

Science: The New Bully on the Block

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Up until 1492 the entire Western world order was controlled by the Catholic Church based in Rome, Italy. Special envoys would gather to discuss the matters of the day and the Church always had the last say. From the celestial bodies in the sky to the makeup of the human frame, the Catholic Church was supreme ruler of knowledge. Harsh punishments were given to those who disagreed and did not follow in line behind the Church teachings. These individuals were labeled as "heretics" and would meet their fate at the hand of hanging or by being burned at the stake. One could make the argument (especially if you were an up and coming scientist interested in applying newfound scientific principles) that the Catholic Church was one of the first bullies on the block.

It was at this time that Copernicus, (now on his deathbed), boldly proclaimed that the Earth was not at the center of the Universe (as the Church had so vehemently declared). Rather, Copernicus decreed that it was actually the Sun at the center of the known universe and that the Earth was just revolving around the Sun. This historic event marked a time when modern science had symbolically taken over as the kingpin in knowledge and the ruler of wisdom.

Over the last five-hundred years science has risen to a new level of prestige and influence. Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Galileo Galilei, Francis Bacon, Louis Pasteur, Sigmund Freud, Max Planck, Marie Currie, Archimedes and many others have added their value to science and to the evolution of society. Science has certainly added much value to our lives and to the greater understanding of our world. Despite the heavy rhetoric in favor of science, what most people do not realize is that science has now become the new bully on the block.

At the turn of the twentieth century science was just one of many competing philosophies that were in use at the time. Each philosophy was fairly equal in its influence and impact. We had homeopathy originating from Germany, naturopaths, midwives, chiropractors, herbalists and the newly emerging scientific model. In America it was just as common to visit an herbalist as a scientific-based medical doctor. All of these different philosophies were allowed to peacefully coexist.

A drastic shift happened around 1909. At this time there was much diversity in medical training with female medical schools and even some all black medical schools. Many different forms of medical treatments were being used from a full spectrum of choices. It was in 1909 that the *Carnegie and Rockefeller Foundations* sent a man (Abraham Flexner) around the country to visit most medical schools to see what they were doing. His infamous *Flexner Report of 1909* was the nail in the coffin for holistic medicine as these two prestigious foundations now decided to only fund schools that had surgery and drugs. (The Rockefeller's were already in the business of selling drugs so they just wanted to boost their own profits). Hence, all of the medical schools went out of business except those based in science, drugs and surgery. This is where the money is and this event turned medicine from a service into a big business.

The science-based system continued to gain momentum and took over other natural systems. Science-based medical doctors attempted to banish midwives in many states and bring women into hospitals to have a very sanitary (but unnatural) birth. The war on natural health practitioners had begun with science-based groups lobbying their politicians to create laws to limit or outlaw proven natural methods (like chiropractic, acupuncture, midwives, herbalists etc.) in favor of a science only world. Family pediatricians (primarily male) led by the popular Dr. Spock, attempted to disengage women from natural birthing and child-rearing methods and shamed them into believing that these educated men with science as their cornerstone knew more about the birthing and raising of children than mothers who had been doing the task for thousands of years. (Interestingly, in the United States where most babies are born in science-derived hospitals, the infant mortality rate is near the bottom of all industrialized nations at number 29. The countries who do best are the ones where more children are born at home with the assistance of a midwife).

According to Sheila Kitzinger, an expert in Britain on child birth, "*planned home birth with an experienced lay midwife has a perinatal death rate of 3-4 babies per 1,000 births (51). Hospital births, by contrast, carry a perinatal mortality rate of 9-10/1,000*". The illusion worked and most mothers now would rather trust a science-based doctor than their own natural female intuition on child-rearing.

As science continued to grow it did not accept natural and proven methods of healing and understanding. Science exerted its bully status and has attempted to eliminate much that is not science.

Here is how the game is played. Science acts much like the Catholic Church. Most people know the Catholic Church as one of the top four world religions with over 1.2 billion members. While the Church is indeed a prominent religion, it is also the third largest landholder on the planet with over 177 million acres of land. The Church is also a city (Vatican City), a country (with ambassadors), prints money and

postage, has an army (once one of the largest armies in the world), has lobbyists, is a political influencing machine, raises money and also is a propaganda department.

Science is very much the same. Science is first and foremost a method of viewing our world. This is generally called "mechanism" or "Newtonian" where everything is dissected into smaller pieces to find the answers. Science is also a propaganda machine (influencing politics and elections). Science is deeply imbedded into the Western medical structure and has deep ties to corporations and political leaders. Science is deeply involved in the political, economical and social aspects of our lives. When one rallies to create more science, what does this mean? This means that more scientific evidence and research is used to influence customers to purchase more products. Science expands into the government arena to sway politicians to see the world their way (science is king). Science is also used to ensure more corporate profits. We are taught to believe that more science can only be a good thing.

Needless to say, among this smorgasbord of identities that science has emerged with, one of the most seldom spoken about is how science is the new bully on the block. What do we mean when we use the word "bullying." Bullying is an attempt to dominate and overpower others. It is a way to subjugate one to "lesser than." While bullying could be something as innocuous as being "mean-spirited," it is often associated with strong arm tactics, force and divisiveness.

For instance, the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) is the strong arm enforcement of the pharmaceutical industry. If a natural health food corporation makes a statement that a natural food has a health claim, armed men and women in black fatigues with machine guns drawn will storm into a store to arrest those inside and confiscate any product. According to the scientific-based FDA, only drugs can heal and food and herbs have no therapeutic value. This is often seen as well as raw milk distributors are raided by gun-wielding FDA agents because science-based pasteurized dairy companies have exerted their will, using the FDA as its policeman.

We often see this same bullying through legal action. A state or federal senator or representative will hide behind the wall of science to enact a bill to benefit the scientific community and harass the natural health community. For instance, laws have been drawn up by science-minded bodies to vacate the rights of parents who do not vaccinate their children. The domineering and bullying stance of science has stripped away a parent's freedom of choice with little reason or any deep understanding of issues. Fear-based irrational laws are often enacted to further weaken a parent's freedom of choice. Strict science-minded individuals do not want to investigate another way. Being "open-minded" is an oxymoron when it comes to science.

We have also seen this when a federal or state judge, acting in behalf of science, will order a child kidnapped and toxic chemicals inserted into their body. This is very common when a child under eighteen years of age contracts a disease like cancer. The courts often ignore the wishes of the parents and child and force their will. Even though there are many pre-existing cures for cancer using natural methods, the courts refuse to see it this way. They will side with the pre-historic science-based cancer industry.

Domination is infused into the scientific model. The Cartesian way of thinking has always included domination as one of its base beliefs. The Cartesian model has always dominated nature, women and animals. It is no wonder why science, based in the Cartesian model, would choose to dominate natural entities like midwives, natural parenting, herbalists, chiropractors etc.

Science is considered an exclusionary system which means that science has a difficult time accepting and including anything that is considered "nonscientific." For instance, the scientific mind is threatened by natural procedures like acupuncture, reiki or energy healing. This resistance happens because if the scientific mind cannot measure something than it has no value. While there are many science derived individuals who have implemented nonscientific techniques, this is not the norm. The norm is for the world of science to diminish, destroy, judge, outlaw or squash what is nonscientific. When science cannot eliminate something it will accept it (often reluctantly) as long as it can control it. For instance, a science-minded medical doctor may wish to write a patient a prescription to receive acupuncture or physical therapy. This way the medical doctor and science are still in charge.

You might hear of a hospital that has a complementary approach to healing. While this might seem ideal on paper, the usual scenario is that a science-based medical system has adopted some natural healing approaches. Science and natural healing are usually not on par. The scientific approach is usually far more funded and will tend to control and dominate the natural approach. Much more of the hospital is devoted to science and only a smaller section is devoted to natural methods of healing. Science is still in the domineering position of controlling the ideas and the services. A science-based medical doctor is usually still in charge.

Rarely would you have a situation where a non-doctor (herbalist, acupuncturist, homeopath etc.) call the shots and control the lives of medical doctors. (This concept is primarily true in the Western world. In a country like China, where natural medicine came before scientific medicine, both science and natural healing will have the same value). The United States Government has embraced the science model as king because the government always elects a Surgeon General (the symbolic head of U.S. medicine) from the scientific

community. Imagine if a chiropractor or herbalist became the Surgeon General instead of a science-based medical doctor.

A natural non-scientific approach would almost always be inclusive and would see the benefit of adding other complementary techniques to help a patient heal. For instance, an acupuncturist is much more likely to suggest that a patient receive a scientific blood test for Lyme disease than a medical doctor to suggest that a patient try several treatments of acupuncture. While this open exchange does happen, it is rare. The natural healing model is far less threatened by other ideas while the scientific model has a difficult time allowing non-scientific ideas to coexist.

The tax codes have also been ensnared by the realm of scientific domination. It is far easier to deduct from your taxes a medical expense based in science (like drugs) than a natural health procedure or herbal formula based in nature. The IRS (Internal Revenue Service) thinks in terms of scientific code alone and natural solutions do not compute. You are left out in the cold when it comes to taxes because out-of-pocket medical expenses most frequently will not count if they are natural in origin. Only science-derived drugs tip the scale.

Just as laws have been passed to prevent teenage bullies from preying on victims on the internet, why can't we pass laws that prevent scientific bullies from preying on natural wisdom? Oh, that is right. The people making the laws are frequently the bullies themselves. While we think of bullying happening only in junior high school, what we do not realize is that corporations, politicians, comics, government agencies, religions, and even world perspectives like science can also participate in bullying. Stop bullying now is not just about our kids. Stop bullying now is about waking up to institutionalized bullying that disrupts the fabric of our society.

Science is not a bad thing; it just has so many entanglements that try to keep it in a position of power. While science does not seem to be going away any time soon, we will rest assured when the entanglements of science (like bullying), that have given science such a bad name, come to rest forever. Until then, just as the Catholic Church found ways to burn its non-believers, science will continue to find ways to stay on top and destroy what threatens it. While this might not have been in the early vision of science pioneers like Isaac Newton, this is no longer your grandfather's science. Bullying is alive and well in the halls of junior high schools as well as in historic institutions like science. The witch hunt continues; only this time the *Inquisitor General* leading the way is the scientific community itself.

Resources

The Catholic Church and land ownership

<http://www.businessinsider.com/worlds-biggest-landowners-2011-3?op=1>

Are Home births Safe??

<http://www.gentlebirth.org/ronnie/homejig.html>