

A HORWOOD PUBLISHING TITLE:



**EXPLODING A MYTH
'Conventional Wisdom' or Scientific Truth?**

ISBN 978-1-904275-30-5

Published 2007

Author: JEREMY DUNNING-DAVIES

Senior Lecturer in.

Thermodynamics-statistical thermodynamics-astrophysics/cosmology

The common theme running throughout this short book is the influence of what has come to be called 'conventional wisdom' on science. Certain topics in science are simply not open for free discussion. No-one can openly raise queries about relativity; the 'Big Bang' theory for the origin of the Universe is almost taken to be a statement of fact; the existence of black holes seems another accepted fact of science, rather than science fiction; hadronic mechanics, which could conceivably pave the way for new clean energies and even a safe in-house method for the disposal of nuclear waste, is not even considered by the present establishment, presumably because it conflicts with 'conventional wisdom'. These examples are from the field of Physics but there can be little doubt that factors, separate from true science, have affected the progress of most, if not all, branches of science for many years. However, lessons should have been learned from cases occurring in earlier times. It appears that no such lessons have been learnt. Factors other than purely scientific ones still appear to be exerting tremendous influences on progress in a wide variety of fields. These factors would appear to range from simple personal jealousy to the protection of individual interests, both scientific and possibly even those of big business. It may be idealistic, if not naïve, to expect that science should remain pure and stay unaffected by such factors but, if science is to progress satisfactorily, these external factors must be held at bay.

Contents: Einstein's Blunder? • Einstein's Theory of Relativity • Big Bang Theory – Controversial or Not? • The Schwarzschild Solution and Black Holes • Hadronic Mechanics • 'Conventional Wisdom: Some Modern Case Studies' • Some Final Thoughts • Epilogue

REVIEWS

...Dr Dunning-Davies encapsulates the meaning of micro-politics and epistemology in his book and makes a beautifully written plea for the pursuit of research that is trustworthy and honest. ...The book is replete with wisdom, provokes thought and certainly exemplifies the art of an archivist. I recommend the work without reservation....

Dr. Chris Botton, Centre for Educational Studies, University of Hull

"Dunning-Davies pioneered the thermodynamics of antimatter, and is also a connoisseur in the history of physics and astronomy. This gives him a distinguished voice to address state-of-the-art in some core segments of today's scientific community. From this most important book there emerges an alarming picture of quite destructive forces abusing scientific power and media positions to keep on hyping speculative ideas of "big bang" or "black holes", and at the same time obstructing recent real scientific advances developing hi-tech green technology from hadronic mechanics extending and lifting the century old paradigms of relativity theory and quantum mechanics. A must-read for anyone concerned about dangerous anti-scientific influences in our time, including those masquerading as scientific. The well known Kuhnian history of resisting scientific revolutions repeats itself as tragedy, but Dunning-Davies re-ignites the spirit of Einstein against the ongoing Phariseen sclerosis."

Prof. Stein Johansen, Ph.D. philosophy of science

A HORWOOD PUBLISHING TITLE:



**EXPLODING A MYTH
'Conventional Wisdom' or Scientific Truth?**

ISBN 978-1-904275-30-5

Published 2007

Author: JEREMY DUNNING-DAVIES

Senior Lecturer, Department of Physics,
University of Hull.

Thermodynamics-statistical thermodynamics-astrophysics/cosmology

Dr Dunning-Davies boldly confronts a controversial issue which underlies the process of scientific research... with an interesting focus on the potential flaws in Einstein's theories... The book is refreshingly honest in its approach and, by all accounts, is long overdue.

Dr Charlotte Bean, University of Warwick

Professor Dunning-Davies has laudably discussed..., certain features of contemporary science which... dispels the naïve notion that all scientists are principally motivated by a deep desire to objectively discover and understand the inner workings of Nature, in the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake. Science is like any other human endeavour, and so it is inevitably and inextricably intertwined with those aspects of human nature which are less than magnanimous. Vainglory, subjectivity and cupidity certainly have a significant role in the methods of many contemporary scientists, both individually and as a self-centred coterie, and to this end suppression of facts and ideas are, as a matter of purposeful course, not excluded by the "conventional wisdom". This may serve to salve latent longings of those scientists, but it is pernicious in its effects on the progress of scientific thought. Professor Dunning-Davies is to be thanked for bringing these matters before a broader audience, despite the wails and cries of the magicians. Hopefully, science will one day soon rediscover scientific integrity, and be guided by it.

Stephen J. Crothers Associate Editor, Progress in Physics. (Australia)

"A long needed addition to the literature, whose goal is to unmask the mafia controlled grip on physics and science in general. ... It's time to find the answers to the questions that this book raises."

**Professor Bernard Lavenda. Universita degli Studi,
Camerino, Italy.**

**This title is 256 pages and retails at £22/€35/\$48
For all enquiries please contact us via our website.**

www.horwoodpublishing.net