

Science

Science—from the Latin *scire*, to know—has come to dignify, in all parts of the world and for many centuries, intellectual inquiry into the nature of the universe—the cosmos, tiny man embedded in it, animal life, mathematics, what is out there to know, the nature of all this—and of course into the nature of itself, of the very act it is. Given the wonder of this voracity to know, we might as well above all wonder at our own willingness *not* to know and honor science, the very bulwark of our humanity.

The practices of science, in contemporary societies, are omnipresent and dictatorial—and in many cases derive themselves from discoveries generated—at least in the west—during the past four centuries, periods in which the mysteries of locomotion, hydraulic engineering, electrification, chemical engineering, and frontal lobe lobotomies have been disclosed—accustoming ourselves to a daily life in which everything short of mortality is thought to be under man's control.

The issue of the recrudescence of anti-science attitudes in our own time--anti vaxers, anti-gays—has once again drawn attention to the precious achievement of science. Thanks to the perspective of science, in medicine, surgery, architecture, design and city planning –to take widespread examples— the quality of our social existence has been greatly improved. We reach the point where we must insist on the independence of scientific observation from politics, for in that confusion lurks the suspicion of the work of science in society.