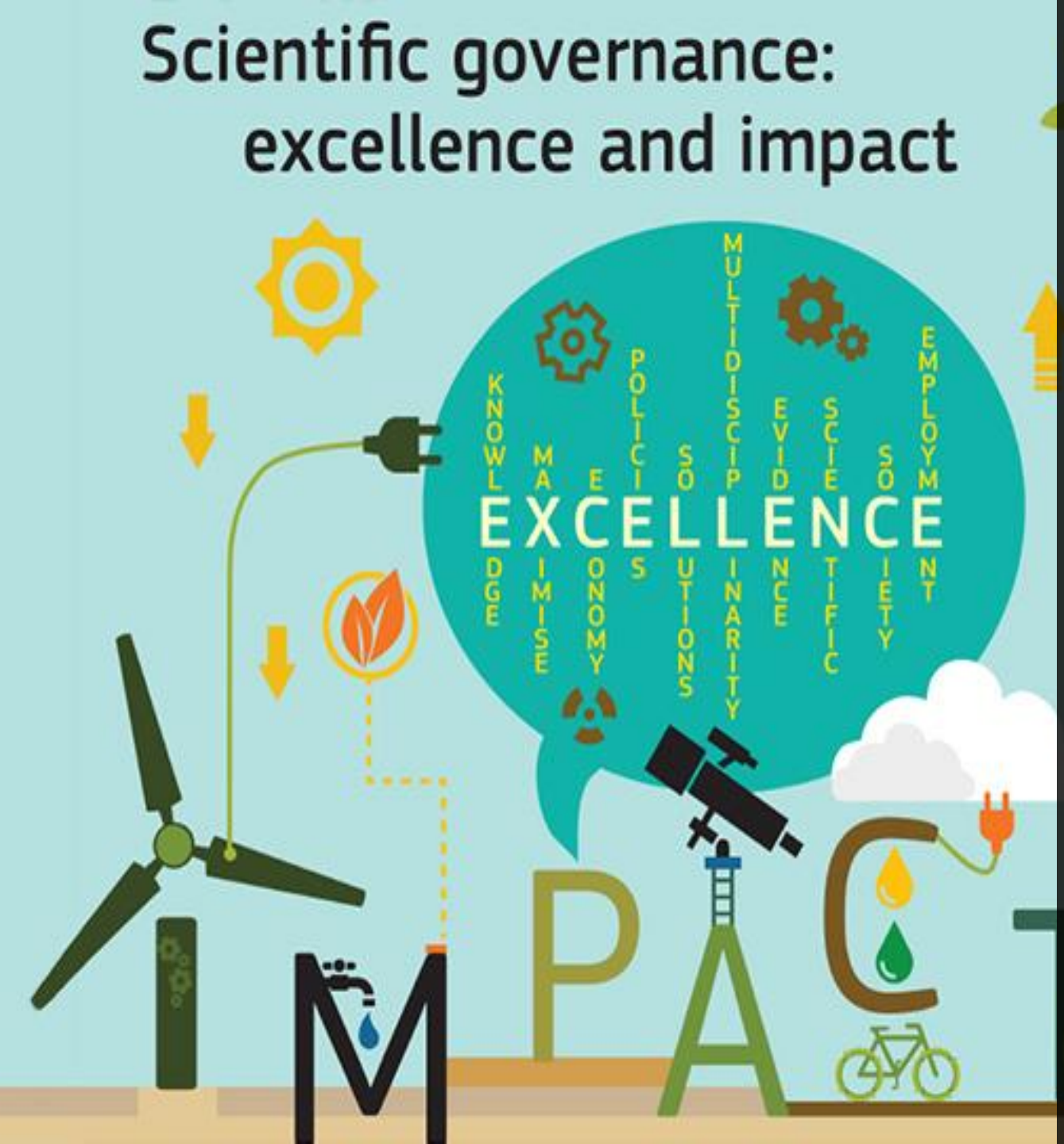


Robert Braun

Towards a sociology of excellence:

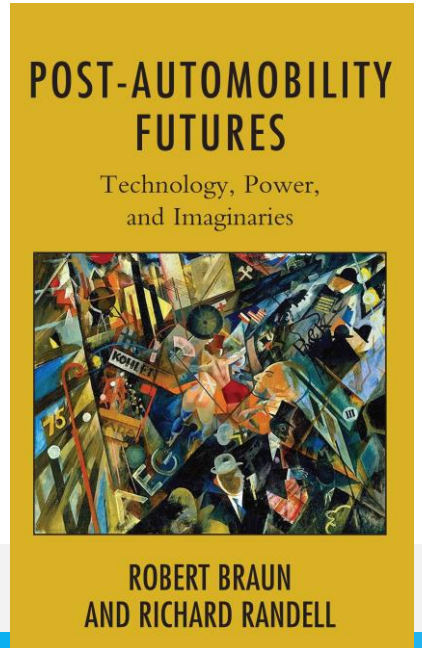
constructing and deconstructing scientific impact

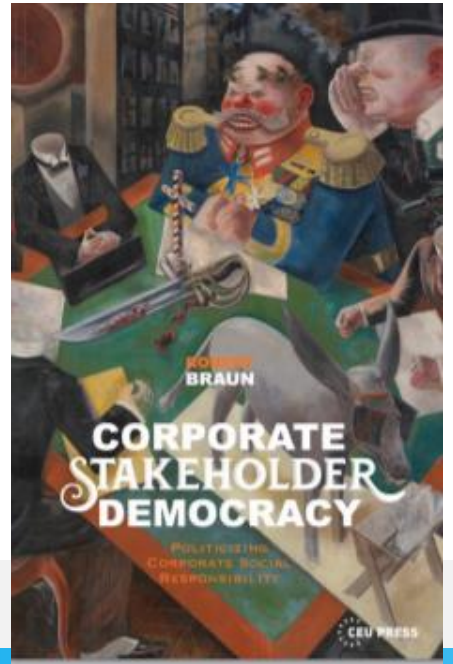
@Masaryk University 2021

Latest books

(2021): Post-Automobility Futures (with Richard Randell), London: Rowman & Littlefield

(2019): Corporate Stakeholder Democracy, New York: CEU University Press



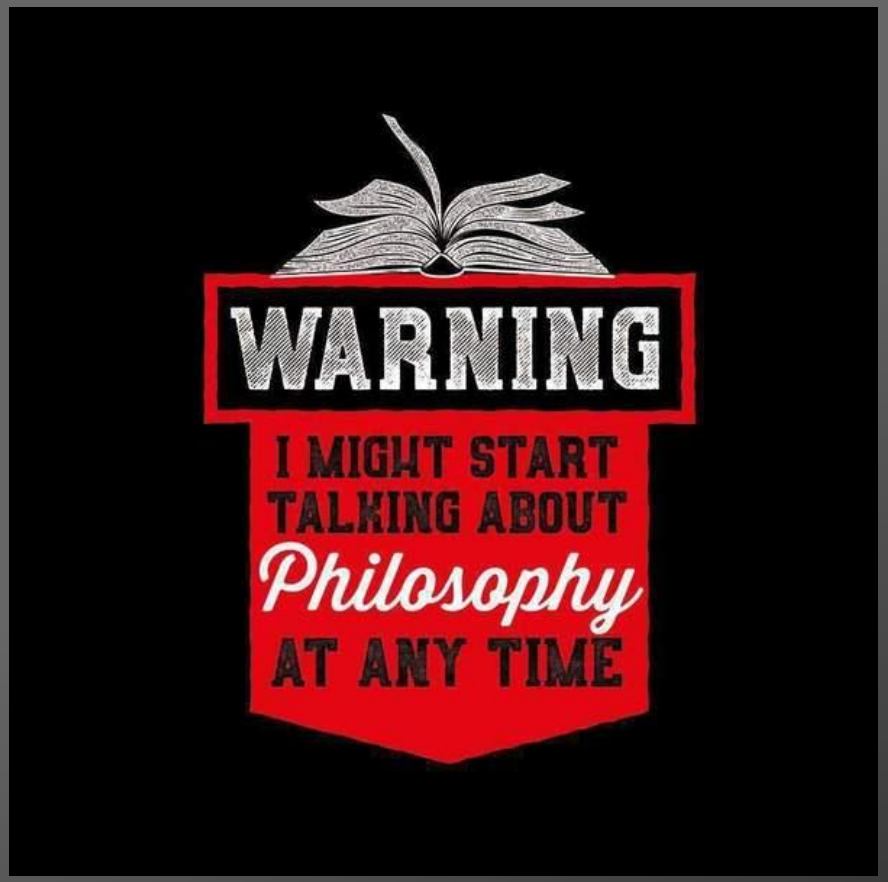


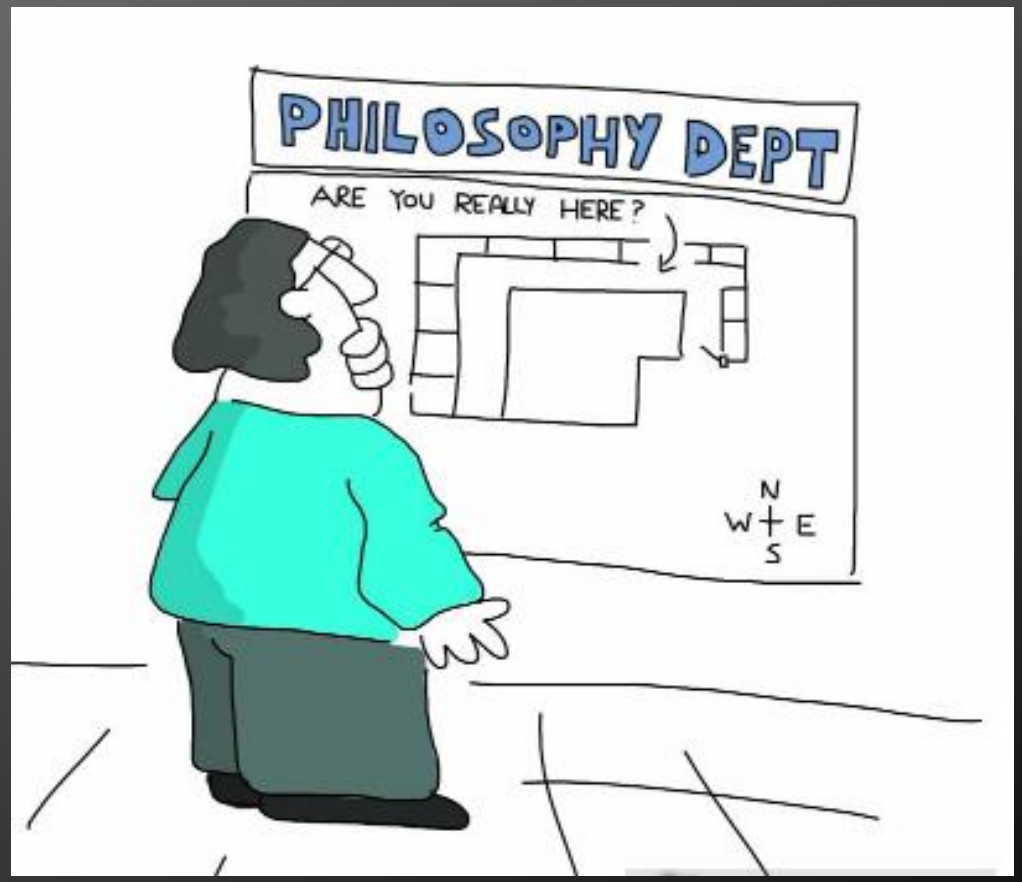
Philosophy of technology

Senior researcher at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Vienna;

Deputy head of research group: Science, **Technology and Social Transformation**.

Main research interest: the politics of knowledge and societal transformation. Current research focuses on **post-automobility** futures and **responsible research and innovation**.


WARNING
I MIGHT START
TALKING ABOUT
Philosophy
AT ANY TIME


PHILOSOPHY DEPT
ARE YOU REALLY HERE?
N
W
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S

Completion

What you need to do?

Participate	One academic blog post	Final paper
seminar (online)	The academic blog should reflect some current sociotechnical challenge, addressed via learnings acquired in the course (250-500 words)	the final paper will address a specific question within the realm of STS and analyze it according to general academic practice, (2500-3000 words)

\+ Specific assignment(s): TBD

What will happen?

The course

Learning outcomes:

Basic knowledge of

- sociology of science
- science policy and funding
- scientific impact and assessment
- peer review system
- scientometric and bibliometric evaluation
- responsible research and innovation principles
- politics of science
- genealogy of scientific institutions
- alternative assessment of science output
- social impacts

Science & society: the beginnings

- What is science?
- The politics of science
- The beginnings of science policy

Science & society: Creating the idea of excellence

- What is science policy?
- The Republic of Science
- Measuring excellence
- The European Research Council

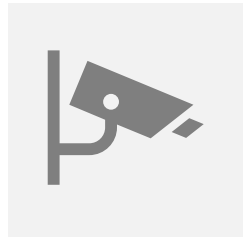
Science & society: Critique of excellence

- Responsible research and innovation
- "Destitute excellence": decolonizing science
- The future of "excellence"

About the title

What is what?

"Towards a sociology of excellence:
constructing and deconstructing scientific impact"



Towards | Excellence | Impact

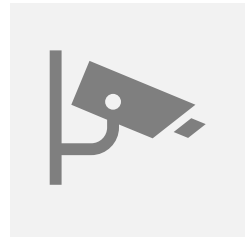
Breakout groups

What is the object here?

What is our focus of inquiry?

Science

Knowledge

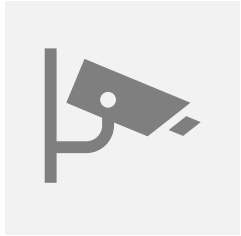


Power

The science of science = reflecting on the politics of being?

What is science, technology and society (STS) studies?

Science, Technology and Society (STS) is a field interested in the nature of science and its place in society.



Ontology	Epistemology	Politics
What is "a dead body"?	What kind of dead body? Statistical/Medical/Kin	What follows of the type of dead body?

Covid-19

Of Covid? *By* Covid? *With* Covid?

What are science, technology and society (STS) studies?

Science, Technology and Society (STS) is a field interested in the nature of science and its place in society.

"Scientification"

The science of science

Nature-culture divide

How to measure impact?

Institutialization

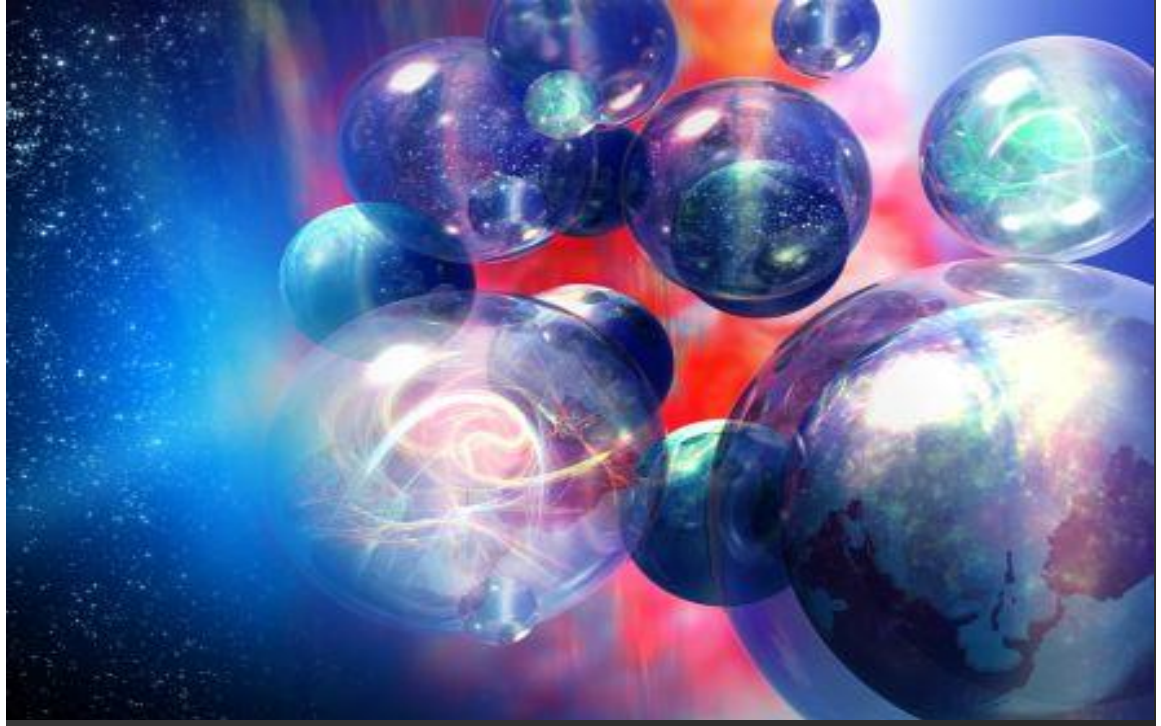
"Critical science"

The ontopolitics of science

Questioning the nature-culture divide

Anticipation/multiverse

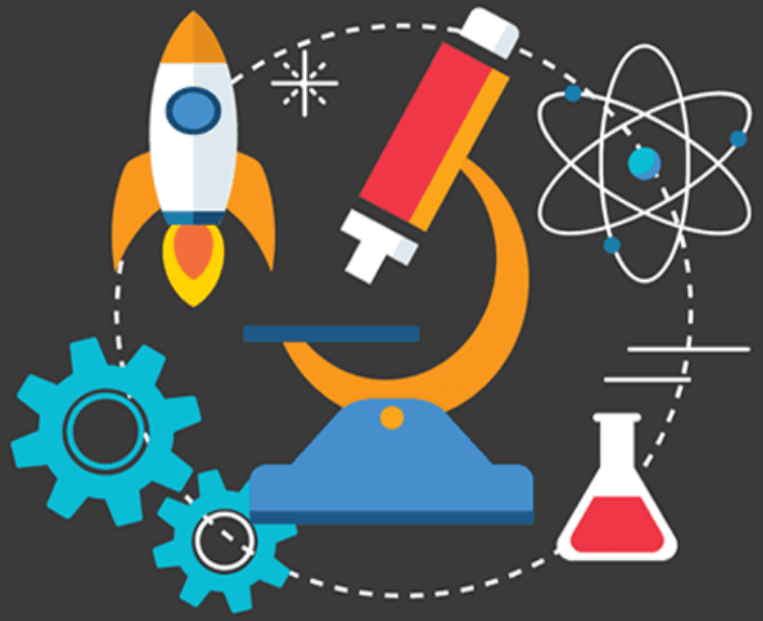
Decolonization



What is “the world”?

Worlding: offering measurable standards of being (both authentic and inauthentic); an ongoing process of the thinging world.” (Heidegger, Being & Time)

Ontology	Epistemology	Politics
Mutliverse or universe	Rights or wrongs?	World-making or inhabiting?

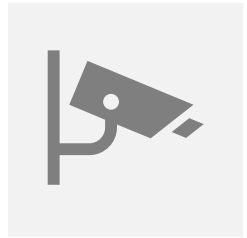


What is science?

"The intellectual and practical activity encompassing the systematic study of the structure and behaviour of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment." *Oxford Dictionary*

Ontology

Epistemology

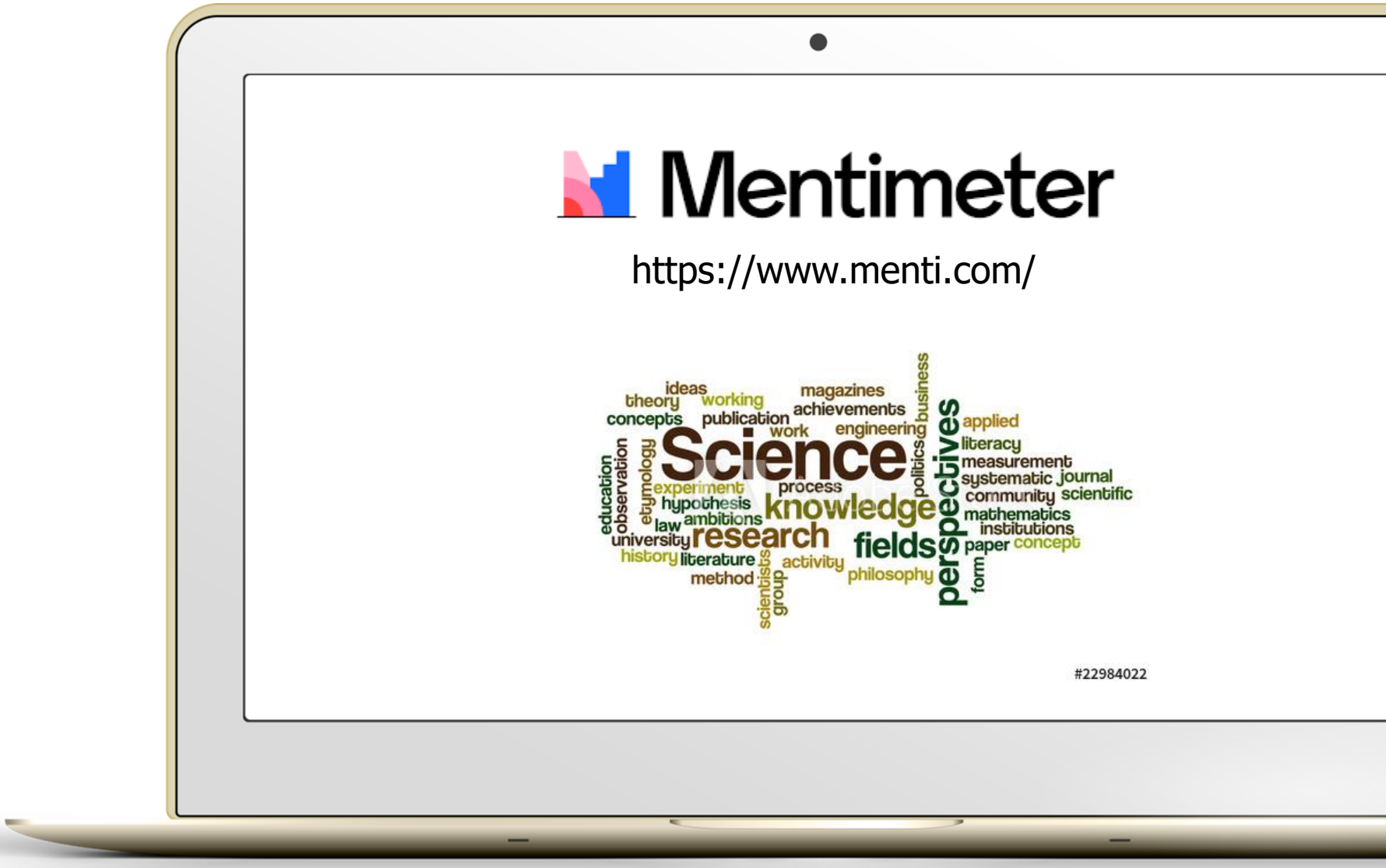


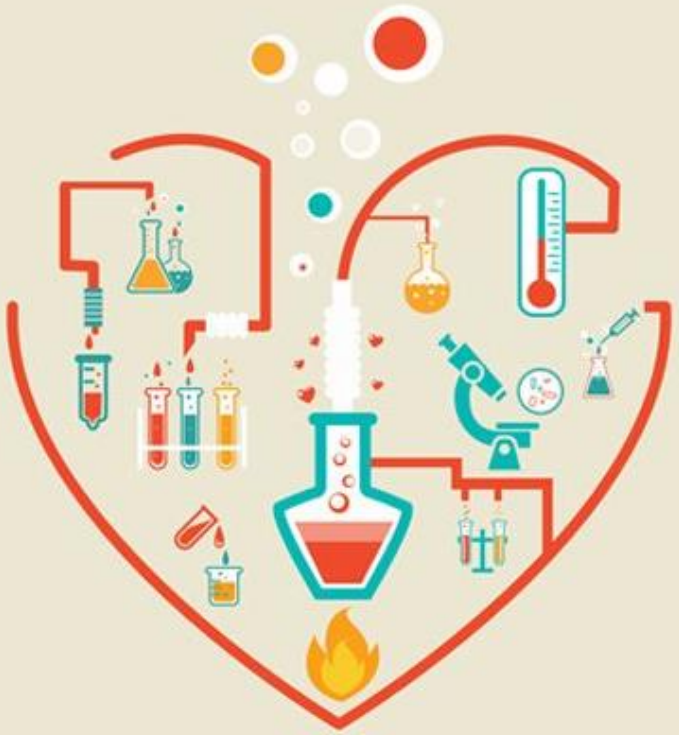
Politics

Mentimeter

Word cloud

What is science?



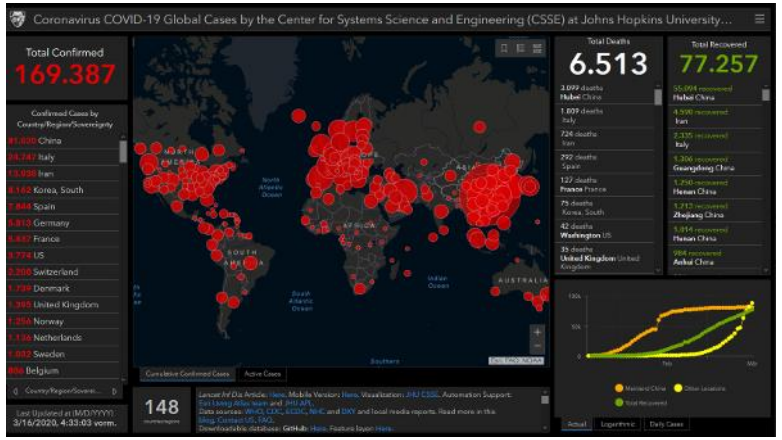


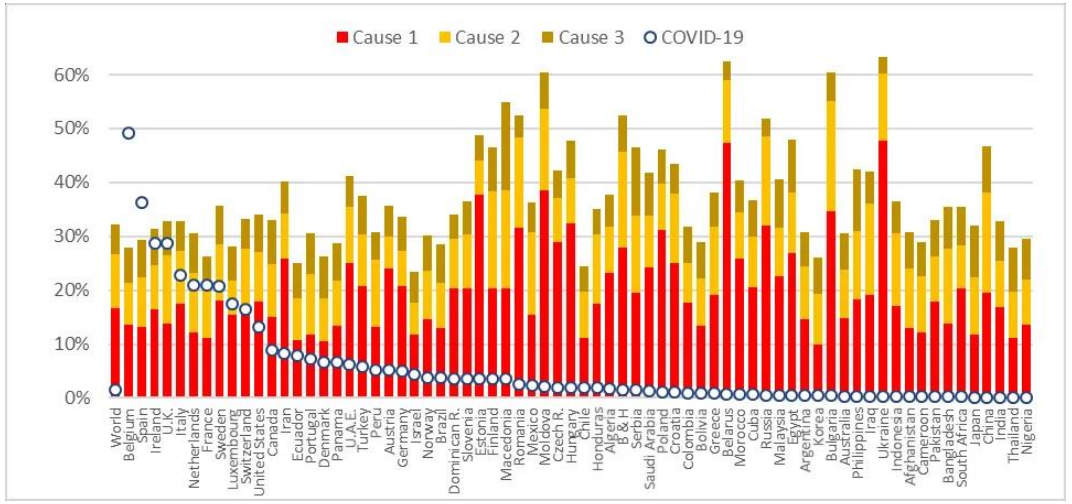
What is science?

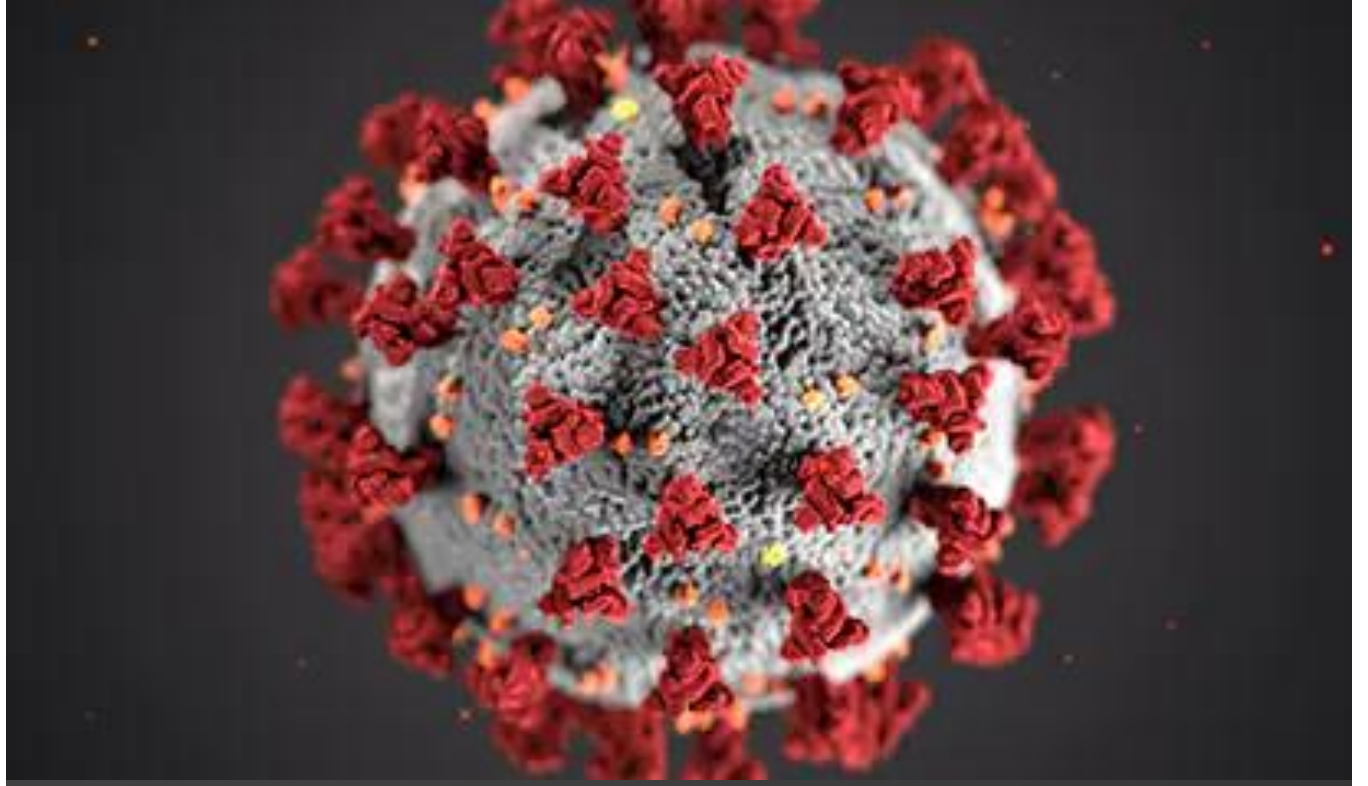
Your version

What is science?

SO WHAT?







Covid trajectories

What is excellence? / What is science?

What are we going to do?

Have fun.

- ❖ *Read texts (flipped classroom)*
- ✓ *Pls read all literature before class*

- ❖ *Discuss texts in small groups (peer learning)*
- ✓ *Questions offered/discussion/presentation*

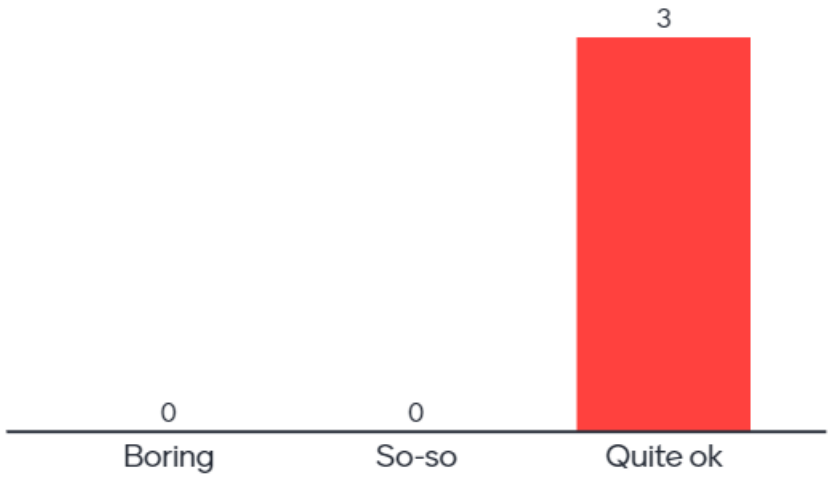
- ❖ *Open new trajectories (classroom learning)*
- ✓ *Discuss and question*

- ❖ *Critically assess literature (Critical studies)*
- ✓ *Using online tools/group work/short interventions*

- ❖ *Reflect & decolonialize (Ontopolitical learning)*
- ✓ *Discuss and rewrite*

How was the class?

Mentimeter



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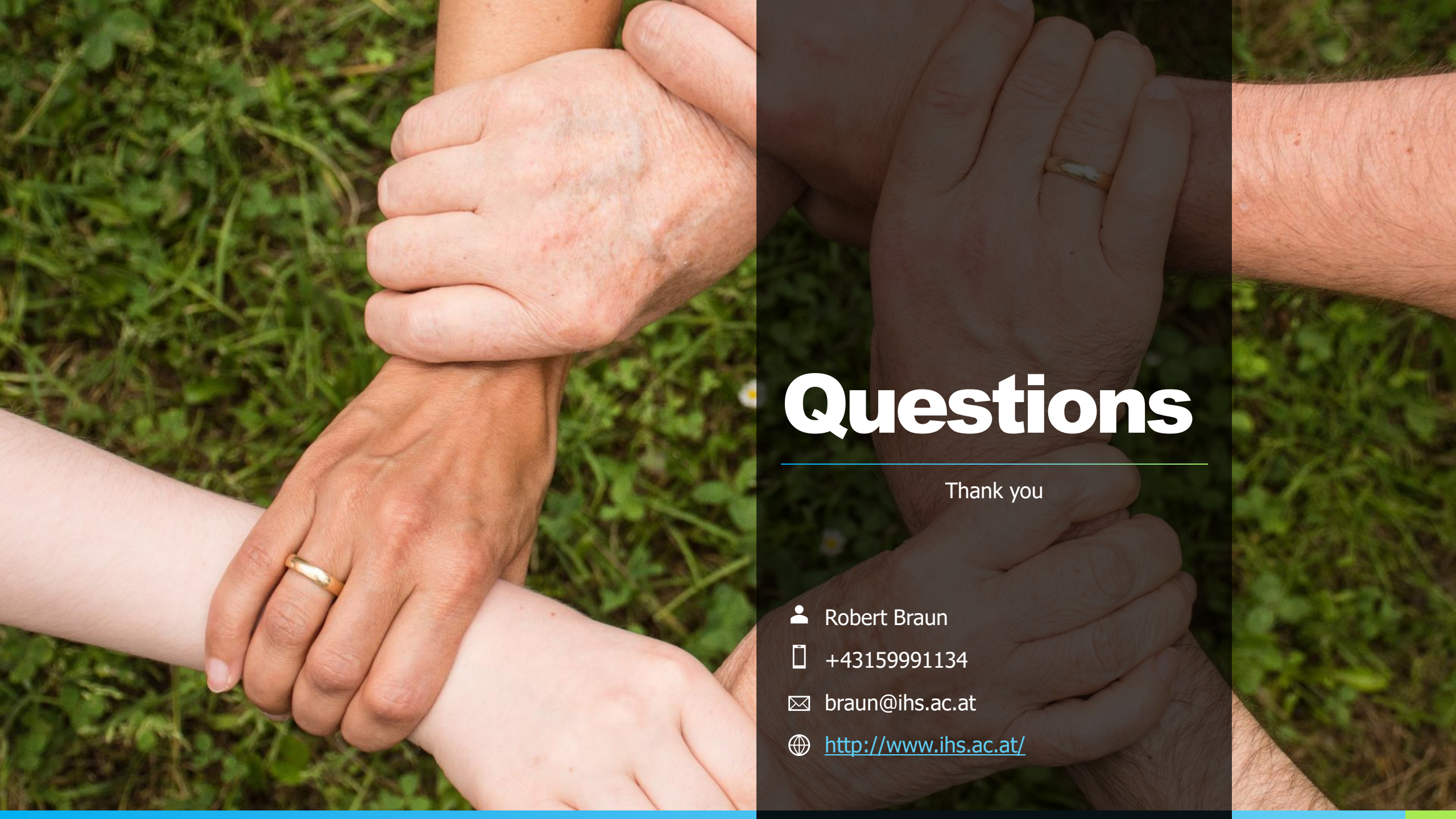

Questions

Thank you

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