

Take part in real science experiments

lab uk

Science & Nature: Human Body & Mind

Nature Wildlife Finder Science Prehistoric Life Human Body & Mind Space

You are here: [BBC](#) > [Science & Nature](#) > [Human Body & Mind](#) > [The Mind](#) > [Personality and individuality](#)

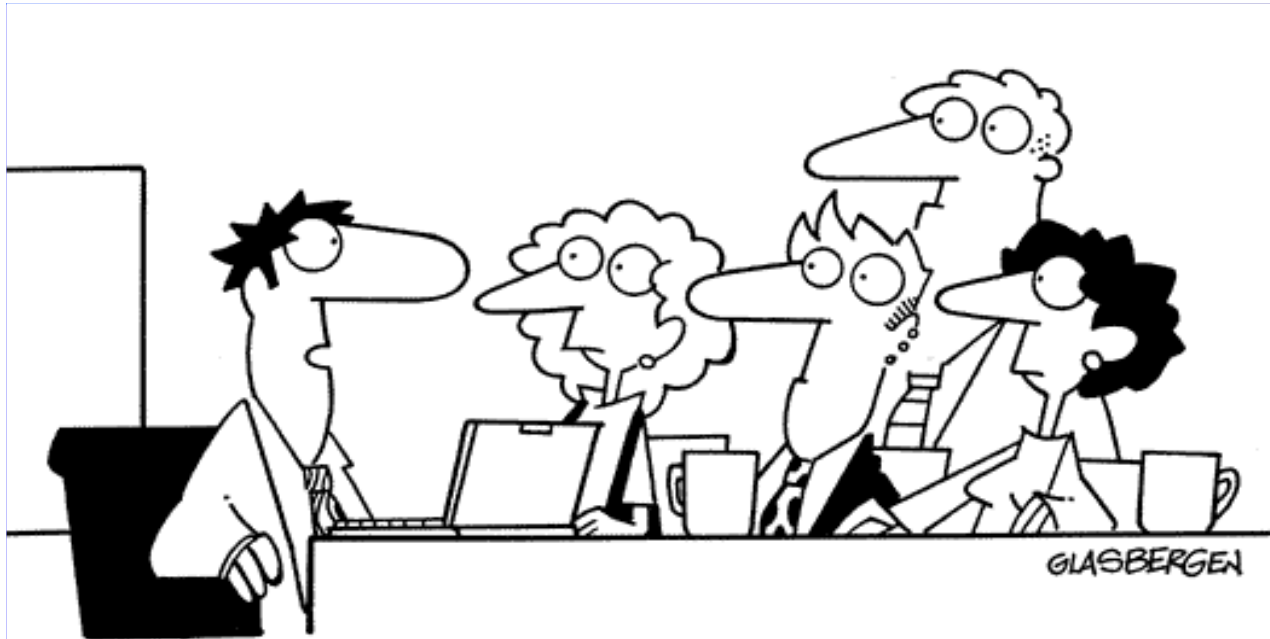
Psychology tests

### Morals - Social Responsibility Questionnaire

- This questionnaire is designed to test your attitudes to moral behaviour and to find out how socially responsible you are.
- It has 11 questions and should take about 10 minutes.
- You will be given a statement to read and asked how important you think it is.
- You will then be asked to pick a statement from a series of options that best represents your answer.
- It was designed by Dr Keith Coaley.

Regarding Croatia, social responsibility in R&D in science, technology and higher education is important part of Croatian accession to EU.





**“Now that we’ve celebrated our diversity, embraced a new spirit of creativity, made a fresh commitment to excellence, and given something back to the community, *does anyone here remember what it is we’re supposed to manufacture and sell?*”**

**Thank You  
for Your  
Attention!**