

SCIENTIFIC ETHOS

The overriding principle of the scientific morality is simply that of intellectual honesty to oneself and others. To put it negatively: Don't fool yourself or others. Don't make up the data or even doctor them; don't cheat in the arguments; state which precautions were taken and which not in the experiment; state which facts the theory covers and which ones it does not; do not exaggerate the merits of your hypothesis or underrate those of its rivals; indicate the shortcomings of your work and, if possible, suggest how to improve on it; give credit where credit is due; do not skirt problems or cover up results just out of fear of hurting an ideology; do not do things just to get a grant

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