

# STS.011

Secrecy, military and commercial  
sponsorship, and conflicts of  
interest.

# Open science: Robert Merton

- Robert Merton, “The Normative Structure of Science” (*The Sociology of Science*, University of Chicago Press, 1973)
  - Disinterestedness
  - Universalism
  - Communism
  - Organized skepticism

Karl Popper: *The Open Society and Its Enemies*

# Cold War secrecy

- Galison, “Removing Knowledge.” Critical Inquiry 2003
  - 4 million clearances
    - 250 million extra pages a year
    - 7.5 billion total pages
    - \$5.5 billion to secure

# Fractured scientific community

- Restrictions on international discourse
- Restrictions within U.S. & within labs
- Restrictions on publication
- Separate conferences & journals

# Danger to democracy

- Chilling effect on whistleblowers
- Compartmentalization and reflection
- Misuse of secrecy to hide information
- Absence of dissenting views

# Effect on individuals

- Black Vitae
- Family life
- Productivity
- Internalized surveillance

# Contemporary market issues: Fractured community

- Penetration of universities
- Company, not country, boundaries
- Privatization of knowledge

# Danger to democracy and public health

- Unowned experts?
- Concealed knowledge
  - SSRIs
  - VIOXX
- Bottlenecks

# Social shaping of research – final thoughts

- Benefits of CW funding: electronics, aviation, space, plate tectonics
- Costs
- Benefits of market funding: viagra, ritalin, prozac
- Costs: malaria, cost effectiveness studies, cynicism

# Questions

- Should drug companies subsidize research on drugs?
- Should human genome be patented?
- Should corporations be able to subsidize entire depts, as at UCB?
- Would we be better off if govt, not private sector, funded biotech?
- How to resist new commercial rules? Can individuals do it?
- How much secrecy do we need?
- Is secrecy compatible with ethos of university?