

Tanks and Truth

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The core value of science is the truth. When scientists see that an equation on the blackboard is wrong, they call it out. Facts form the foundation of our professional world as the stewards of truth, so to see falsities about the war atrocities in Ukraine deliberately multiplied over and over again by Putin's propaganda machine and other actors on the international scene is devastating. In our very recent past, the possibility of Russian tanks rolling into Ukraine seemed remote, like a scene from a surrealistic dystopian movie, but the devastating reality is now upon us. This result is the shocking consequence of untruths and half-truths that have been overlooked for far too long. Tragic faults are playing out in front of us, demonstrating once again the power of political lies that we far too often dismiss as "obvious". It is our duty as scientists and human beings to ensure that the truth of this wrong turn of history is delivered openly and honestly, regardless of international borders.

As a global community, we must make our voices heard, louder now than ever, because if we do not, such atrocities may multiply. We must do it for the sake of our colleagues in Ukraine whose scientific endeavors have been brutally interrupted. We must do it for the citizens of Ukraine whose lives are being uprooted and whose families are suffering. We must do it for both our colleagues in and the citizens of Russia who have the courage to adhere to the core scientific and human values condemning the war, regardless of their own safety.

It is time to unite scientists against the war movement. The world can live without even the best papers that we can write and publish, but it will not survive without people whose credo is scientific truth.

This war jeopardizes the free flow of science that is fundamental to the core value of our disciplines. The scientific community and our governments must help our Ukrainian colleagues, and yet we must also break down the stereotypes of our colleagues from Russia and its allies. Collaboration and collegiality in difficult times are imperative to the advancement of science. Political strife disrupts this permanence.

This war will have devastating consequences that we may not yet fully appreciate. It is time to unite scientists against the war movement unified in these core values. The world can live without even the best papers that we can write and publish, but it will not survive without people whose credo is the scientific truth.

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