

# Why commercial publishing clashes with the intellectual ethics of research

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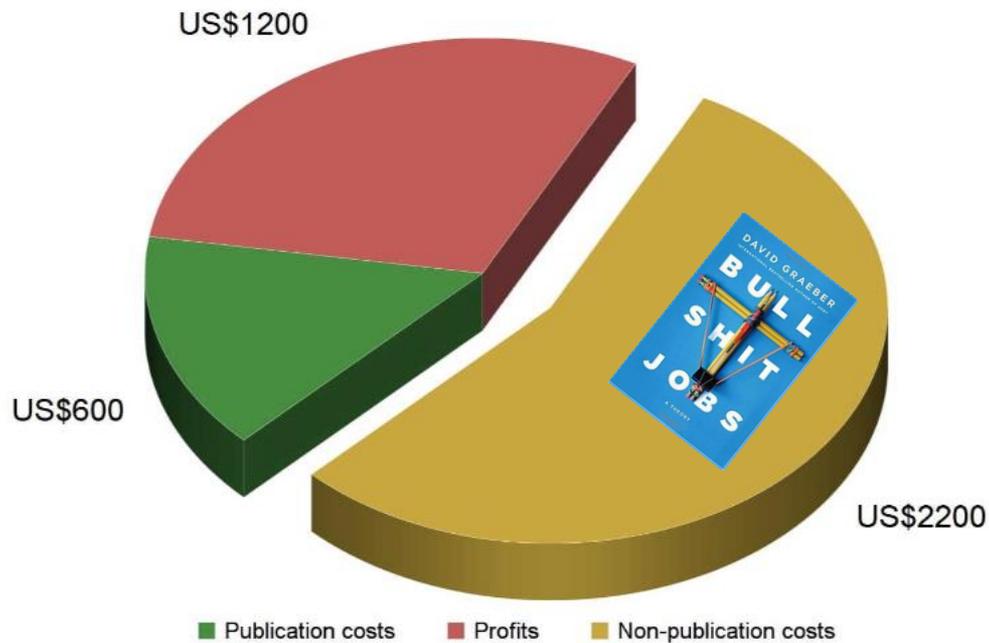
# The real cost of publishing

An example:



PRICING PLANS	LITE	BASIC	STANDARD	ADVANCED	PREMIUM
<b>END-TO-END, FULL-FEATURED, JOURNAL PUBLISHING PLATFORM</b>					
(1) submission					
(2) peer review and editorial management					
(3) production management					
(4) publishing and hosting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
(5) indexing & archiving					
(6) distribution & dissemination					
(7) usage and management statistics					
<b>SERVICES</b>					
DOI registration & online publication	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
XML conversion of article metadata	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Metadata export in 12+ machine-readable formats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Publication in PDF	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Data publishing, DOI & metadata for supplementary data files	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Special issues & article collections	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
One-stop API end-point for automated indexing & archiving in 30+ international databases	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Article sharing & distribution tool	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Email alert subscription tool	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Post-publication comments & reviews	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Article download & citation count tool	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Basic technical support & online handbook	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
White-label publishing model (under own logo and imprint)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bilingual platform & journal's website (ON SPECIAL ORDER)		✓	✓	✓	✓
Article Processing Charge <sup>2</sup>	25-50 <sup>3</sup>	75-150 <sup>3</sup>	350-450 <sup>4</sup>	250-350 <sup>3,4</sup>	500-800 <sup>4</sup>

# The profit margin



Generous estimation of publication costs by Grossmann & Brembs (2019)



# Branding

Current Biology acquired by Cell Press (Elsevier) in 2001

## Journal Impact Factor ⓘ

Cites in 2002 to items published in: 2001 = 3314    Number of items published in: 2001 = 528  
2000 = 3917    2000 = 504  
Sum: 7231    Sum: 1032

2002

Calculation:  $\frac{\text{Cites to recent items}}{\text{Number of recent items}} = \frac{7231}{1032} = 7.007$



Cites in 2003 to items published in: 2002 = 3628    Number of items published in: 2002 = 334  
2001 = 3923    2001 = 300  
Sum: 7551    Sum: 634

2003

Calculation:  $\frac{\text{Cites to recent items}}{\text{Number of recent items}} = \frac{7551}{634} = 11.910$

# Are they evil?

47511 Researchers Taking a Stand. *See the list*

Academics have protested against Elsevier's business practices for years with little effect. These are some of their objections:

<http://thecostofknowledge.com/>

Add your name to the list.

First and Last Name



Parkins & Brems



Joanna Wolska

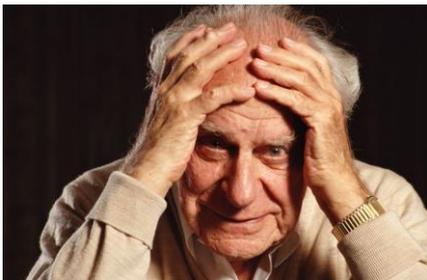
# The nature of science – philosophical digression

Science as the pursuit of truth



*Auguste Comte*

Positivism, 19<sup>th</sup> century



*Karl Popper*



*Willard van Orman Quine*



*Thomas Kuhn*



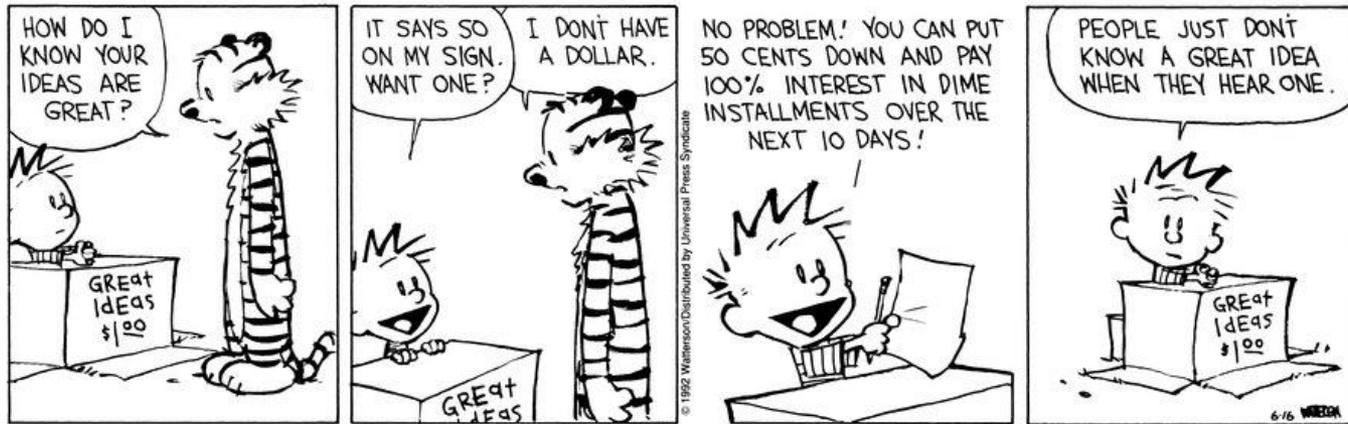
*Imre Lakatos*



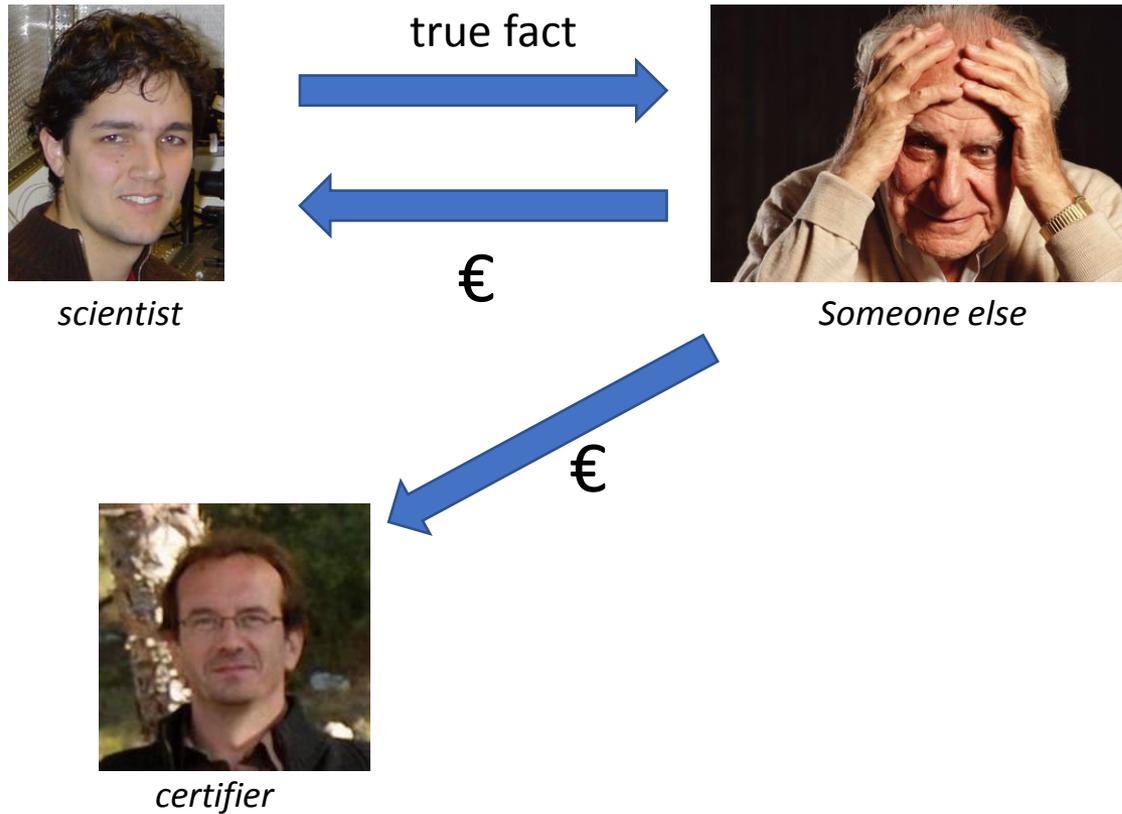
*Paul Feyerabend*

The 20<sup>th</sup> century

# Science as an ethical activity



# Science as an ethical activity



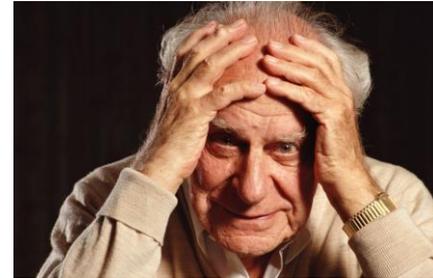
# Science as an ethical activity



*scientist*



*scientist*

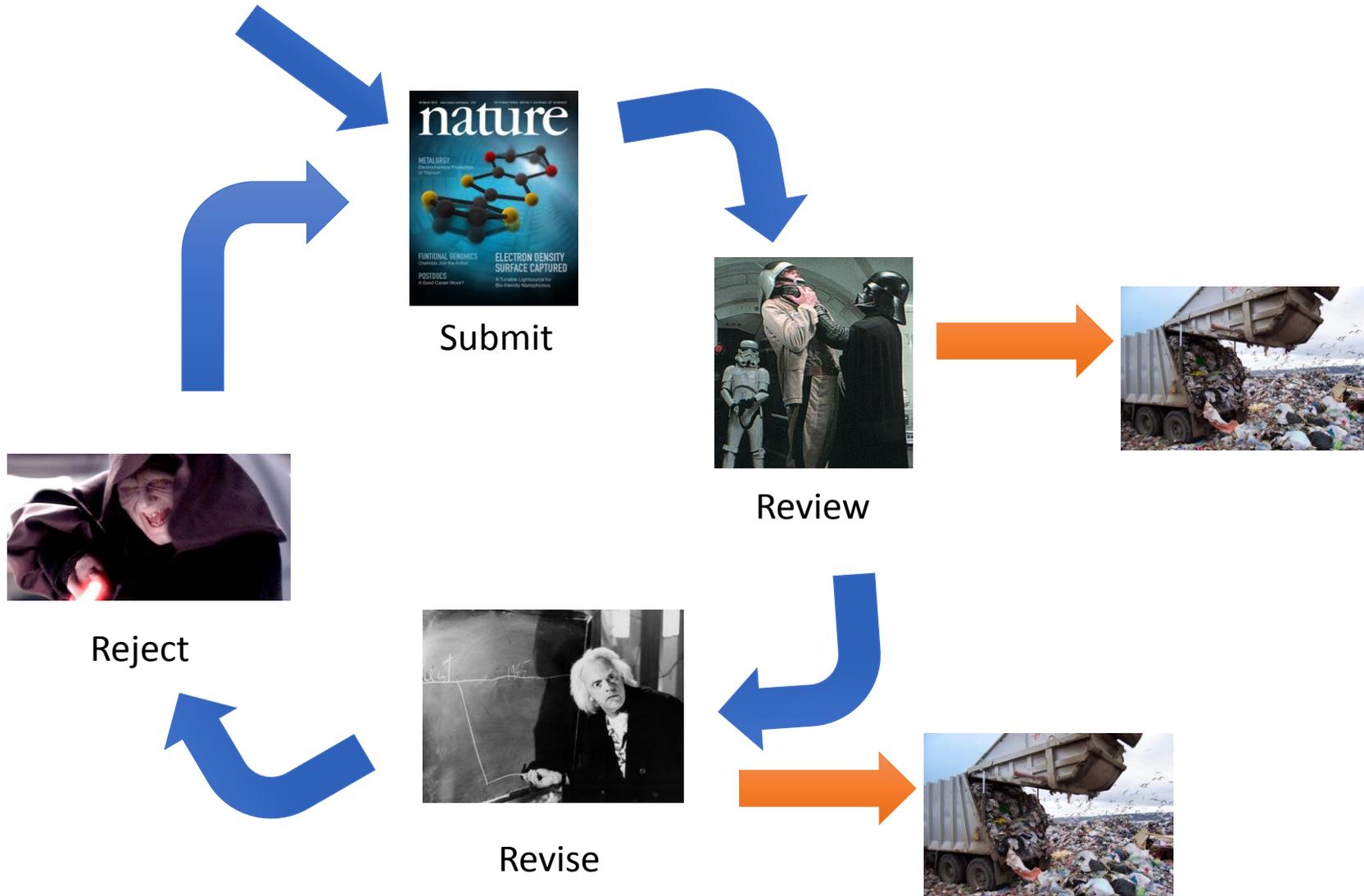


*Someone else*

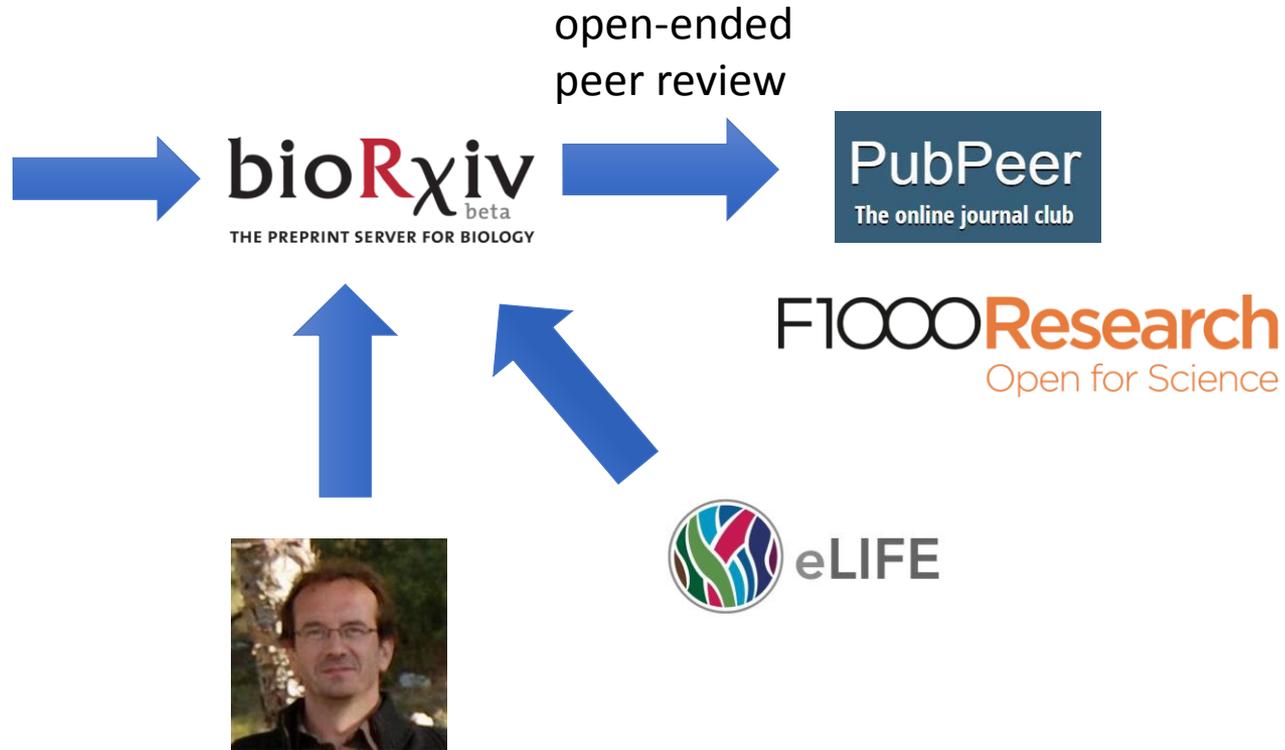
# What are journals for?

1. Publishing ~~papers~~
2. Organizing peer review
3. Making an editorial selection  
(selecting the 'important papers')

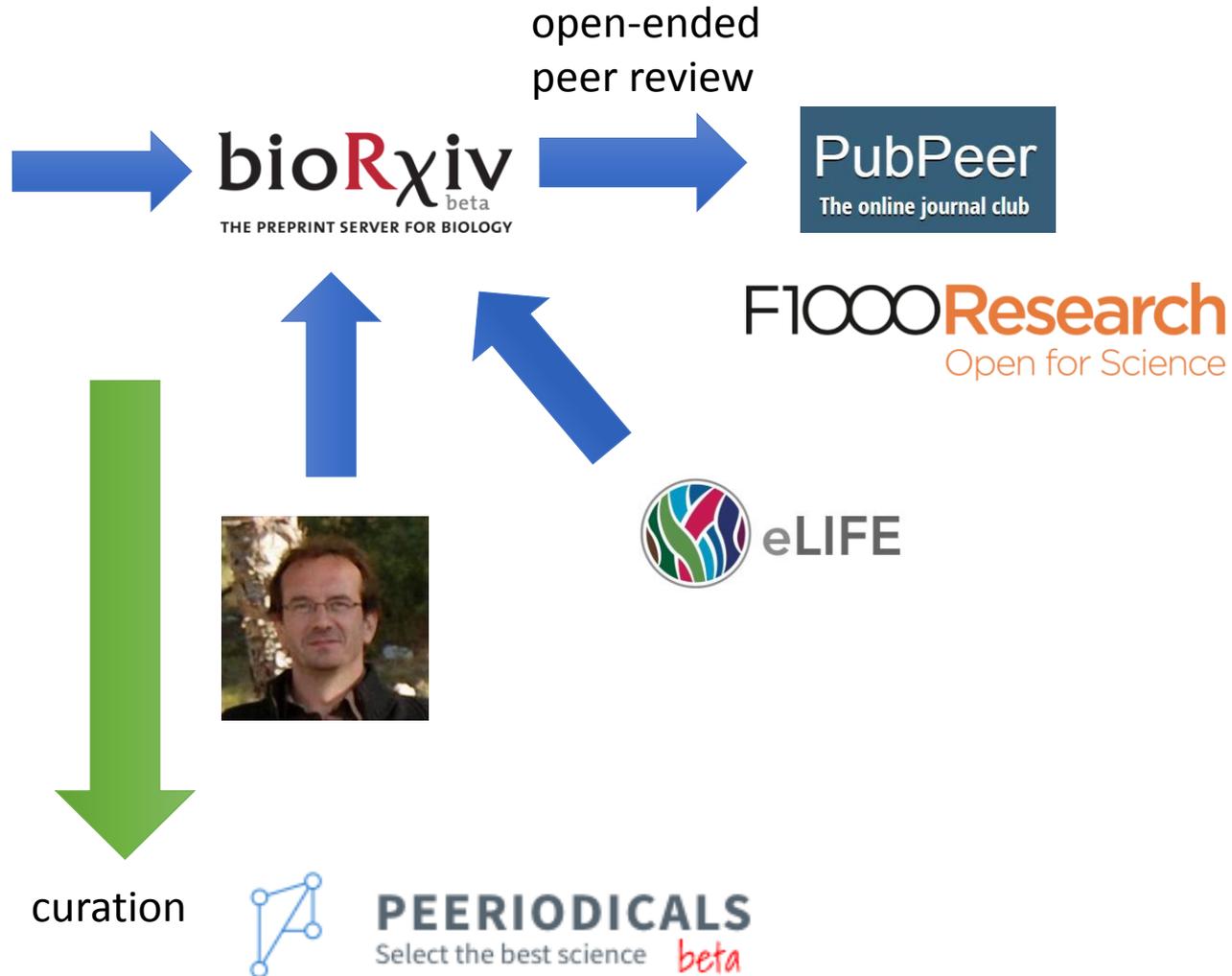
# The current publishing cycle



# A better publishing model



# A better publishing model



A word on open access



# How to do it (naïve view)

1. Cut all subscriptions to for-profit journals
2. Make APCs ineligible expenses
3. Fund public infrastructure
4. Stop all uses of metrics for evaluation