Verity

Developing Scientific Research with Ethics and Integrity

Do we trust science?

VERITY is a pioneering project dedicated to understanding and fostering trust in science

Objectives

How we make a difference?

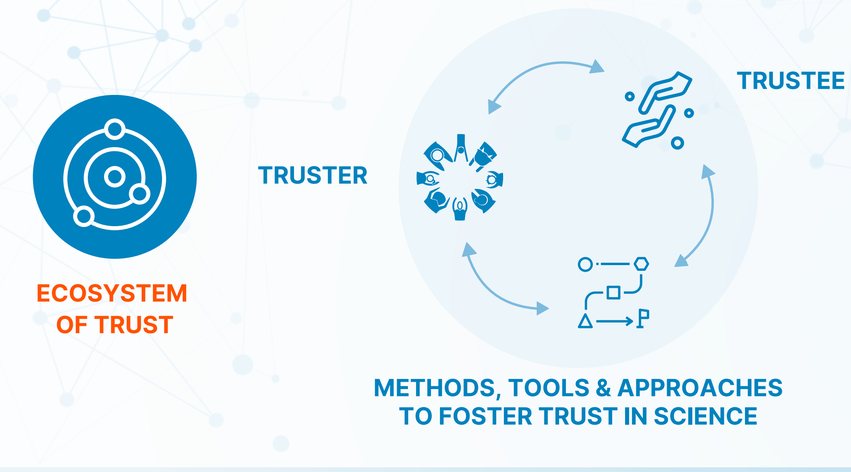
Exploring the sources and consequences of societal mistrust in science as we transition from an 'information age' to a 'reputation age' and to distributed trust.

Co-creating methods and tools for guiding societal trust in science, tackling mis/disinformation and the spread of pseudoscientific beliefs.

Fostering collaboration between science and society as new forms of research collaborations arise, including public-private partnerships and citizen science.

Developing and validating a protocol of recommendations for Stewards of Trust to forster trust in science.

Reshaping the Ecosystem of Trust



Approach

Ecosystem of Trust in science

VERITY introduces the 'Ecosystem of Trust in science', a conceptual space where societal trust in science is formed, shaped, negotiated, and influenced. It encompasses the complex interactions, dynamics, and factors that contribute to the construction, negotiation, enhancement, or reduction of trust in science.

'Stewards of Trust'

VERITY goes beyond the state of the art by conceptualising 'Stewards of Trust' as the actors within the Ecosystem that are responsible for upholding societal trust in science and facilitating science-society co-creation.

Strategies for fostering Trust in Science

Trustworthy Science

Promote scientific rigour, open science, inclusivity, benefit sharing, ethics and research integrity. Improve transparency on funding sources and enhance independent research validation.

Public Engagement

Involve citizens as co-creators in research, from design to implementation. Promote inclusivity and fair recognition of public contributions in science.

Education & Awareness

Integrate digital literacy and critical evaluation skills into formal education to counter mis/disinformation, reduce echo chambers, and promote exposure to credible information. Develop public campaigns to explain the scientific method and societal benefits of science.

Science Communication

Reform academic incentives to reward science communication and public engagement. Train researchers and journalists in clear, culturally aware science communication and crisis messaging.

Supportive Policy Frameworks

Design evidence-informed policies that prioritise benefit sharing, transparency, inclusivity, and accountability. Avoid selective use of science to support political agendas.

Collaboration

Create mechanisms for interdisciplinary, international, and multi-stakeholder collaboration. Foster a coordinated, innovative, and impactful science ecosystem built on trust and mutual benefit.

The Roles of Stewards of Trust (SOTs)

Building the ecosystem of trust through collaboration, individual and joint responsibility

Science Production

SOTs that focus on conducting research, producing new knowledge, and developing scientific innovations, such as universities and research institutions.

Science Education

SOTs that engage in teaching scientific knowledge in formal and informal settings, such as schools, universities, and other education institutions at various levels.

Science Communication

SOTs that share scientific information with diverse audiences through journalism, public outreach, or scientific publications, such as academic publishers, traditional and social media organisations.

Science Policy

SOTs that create, advise on, or implement policies related to science, research, and innovation, such as legislative branches and regulatory agencies, think tanks, science advisory boards and councils, international policy organisations.

Science Funding and Advocacy

SOTs that provide financial resources and supports scientific research through advocacy or funding bodies, such as public and private funding institutions.

Science Implementation

SOTs that apply scientific findings to practical or operational contexts, such as industry institutions, technology transfer offices, incubators and accelerators.

Science Oversight and Protection

SOTs that ensure that scientific research adheres to ethical, legal, and safety standards, such as research ethics and integrity committees, compliance and auditing bodies.

Science-society Facilitation and Citizen-science

SOTs that engage the public in scientific initiatives and fosters collaboration between scientists and society, such as civil society organisations (CSOs), science advocacy groups, and community advisory boards.

Let's foster trust in science!

TRILATERAL RESEARCH Ethical AI

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