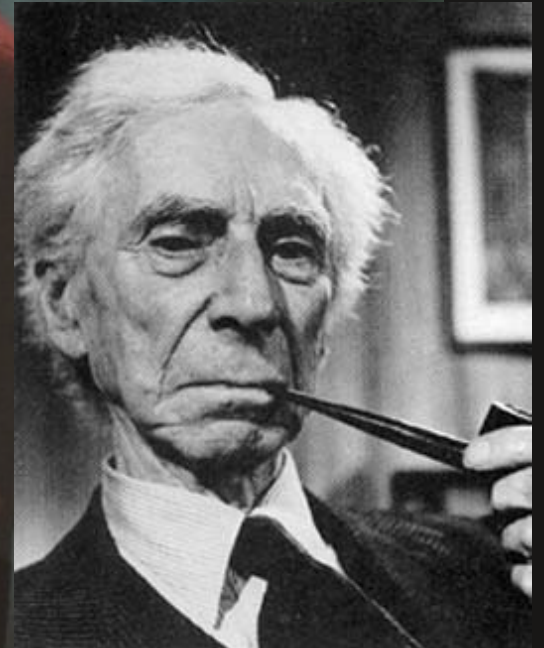
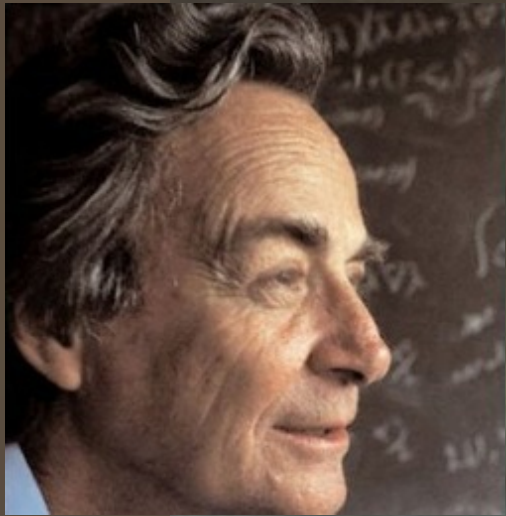


Denialism

- Skepticamp 2012 Sydney
- 2012-05-26
- Nick Andrew
- @elronxenu

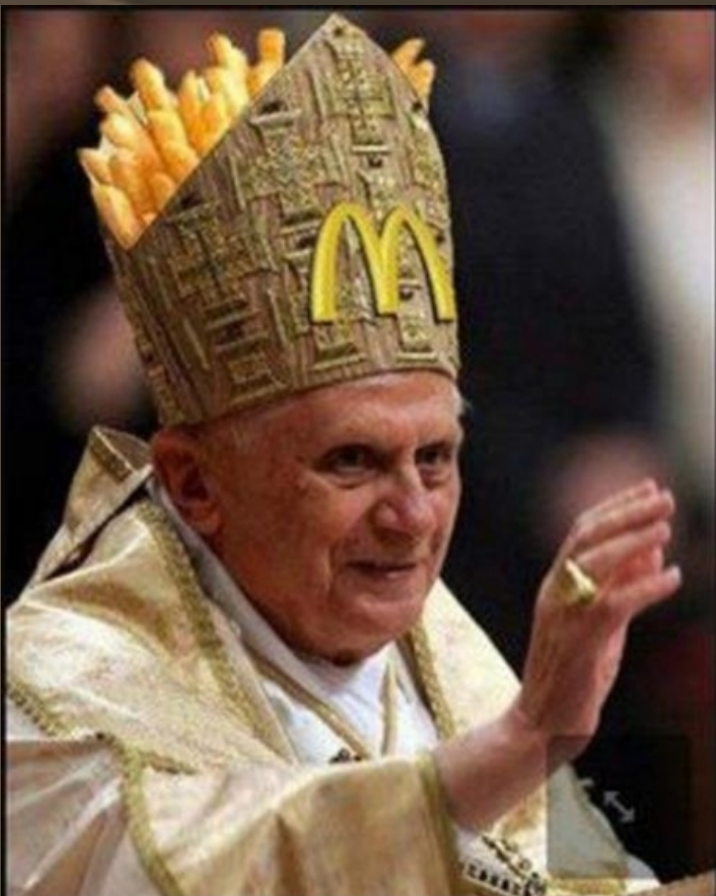




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**MAKE
ABORTION
ILLEGAL**



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McKee 2009, Denialism

- 1. Identify a conspiracy among scientists, to promote some agenda
- 2. Use fake experts; denigrate legitimate experts
- 3. Cherry-pick from the literature; find fault with papers to discredit the field
- 4. Set impossible expectations for the science
- 5. Use misrepresentation and logical fallacies.



Denialism: What is it and how should scientists respond?

Pascal Diethelm & Martin McKee

The European Journal of Public Health, vol 19, issue 1, page 2-4
doi:10.1093/eurpub/ckn139

"Thabo Mbeki's denial that HIV caused AIDS prevented thousands of HIV positive mothers in South Africa receiving anti-retrovirals so that they, unnecessarily, transmitted the disease to their children."



Science Writing in the Age of Denial

- Sean B. Carroll
- 1. Doubt the science, despite the evidence
- 2. Question the motives of researchers
- 3. Frame it as a scientific controversy
- 4. Exaggerate potential harm and appeal to personal freedom
- 5. To accept the science would repudiate some key philosophy.



Mia Freedman

"The AVN cleverly make it sound like there are two sides to the vaccination debate. In fact there aren't two sides and there is no debate. On the one hand there is science, and there is no other hand."



The same-sex marriage debate

Chrys Stevenson
thatsmyphilosophy.wordpress.com



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- 1. Doubt the science, despite the evidence
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Attitude Polarization
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
1979

“[People] are apt to accept "confirming" evidence at face value while subjecting "disconfirming" evidence to critical evaluation, and, as a result, draw undue support for their initial positions.”



The End



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