

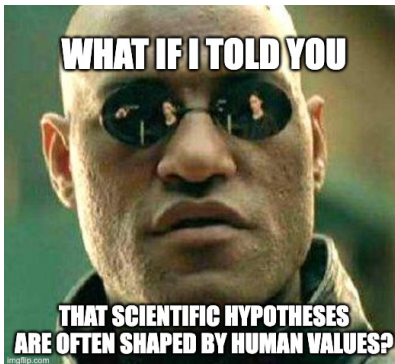


THE DEPARTMENT OF  
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES  
AND LIBERAL STUDIES

FALL 2023

## INDS 300: Frameworks for Interdisciplinarity Science and Values

Wednesdays, 1600-1845  
Room JR242



Here is a common understanding of science: Science is a *value-free* enterprise in that it is and should be neutral with respect to our values, ideologies, politics, and morals (except for some restrictions on the ethics of research where humans and other animals are affected). Scientists just work in labs, objectively churning out facts. It is others – technologists, engineers, doctors, policymakers, and the public – who decide, based on their own values, how to use and act on these facts. But rarely is life so cut and dried. In this course, we will analyze in depth these ideas and a host of challenges to them. We will look at arguments that values (cognitive, social, ethical) *do* play a role in different parts of the scientific process. We will also examine claims that science does or should transform our values. Questions we will tackle include: What are values? What roles do values play in scientific inquiry? Are values involved in accepting a scientific hypothesis? Are scientific categories value-free, e.g., is judging someone ‘healthy’ a claim of fact or value (or both)? To what extent do scientists have moral responsibility? To what extent can scientists delegate moral responsibility to others (e.g., policymakers) and ‘just stick to the science’ (if there is some such thing)? How should the pursuit of science be structured in a democracy? Can and should science influence our personal values?