

Decolonizing Science in Africa: Initial Steps

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Order of Presentation

- Decolonizing Science- What it means and Why the need for?
- The Africa-centric peer review workshop in 2022- What were the objectives?
- Some key Issues that the Africa-centric peer review workshop in 2022

What is Decolonizing?

- Chandrima Ganguly explains that the Decolonizing SOAS Working Group defines decolonizing as
- *“The effort to interrogate and transform the institutional, structural and epistemological legacies of colonialism”*

Why the call for Decolonizing of Science

- Some people have described Decolonizing Science to mean
- *“A call for the scientific community to break free from the knowledge production dominated by the colonial nations- particularly the Western World (Eurocentrism) to make scientific room for scholars from all corners of the globe”*
- Source: www.google.com

What can be done?

- There must be intense efforts to address the issue of the Western dominance on science
- Training and Conscientizing of young scientists
-

The Workshop in 2022- Objectives

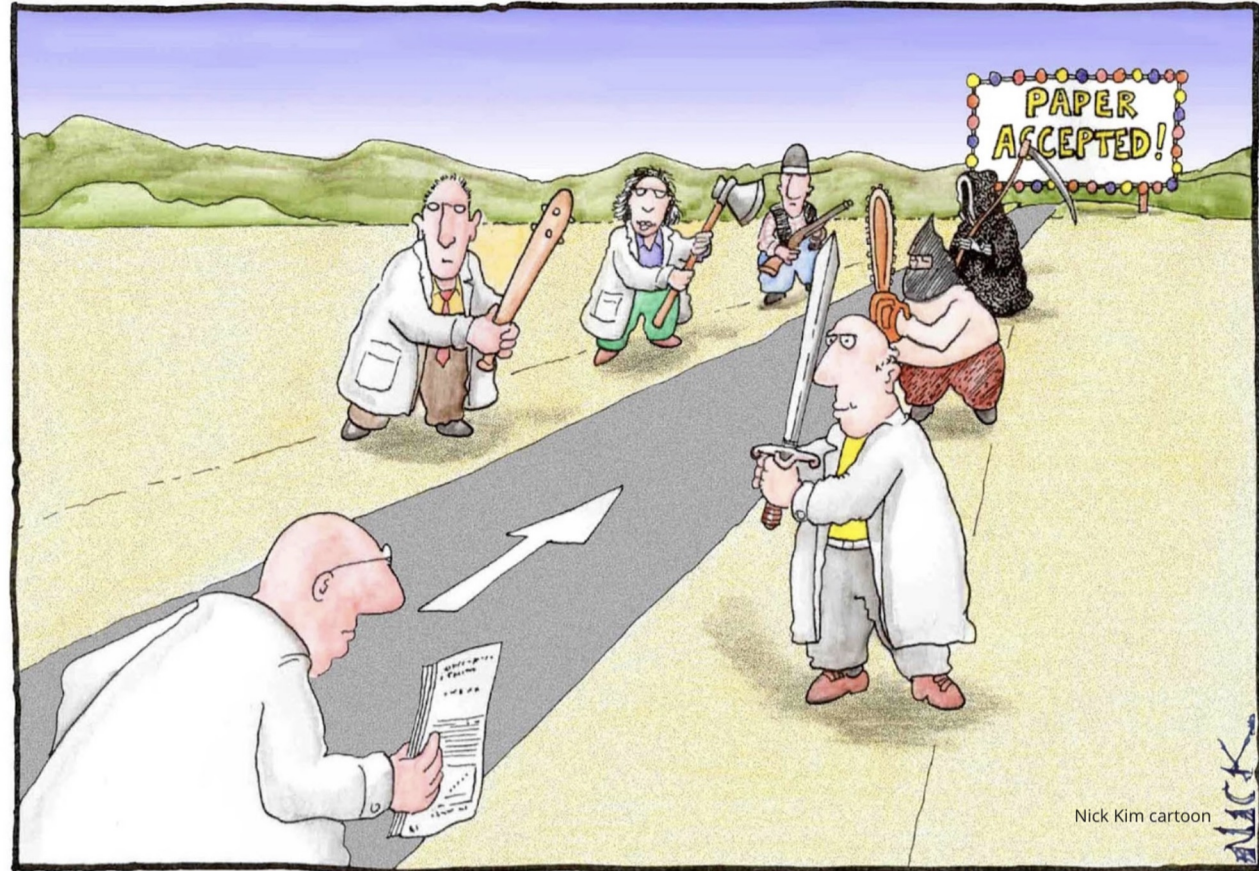
[Source: OpenPeer Reviewers in Africa- WACREB , 2023]

- To **build capacity and enthusiasm** for scholarly open review of preprints among African researchers
- To offer **opportunities to actively participate in peer review** and gain recognition through community engagement
- To help **decolonize the academic publishing process** by creating equitable opportunities for African researchers to engage, lead, and teach others

Key Issues that the Africa- centric Workshop

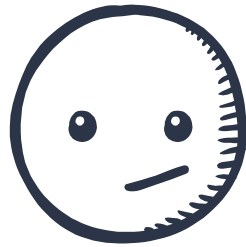
- Why the need to publish?
- What is a Peer Review?
- Bias- Systems of Oppression
- Preprints

Publish or Perish



Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as "quite an improvement."

What is Peer Review?



Peer review is the evaluation of work by one or more people with similar competencies as the producers of the work. It functions as a form of self-regulation by **qualified members of a profession** within the relevant field.

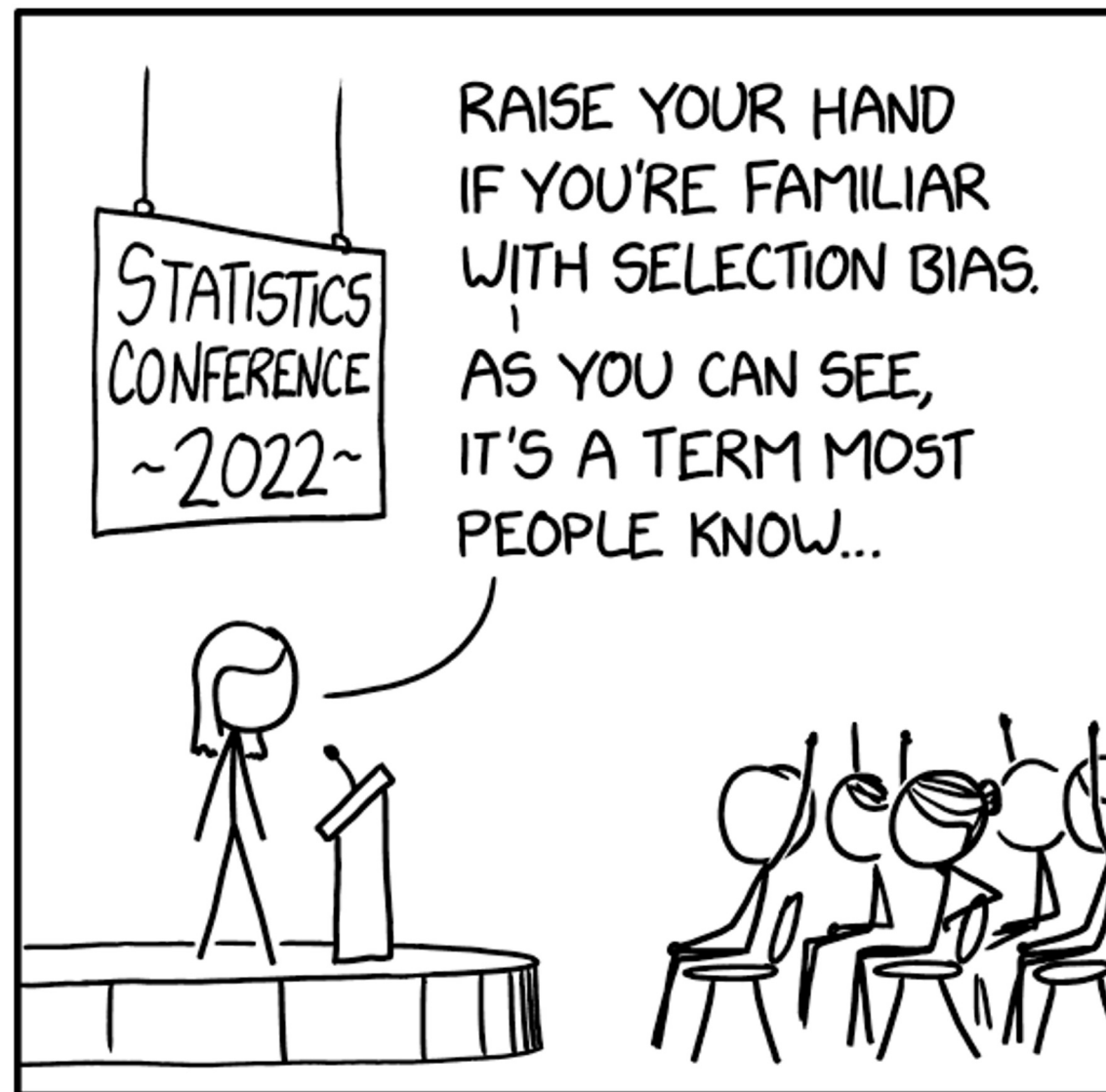
—Wikipedia

What is bias?

Bias is a disproportionate weight in favor of or against an idea or thing, usually in a way that is closed-minded, prejudicial, or unfair.

Biases can be innate or learned. People may develop biases for or against an individual, a group, or a belief.

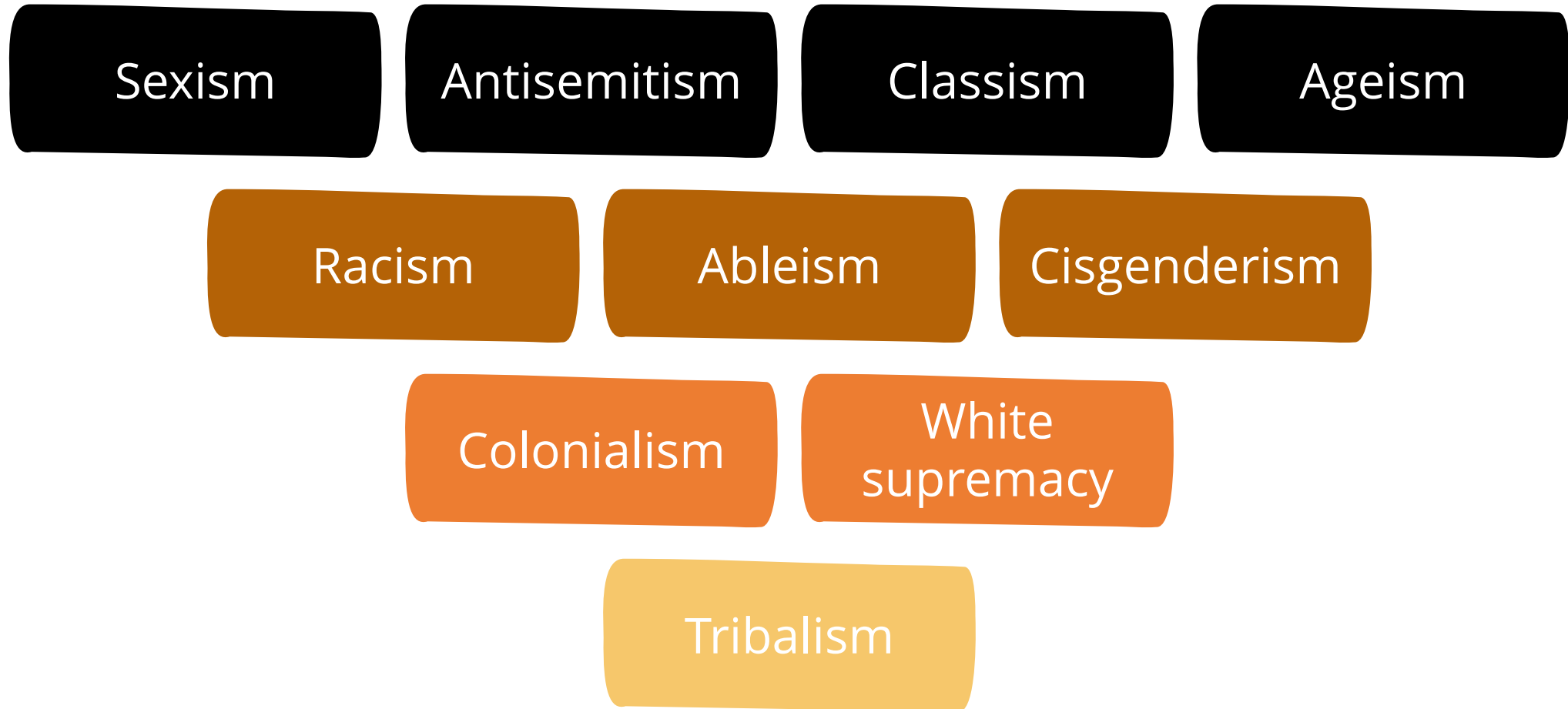
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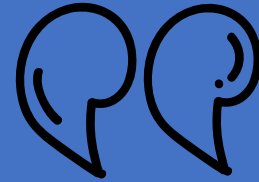
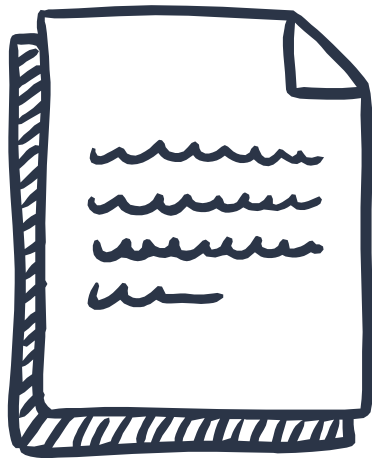
Source: <https://xkcd.com/2618/> - [CC BY-NC 2.5](#)

What do we mean by Systems of Oppression?

Discriminatory institutions, structures, norms, policies, and practices used to oppress groups of people.



What is a Preprint?



A **preprint** is a version of a scholarly or scientific paper that precedes formal peer review and publication in a peer-reviewed scholarly or scientific journal. The preprint may be available, often as a non-typeset version available free, before or after a paper is published in a journal.

—Wikipedia

Preprints complement journals & open up peer review



Thank You