

Holly Beattie

From: Holly Beattie
Sent: Tuesday, 16 October 2012 5:50 PM
To: Paul Johnson
Subject: RE: Professor Stephan Lewandowsky

Paul. Are you comfortable with me replying to this email in this way? Should it be from you instead? Holly

Dear

Thank you for your recent email to the Vice-Chancellor regarding your concerns about the paper "NASA faced the moon landing-Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science" by Lewandowsky, S., Oberauer, K., & Gignac, C. E. (in press, Psychological Science).

This matter was referred to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), as a member of the University Executive, for consideration of the matters raised. The review has been completed and the findings are that:

1. The focus of Professor Lewandowsky's research relates directly to his interest and expertise in scepticism and the updating of memory. As such, the topic of this paper is well within his remit and consistent with the University's Code of Ethics and in particular the academic freedom of staff; 2. A comprehensive application process is required for human research projects. This application process includes the proposal and any research instruments, such as a survey, that are to be utilised. The project undertaken by Professor Lewandowsky followed this process and the project, including the survey, was conducted as approved by the Human Ethics Committee. Please note that while the use of the UWA staff list to generate respondents for the project was undertaken, information gathered through this process was not reported in the paper under discussion. The survey population invited to participate was as outlined in the paper's Method section; and 3. The paper has been peer-reviewed and accepted in a high quality, international journal.

Academic freedom is recognised and protected by this University as essential to the proper conduct of teaching, research and scholarship. Freedom of intellectual thought and enquiry and the open exchange of ideas and evidence are a University core value. It is the University's expectation that all academic and research staff are guided by a commitment to freedom of inquiry and exercise their traditional rights to examine social values and to criticise and challenge the belief structures of society in the spirit of a responsible and honest search for knowledge and its dissemination.

The University respects your right to express your concern and I believe that we have appropriately considered the matters you have raised. The University will not act further on this matter.

Sincerely
Holly Beattie

Holly Beattie | Executive Officer to the Vice-Chancellor Vice-Chancellery | M464 | The University of Western
Australia | 35 Stirling Highway | Crawley WA 6009 Tel +61 8 | Mobile | E-
Mail | Achieve International Excellence

-----Original Message-----

From: [\[mailto: \]](#)
Sent: Tuesday, 16 October 2012 11:44 AM
To: Paul Johnson
Subject: Professor Stephan Lewandowsky

Dear Professor Johnson,
Good afternoon.

It disturbs me when people in authority positions, like University Professorships, are embroiled in allegations of various forms of impropriety and that the allegations aren't dealt with in a convincing way. The impression created by the allegations sticks and like mud, is hard to shift and then tends to colour all information about the person and the organisation for whom he works.

Professor Lewandowsky has become embroiled in just such a situation. He is accused of what can only be described as gross misconduct. He is alleged to have got approval for a certain research project, then of switching the project to something else, and then of attempting to deliberately mislead in the publication of his results. The allegations can be found well summarised on the "Climate Audit" web site with substantial supporting information, and on many other places on the web.

I wondered if the University was aware of these allegations and whether the university deemed it necessary to investigate these allegations to either clear Professor Lewandowsky or take the necessary actions if the allegations are found to have merit. To simply leave the allegations unanswered cannot be good for the university. I don't believe that the responses from Professor Lewandowsky have been adequate and that as a result it may now be time for the University to step in.

Best Regards,

From: Bernadette Ferns
To: Mark Dixon
Subject: FW: TRIM: Letter from UWA re Stephan Lewandowsky
Date: Tuesday, 16 October 2012 12:50:38 PM
Attachments: Lewandowsky.pdf

Mark, FYI.

Regards

Bernadette

From: Bernadette Ferns
Sent: Tuesday, 16 October 2012 12:49 PM
To: '
Cc: Stephan Lewandowsky
Subject: TRIM: Letter from UWA re Stephan Lewandowsky

Dear

Attached is a letter from Professor Robyn Owens, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at UWA, relating to Professor Stephan Lewandowsky.

Regards

Bernadette Ferns
Exec Asstt to Prof. Robyn Owens, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
The University of Western Australia (M460)
35 Stirling Highway | Crawley WA 6009 | Australia
Phone: (61-8) | Fax: (61-8) 6488 1013 | Email:

<http://www.uwa.edu.au/>



**THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**
Achieve International Excellence

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Professor Robyn Owens
Deputy Vice-Chancellor.(Research)

The University of Western Australia (M460)
35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009

Phone +61 8
Fax +61 8 6488 1013
Email _____

Ref: F45655

16 October 2012

Dear

The research protocol followed by Professor Lewandowsky with results published in Lewandowsky, Oberauer, & Gignac (in press, Psychological Science) was submitted for review to the University of Western Australia's Human Research Ethics Office where it was assessed against the principles and definitions of Australia's national guide to research involving people: The National statement on ethical conduct in human research (2007, updated 2009). Both the original research, and each amendment to it, were determined to be 'low risk' and approved according to the requirements of that code of practice. We have considered the issues raised by _____ in his letter to the _____ dated 12 October and found them to be baseless. The research reported in the above paper was conducted in compliance with all applicable ethical guidelines.

Yours sincerely

Professor Robyn Owens
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

From: Stephan Lewandowsky
Sent: Tuesday, 16 October 2012 9:20 AM
To: Robyn Owens
Cc: Gina Barron
Subject: Re: More Blog Commentary for Professor Lewandowsky

Robyn one of the blog posts linked to by this individual below is to the person who's sprouting arguably anti-Semitic conspiracy theories (according to who saw fit to publicly distance himself from similar theories).

It is important to bear in mind what characters we are dealing with here.
Regards Steve.

Sent from my iPhone - excuse the brevity

On 16/10/2012, at 8:56 AM, "Robyn Owens" < > wrote:

And more.

Gina, do I need to respond to these? I have 2 or 3 from that have arrived in the last couple of days.

Robyn

Professor Robyn Owens | Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

M460 The University of Western Australia

T: +61 8 F: +61 8 5488 1013 | M: | E:

Begin forwarded message:

From: < >
Subject: More Blog Commentary for Professor Lewandowsky
Date: October 16, 2012 3:36:39 AM GMT+08:00
To: DVCR < >

<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/10/lewandowsky-a-paper-of-highly-questionable-ethics-approved-in-a-last-minute-switch-with-a-different-study/>

<http://www.australianclimatemadness.com/2012/10/lewandowsky-ethical-considerations-for-moon-landing-denier-paper/>

Released under Freedom of Information Act, 1992

You can judge for yourself as to whether this commentary is favourable for Professor Lewendowsky and UWA or not.

From: Gina Barron
Sent: Tuesday, 16 October 2012 9:13 AM
To: Robyn Owens
Subject: RE: More Blog Commentary for Professor Lewandowsky

Hi Robyn,

I think this will need a response similar to the one sent to _____ – so if there are no new matters raised, then really an email advising that we have completed our work in response to the matter and will not be further responding. In future then if received and no new issues are raised, Bernadette could simply send a received and noted response and we place on file. I will just check through the recent ones again but I am pretty sure that they are all trying to re-engage you with discussions regarding the merit of the paper. Will get back to you later today.

Regards, Gina

Gina Barron
Manager, Complaint Resolution Unit

Office of the University Secretary M456A
The University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway Crawley WA 6009
www.complaints.uwa.edu.au

Contacts:
Gina Barron +61 8 (Mon – Fri)
Hayley McFarlane +61 8 (Mon - Wed)
Maggie Van Putten +61 8 (Wed - Fri)
Mobile:
Fax: + 61 8 6488 1075

CRICOS Provider Code 00126G

IMPORTANT: This email is intended for the individual/entity named above only. It may contain information which is confidential and privileged. If you receive this e-mail in error, please notify me by return e-mail or phone and delete it from your system.

From: Robyn Owens
Sent: Tuesday, 16 October 2012 8:57 AM
To: Gina Barron; Stephan Lewandowsky
Subject: Fwd: More Blog Commentary for Professor Lewandowsky

And more.

Gina, do I need to respond to these? I have 2 or 3 from _____ that have arrived in the last couple of days.

Robyn

Professor Robyn Owens | Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

M460 The University of Western Australia

T: +61 8 _____ | F: +61 8 6488 1013 | M: _____ | E: _____

From: [Robyn Owens](#)
To: [Mark Dixon](#); [Bernadette Ferns](#)
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky et al 2012
Date: Monday, 15 October 2012 5:16:53 PM

Dear Bernadette,

Can you put the following on my letterhead for signature, to be sent to
He's at

Thanks,

Robyn

On 15/10/2012, at 5:06 PM, Mark Dixon <_____> wrote:

The research protocol followed by Professor Lewandowsky with results published in Lewandowsky, Oberauer, & Gignac (in press, *Psychological Science*) was submitted for review to the University of Western Australia's Human Research Ethics Office where it was assessed against the principles and definitions of Australia's national guide to research involving people: *The National statement on ethical conduct in human research* (2007, updated 2009). Both the original research, and each amendment to it, were determined to be 'low risk' and approved according to the requirements of that code of practice. We have considered the issues raised by _____ in his letter to the _____ dated 12 October and found them to be baseless. The research reported in the above paper was conducted in compliance with all applicable ethical guidelines.

Bernadette Ferns

From: Mark Dixon
Sent: Monday, 15 October 2012 5:07 PM
To: Robyn Owens
Subject: FW: Lewandowsky et al 2012

Hi Robyn,

Please see the following updated text with insertions by Stephan and the rational for those.

Cheers, Mark.

From: Stephan Lewandowsky
Sent: Monday, 15 October 2012 3:18 PM
To: Mark Dixon
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky et al 2012

Hi Mark, see below in red ink for responses.

From: Mark Dixon
Sent: Monday, October 15, 2012 2:48 PM
To: Stephan Lewandowsky
Subject: FW: Lewandowsky et al 2012

Hi Stephan,

I have wording for Robyn Owens to prepare a letter, as follows:

The research protocol followed by Professor Lewandowsky with results published in Lewandowsky, Oberauer, & Gignac (in press, *Psychological Science*) was submitted for review to the University of Western Australia's Human Research Ethics Office where it was assessed against the principles and definitions of Australia's national guide to research involving people: *The National statement on ethical conduct in human research* (2007, updated 2009). Both the original research, and each amendment to it, were determined to be 'low risk' and approved according to the requirements of that code of practice. We have considered the issues raised by [redacted] in his letter to the [redacted] dated 12 October and found them to be baseless. The research reported in the above paper was conducted in compliance with all applicable ethical guidelines.

Robyn Owens would like to include a list of those publications, because she understands there may be several and we can cover all of them with the one statement avoiding, "oh, but what about ..." inquiries. What do you think? Do you have such a list you can send me?

There are a few other things forthcoming but they are either embargoed by *Nature Climate Change* (i.e., the publisher insists that details not be released) or they are still in the submission process and therefore cannot be assumed to appear in press. So alas, I cannot really send you a list right now.

Are you ok with the added sentences above in red ink? The [redacted] asked for something along those lines, presumably so he can close the door on further approaches by [redacted]. I believe I forwarded that individual's letter to you over the weekend, and it would be important to clarify that *all* his objections were found to be baseless or unsubstantiated. Otherwise he will keep gnawing away at this—as he has on another paper that wasn't to his liking for 14 (!) years.

Cheers Steve

Cheers, Mark Dixon

From: Mark Dixon
To: Stephan Lewandowsky
Subject: FW: Lewandowsky et al 2012
Date: Monday, 15 October 2012 2:48:00 PM

Hi Stephan,

I have wording for Robyn Owens to prepare a letter, as follows:

The research protocol followed by Professor Lewendowsky with results published in Lewendowsky et al ... was submitted for review to the University of Western Australia's Human Research Ethics Office where it was assessed against the principles and definitions of Australia's national guide to research involving people: The *National statement on ethical conduct in human research* (2007, updated 2009). Both the original research, and each amendment to it, were determined to be 'low risk' and approved according to the requirements of that code of practice.

Robyn Owens would like to include a list of those publications, because she understands there may be several and we can cover all of them with the one statement avoiding, "oh, but what about ..." inquiries. What do you think? Do you have such a list you can send me?

Cheers, Mark Dixon

From: Mark Dixon
To: Robyn Owens
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky et al 2012
Date: Monday, 15 October 2012 10:59:00 AM

RO: "it would be good to draft a letter to him, on my letterhead and one I sign, explaining this in a way that's a little clearer to a US audience"

Happy to talk about it, although the following might be enough. I suggest:

The research protocol followed by Professor Lewendowsky and published in Lewandowsky et al 2012 was submitted for review to the University of Western Australia's Human Research Ethics Office where it was assessed against the principles and definitions of Australia's national guide to research involving people: The *National statement on ethical conduct in human research* (2007, updated 2009). Both the original research, and each amendment to it, were determined to be 'low risk' and approved according to the requirements of that code of practice.

Cheers, Mark Dixon

From: Robyn Owens
Sent: Monday, 15 October 2012 10:44 AM
To: Mark Dixon
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky et al 2012

Thanks Mark.

The is (copied into your email), but I think it would be good to draft a letter to him, on my letterhead and one I sign, explaining this in a way that's a little clearer to a US audience - can you do this please? Or we can talk first?

Robyn

Professor Robyn Owens | Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
M460 The University of Western Australia
T: +61 8 | F: +61 8 6488 1013 | M: | E:

On Oct 15, 2012, at 9:14 AM, Mark Dixon < > wrote:

Hi Robyn,

The research protocol Stephan is publishing from, RA/4/1/4007, was assessed as having low risk in accordance with §5.1.18 through §5.1.21 of the *National statement on ethical conduct in human research* (2007, p.79) and in accordance with the *National Statement's* definition of risk.

The *National Statement* does not require such research to be reviewed by an HREC. The people assessing the protocol for ethical considerations met all the requirements of §5.1.19 in making that assessment. Similarly amendments to the protocol which did not alter the risk did not require HREC review either.

Sincerely, Dr Mark Dixon

Associate Director for Research Ethics and Biosafety
Research Services, The University of Western Australia

From: Robyn Owens
Sent: Saturday, 13 October 2012 6:53 PM
To: Stephan Lewandowsky
Cc: Robyn Owens; Gina Barron; ; Vittoria Wilkin; Bernadette Ferns; Mark Dixon
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky et al 2012

Hello Steve,

I'll work with the Ethics Office to get a letter to the editor as soon as possible next week.

Regards,

Robyn

Professor Robyn Owens | Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
M460 The University of Western Australia
T: +61 8 | F: +61 8 6488 1013 | M:
| E: .

On 13/10/2012, at 9:23 AM, Stephan Lewandowsky < >
wrote:

Dear Robyn (and Gina):

See below for an approach to the of by the same individual who encouraged people to contact Robyn with allegations of research misconduct when he failed to find the emails he received in his inbox.

In my view, the FOI release shows that I dotted every 'i' and crossed every 't' with respect to ethics, and I have forwarded the entire tranche to the However, it would be good if he could also receive a direct statement from UWA confirming that the study was done in accordance with HR Ethics stipulations.

My understanding is that you have already responded to similar such allegations directly, so I am wondering if you might have a letter handy that you could send to ? His address is on the CC line.

Alternatively I can contact HR Ethics, please advise what you prefer.

Regards Steve

From: [mailto:]
Sent: Saturday, October 13, 2012 12:15 AM
To: Stephan Lewandowsky
Subject: Fwd: Lewandowsky et al 2012

Hi Stephan-- is back. His latest objection is in a different class from the others, as it relates to ethical issues surrounding your survey. Please check with your university's research ethics committee and ask them to send me a letter to show they have no qualms about your study, the way it was actually done. Best,

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Lewandowsky et al 2012
Date: Fri, 12 Oct 2012 11:56:32 -0400

From: ≤ ≥
To: ≤ ≥

Dear

I draw your attention to the fact that Lewandowsky did not obtain informed consent from the University of Western Australia Ethics Committee for the survey reported in Lewandowsky et al 2012. Lewandowsky had obtained consent for a study entitled "Understanding Statistical Trends" in which he proposed personal interviews on how people understood statistical trends. He then requested a "minor amendment" from an administrative officer, which was approved within 24 hours without the administrative officer apparently considering the major changes proposed by Lewandowsky. Instead of the original proposal about "understanding Statistical Trends", Lewandowsky changed to a questionnaire about conspiracies. Instead of interviewing people in Perth, he changed it to an online survey. Lewandowsky said that he would leave his name off the survey request for fear of contaminating results, but the survey posts at several anti-skeptic blogs specifically refer to Lewandowsky. See <http://www.australianclimatemadness.com/2012/10/lewandowsky-foi-substantial-last-minute-changes-to-project-waved-through-by-uwa-ethics-committee/>

Regards,

From: [Stephan Lewandowsky](#)
To: [Mark Dixon](#)
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky et al 2012
Date: Monday, 15 October 2012 10:18:05 AM

thanks, Mark. It's amazing how people can get so worked up over a survey that asked whether NASA faked the moon landing or whether Diana was killed by MI6. I mean, really, people could have just said "no" to those items if they didn't agree....

Regards Steve

From: Mark Dixon
Sent: Monday, October 15, 2012 9:15 AM
To: Robyn Owens; Stephan Lewandowsky
Cc: Gina Barron; ; Vittoria Wilkin; Bernadette Ferns
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky et al 2012

Hi Robyn,

The research protocol Stephan is publishing from, RA/4/1/4007, was assessed as having low risk in accordance with §5.1.18 through §5.1.21 of the *National statement on ethical conduct in human research* (2007, p.79) and in accordance with the *National Statement's* definition of risk. The *National Statement* does not require such research to be reviewed by an HREC. The people assessing the protocol for ethical considerations met all the requirements of §5.1.19 in making that assessment. Similarly amendments to the protocol which did not alter the risk did not require HREC review either.

Sincerely, Dr Mark Dixon
Associate Director for Research Ethics and Biosafety
Research Services, The University of Western Australia

From: Robyn Owens
Sent: Saturday, 13 October 2012 6:53 PM
To: Stephan Lewandowsky
Cc: Robyn Owens; Gina Barron; ; Vittoria Wilkin; Bernadette Ferns; Mark Dixon
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky et al 2012

Hello Steve,

I'll work with the Ethics Office to get a letter to the editor as soon as possible next week.

Regards,

Robyn

Professor Robyn Owens | Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
M460 The University of Western Australia

Released under Freedom of Information Act, 1992

015

Bernadette Ferns

From: Stephan Lewandowsky
Sent: Monday, 15 October 2012 8:57 AM
To: Robyn Owens
Cc: Gina Barron
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky paper
Attachments: sciConspQualtrics.pdf

Hi Robyn, thanks, I am afraid those emails will keep coming. [redacted] has developed something of an obsession with my work, and his acolytes will thus continue to fling emails around the world. In today's internet world, there is no cost associated for those individuals to generate noise that is disproportionate to their tiny number.

The good news is that my work has provided some reprieve for the climate scientists whom [redacted] would otherwise be persecuting instead.

By the way, as far as reputation is concerned, I've been running various Google Alerts and thus far, the entire mainstream media response to my work—and there has been plenty of it—has been positive (for science) and damning for the (denialist) bloggers.

The noise you are currently experiencing is thus demonstrably limited to the blogosphere and the real media are staying far away from it. My latest StW post (<http://www.shapingtomorrowworld.org/lewandowskyReplications.html>), which [redacted] is now taking issue with, has only attracted a handful of (intelligent and intelligible) comments. All indications are that the audience for this stuff is rapidly shrinking and will soon be limited to the hardcore conspiriologists.

It also appears that it has not been a very smart strategy to respond to a paper on conspiracy theorizing by creating umpteen conspiracy theories. I suspect that [redacted] and his ilk have recognized this, at least tacitly, and it drives them crazy because they have no other tools at their disposal but to accuse scientists of a conspiracy—and all of a sudden this has stopped working because the media are not buying it.

By the way, I have enclosed a submission to *Science* which reports a follow-up with a large representative U.S. sample. I expect this to be expeditiously rejected but we thought we might as well start at the top before looking for alternative outlets. The bottom line is that the effect replicates with a representative sample collected by a professional survey firm, so all the frenetic criticisms of my earlier methodology are of little relevance.

It should really be of little surprise that conspiratorial thinking is involved in science denial wherever you look; after all, the two modes of cognition—conspiracist ideation vs. scientific reasoning—are antithetical in many ways.

Regards Steve

From: Robyn Owens
Sent: Monday, October 15, 2012 8:38 AM
To: Stephan Lewandowsky
Cc: Gina Barron
Subject: Fwd: Lewandowsky paper

And another.

Robyn

Professor Robyn Owens | Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

M460 The University of Western Australia

Begin forwarded message:

From: DVCR <_____.>
Subject: FW: Lewandowsky paper
Date: October 15, 2012 8:22:42 AM GMT+08:00
To: Robyn Owens <_____.>

From: [mailto:_____]]
Sent: Friday, 12 October 2012 6:13 PM
To: DVCR
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky paper

Dear Professor Owens,

You probably have noticed that interest in Professor Lewandowsky's work is not abating. Further issues have been raised today at Australian Climate Madness - <http://www.australianclimatemadness.com/2012/10/lewandowsky-foi-substantial-last-minute-changes-to-project-waved-through-by-uwa-ethics-committee/#comments> and developed at Canadian blog Climate Audit - <http://climateaudit.org/2012/10/11/17046/#comments>.

To this outside observer, it seems that UWA is defending the indefensible, and in the process risking the trashing of its reputation.

Just a view.

On Fri, Sep 21, 2012 at 11:09 AM, DVCR <_____.> wrote:
Dear

Thank you for your recent contact regarding your concerns about the paper "NASA faced the moon landing- Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science" by Lewandowsky, S., Oberauer, K., & Gignac, C. E. (in press, *Psychological Science*).

Your complaint was received and managed consistent with the University Policy on: Public Complaints. Information about the policy and the associated can be found at: <http://www.complaints.uwa.edu.au/home/general#Whatis>

As a member of the University Executive and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), the matters were referred to me for consideration. I have completed my review and find that:

1. The focus of Professor Lewandowsky's research relates directly to his interest and expertise in scepticism and the updating of memory. As such, the topic of this paper of is well within his remit and consistent with the University's Code of Ethics and in particular the academic freedom of staff;

3. A review of all correspondence to the blog sites was undertaken confirming the contact with blog sites;
4. In considering the release of the names of the blog sites that did not respond to Prof Lewandowsky's initial request, it is noted that Prof Lewandowsky was concerned that he would breach research ethics by releasing the names. Following receipt of legal advice, Prof Lewandowsky has now released the names of the blog sites; and
5. The paper has been peer-reviewed and accepted in a high quality, international journal.

Academic freedom is recognised and protected by this University as essential to the proper conduct of teaching, research and scholarship. Freedom of intellectual thought and enquiry and the open exchange of ideas and evidence are a University core value. It is the University's expectation that all academic and research staff are guided by a commitment to freedom of inquiry and exercise their traditional rights to examine social values and to criticise and challenge the belief structures of society in the spirit of a responsible and honest search for knowledge and its dissemination.

The University recognises your right to express your concern and I believe that we have appropriately considered the matters you have raised.

Regards

Professor Robyn Owens
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
The University of Western Australia, M460
35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009
Phone: +61 8 _____
Fax: +61 8 6488 1013
Email:
CRICOS Provider number 00126G

From: Stephan Lewandowsky
To: Mark Dixon
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky et al 2012
Date: Monday, 15 October 2012 7:38:17 AM

thanks, mark. I've gotten used to being in the firing line, although it does tend to waste time that I could otherwise spend on research.

but then, that's the whole point of their attacks.

cheers steve

From: Mark Dixon
Sent: Sunday, October 14, 2012 8:12 PM
To: Stephan Lewandowsky
Cc: Robyn Owens; Gina Barron; Vittoria Wilkin; Bernadette Ferns
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky et al 2012

Thanks Stephan,

Much appreciated.

Whatever I produce by way of a compilation or draft will be at Robyn Owen's discretion to use. I don't plan on making any public statements on this outside of DVC(R) or HREC Chair. I can see from the inquirer's blog that he has a private agenda and distorts and omits material where it suits his needs. So I am rather glad that I am not the one standing in the firing line. My congratulations, condolences and encouragement to you in that you are one such.

Cheers, Mark Dixon

From: Stephan Lewandowsky
Sent: Sunday, 14 October 2012 10:12 AM
To: Mark Dixon; Robyn Owens
Cc: Gina Barron; Vittoria Wilkin; Bernadette Ferns
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky et al 2012

Hi Mark, just in case it saves you some time, I've enclosed the FOI release which contains all ethics correspondence for this study: see folio 13 and then folio 27 onward.

Based on my experience with this individual and others of his ilk, I would be remiss if I didn't point out that his actions are not motivated by concerns about research ethics.

In particular, my experience compels me to advise against responding to his concerns either directly or indirectly with anything but the briefest note that "the research was conducted in accordance with UWA ethics procedures." (Which it most definitely was).

I can assure you that anything beyond that (e.g., an explanation of why the amendments were appropriate) would simply provide traction for interminable further rounds of dissections, complaints, and allegations.

Please do not assume that those individuals are guided by the same ethical standards to which we subscribe.

I must hasten to add that I have no intention to interfere with your intended actions, so please feel free to dismiss my comments. However, equally, I would feel irresponsible if I didn't alert you to the

nature of the situation and the characters involved as best I can.

Regards Steve

From: Mark Dixon
Sent: Saturday, October 13, 2012 7:20 PM
To: Robyn Owens; Stephan Lewandowsky
Cc: Robyn Owens; Gina Barron; ; Vittoria Wilkin; Bernadette Ferns
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky et al 2012

Hi Robyn,

I'll compile the documentation on the ethics application, amendment, and approvals on Monday. If you like I can draft a response if you think this warrants a response. I can't get TRIM from home, but I doubt that a minor amendment would have required a HREC review under the *National Statement* which we use as our guide for ethical review.

Cheers, Mark Dixon
Associate Director for Research Ethics and Biosafety
The University of Western Australia
+61 8 6488 7613

From: Robyn Owens
Sent: Saturday, 13 October 2012 6:53 PM
To: Stephan Lewandowsky
Cc: Robyn Owens; Gina Barron; ; Vittoria Wilkin; Bernadette Ferns; Mark Dixon
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky et al 2012

Hello Steve,

I'll work with the Ethics Office to get a letter to the editor as soon as possible next week.

Regards,

Robyn

Professor Robyn Owens | Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
M460 The University of Western Australia
T: +61 8 | F: +61 8 6488 1013 | M:
| E: .

On 13/10/2012, at 9:23 AM, Stephan Lewandowsky < > wrote:

Dear Robyn (and Gina):

See below for an approach to the Editor of *Psychological Science* by the same individual who encouraged people to contact Robyn with allegations of research misconduct when he failed to find the emails he received in his inbox.

In my view, the FOI release shows that I dotted every 'i' and crossed every 't' with respect to ethics, and I have forwarded the entire tranche to the Editor. However, it would be good if he could also receive a direct statement from UWA confirming that the study was done in accordance with HR Ethics stipulations.

My understanding is that you have already responded to similar such allegations directly, so

Bernadette Ferns

From: < >
Sent: Monday, 15 October 2012 3:28 AM
To: DVCR
Subject: More On Lewandowsky

Professor Owens,

of Climate Audit (a very widely read Canadian blog) has another article up on Professor Lewandowsky's work this morning. It raises more questions about the quality of Professor Lewandowsky's scholarship, and by association, that of UWA. <http://climateaudit.org/2012/10/14/lewandowsky-and-hide-the-decline/>

Bernadette Ferns

From: < >
Sent: Sunday, 14 October 2012 3:37 AM
To: DVCR
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky paper

Professor Owens. No doubt you are following the blogs on this. However, if you are not, in addition to the Climate Audit piece on the ethics committee, there is now a piece up at Watts Up With That. The issue is getting a lot of exposure. <http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/10/12/lewandowskys-bait-and-switch/>

I can't imagine that UWA is happy with this situation.

On Fri, Sep 21, 2012 at 11:09 AM, DVCR < > wrote:

Dear

Thank you for your recent contact regarding your concerns about the paper "NASA faced the moon landing- Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science" by Lewandowsky, S., Oberauer, K., & Gignac, C. E. (in press, *Psychological Science*).

Your complaint was received and managed consistent with the University Policy on: Public Complaints. Information about the policy and the associated can be found at: <http://www.complaints.uwa.edu.au/home/general#Whatis>

As a member of the University Executive and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), the matters were referred to me for consideration. I have completed my review and find that:

1. The focus of Professor Lewandowsky's research relates directly to his interest and expertise in scepticism and the updating of memory. As such, the topic of this paper of is well within his remit and consistent with the University's Code of Ethics and in particular the academic freedom of staff;
2. The research was undertaken in a manner compliant with the University's strict Human Ethics approval;
3. A review of all correspondence to the blog sites was undertaken confirming the contact with blog sites;
4. In considering the release of the names of the blog sites that did not respond to Prof Lewandowsky's initial request, it is noted that Prof Lewandowsky was concerned that he would breach research ethics by releasing the names. Following receipt of legal advice, Prof Lewandowsky has now released the names of the blog sites; and
5. The paper has been peer-reviewed and accepted in a high quality, international journal.

Academic freedom is recognised and protected by this University as essential to the proper conduct of teaching, research and scholarship. Freedom of intellectual thought and enquiry and the open exchange of ideas and evidence are a University core value. It is the University's expectation that all academic and research staff are guided by a commitment to freedom of inquiry and exercise their traditional rights to examine social values and to criticise and challenge the belief structures of society in the spirit of a responsible and honest search for knowledge and its dissemination.

The University recognises your right to express your concern and I believe that we have appropriately considered the matters you have raised.

Regards

Professor Robyn Owens
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
The University of Western Australia, M460
35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009
Phone: +61 8
Fax: +61 8 6488 1013
Email:
CRICOS Provider number 00126G

Bernadette Ferns

From: < >
Sent: Friday, 12 October 2012 6:13 PM
To: DVCR
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky paper

Dear Professor Owens,

You probably have noticed that interest in Professor Lewandowsky's work is not abating. Further issues have been raised today at Australian Climate Madness - <http://www.australianclimatemadness.com/2012/10/lewandowsky-foi-substantial-last-minute-changes-to-project-waved-through-by-uwa-ethics-committee/#comments> and developed at Canadian blog Climate Audit - <http://climateaudit.org/2012/10/11/17046/#comments>.

To this outside observer, it seems that UWA is defending the indefensible, and in the process risking the trashing of its reputation.

Just a view.

On Fri, Sep 21, 2012 at 11:09 AM, DVCR < > wrote:

Dear

Thank you for your recent contact regarding your concerns about the paper "NASA faced the moon landing- Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science" by Lewandowsky, S., Oberauer, K., & Gignac, C. E. (in press, *Psychological Science*).

Your complaint was received and managed consistent with the University Policy on: Public Complaints. Information about the policy and the associated can be found at: <http://www.complaints.uwa.edu.au/home/general#Whatis>

As a member of the University Executive and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), the matters were referred to me for consideration. I have completed my review and find that:

1. The focus of Professor Lewandowsky's research relates directly to his interest and expertise in scepticism and the updating of memory. As such, the topic of this paper of is well within his remit and consistent with the University's Code of Ethics and in particular the academic freedom of staff;
2. The research was undertaken in a manner compliant with the University's strict Human Ethics approval;
3. A review of all correspondence to the blog sites was undertaken confirming the contact with blog sites;

Bernadette Ferns

From: Robyn Owens
Sent: Friday, 12 October 2012 1:37 PM
To:
Cc: Gina Barron
Subject: Lewandowsky

Dear

I write in response to your email of 9 October 2012. Please accept my apology for the administrative error in relation to your email address which meant that you did not receive my response until 8 October 2012.

A comprehensive application process is required for human research projects. This application process includes the proposal and any research instruments, such as a survey, that are to be utilised. The project undertaken by Professor Lewandowsky followed this process and the project, including the survey, was approved. The University has completed its internal review of the academic process followed and finds that the complaint made against Professor Lewandowsky is not justified. Further, the University maintains its support of the fundamental principle of academic freedom.

Concerns that you may have regarding the peer review process and decision to publish can be taken up with the publisher directly.

On behalf of the University Executive, I advise that The University will not act further on this matter.

Regards

Professor Robyn Owens
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
The University of Western Australia, M460
35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009
Phone: +61 8
Fax: +61 8 6488 1013
Email: _____
CRICOS Provider number 00126G

From: [mailto:]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 October 2012 1:49 AM
To: Gina Barron; DVCR
Cc: Bill Louden; Paul Johnson
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky et al, ³NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science²

Dear Professor Owens,

Having read the attached email, it comes as no surprise to me that I did not receive it. The email address it was sent to is _____ instead of _____. Therefore it should have bounced back to you as undelivered. You should have picked up the error, realised the mistake and re-sent it to my correct email address. But it appears accuracy is not particularly important at UWA.

From: Peter Johnstone
To: Mark Dixon
Subject: FW: Lewandowsky: Ethics Approval RA/4/1/4007
Date: Friday, 12 October 2012 1:32:44 PM
Importance: High

Dear Mark,

I will not have time to address this matter before going on annual leave.

You may care to discuss the matter with DVCR and Legal Services. At this stage, there is little I can add, as I have not been involved in the "Lewandowsky issue" other than to respond to Legal Services that I had no reason to resist an FoI application that made recently to gain access to a range of university documents.

Cheers
Peter

Peter Johnstone

Phone: + 61 8
Fax: + 61 8 6488 8775
Email:

From: Simon Turnill [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 October 2012 1:26 PM
To: Peter Johnstone
Subject: Lewandowsky: Ethics Approval RA/4/1/4007

Dear Mr Johnstone,

I have recently been provided a copy of the above document and various related correspondence via a Freedom of Information request to UWA.

I have some follow-up questions, which I would be grateful if you would address:

1. The original proposal provided by Prof Lewandowsky to the Committee in December 2009 related to a project entitled "Understanding Statistical Trends". The approval relating to that proposal was RA/4/1/4007. It appears that the paper, Popular consensus: Climate change set to continue, follows from the specific research authorised by that approval. Is that correct?
2. Ethics approval for the paper that was the subject of my FoI request, NASA faked the moon landing—therefore (climate) science is a hoax: An anatomy of the motivated rejection of science, was sought not by a fresh application, but by an amendment to the existing approval above. Please would you kindly explain why it was not necessary for Prof Lewandowsky to submit a fresh application to the Ethics Committee, given that the nature of the paper and the methodology to be employed was substantially different from the first?
3. Prof Lewandowsky submitted the request for an amendment to the approval by email to Kate Kirk on 12 August 2010, for which approval was granted by her by email the following day. What form did the ethics review of that amendment take?
4. The amendments proposed by Prof Lewandowsky altered the nature of the research to

such an extent that even the Title and Aim of the research (as set out in the original approval) were rendered wholly inaccurate, since no amendment was proposed to those sections by Prof Lewandowsky in his email. Why was Prof Lewandowsky not required to make consequential amendments to the approval so that the approval was at least internally consistent and made some sense in the context of the new research to be carried out?

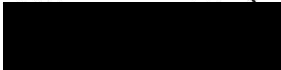
5. Is it considered normal practice at UWA to amend an ethics approval granted for one project in order to use it for a second, entirely different, project? If so, how is this abridged process carried out to ensure that ethical considerations are fully understood and examined prior to subsequent approval, especially where there are such wholesale changes to the original? If not, why was Prof Lewandowsky permitted to use this course of action in order to seek approval for the second paper without going through the full ethics procedure procedure?

Please let me know if you have any queries. My mobile is 0421 567952 if you would like to discuss.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

With many thanks and kind regards,

Simon Turnill MA (Cantab)



Holly Beattie

From: Robyn Owens
Sent: Friday, 12 October 2012 12:01 PM
To: Holly Beattie
Subject: RE: Letter from (Lewandowsky)

Hi Holly

Please see the email draft below prepared by Gina Barron for the VC.

Regards
Bernadette

=====

Email for **from the VC's Office –** (please note at the end of his letter he notes
that an email response will suffice)

Dear

Thank you for your recent contact regarding your concerns about the paper "NASA faced the moon landing- Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science" by Lewandowsky, S., Oberauer, K., & Gignac, C. E. (in press, *Psychological Science*).

Your complaint was received and managed consistent with the University Policy on: Public Complaints. Information about the policy and the associated can be found at: <http://www.complaints.uwa.edu.au/home/general#Whatis>

This matter was referred to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), as a member of the University Executive, for consideration of the matters raised. The review has been completed and the findings are that:

1. The focus of Professor Lewandowsky's research relates directly to his interest and expertise in scepticism and the updating of memory. As such, the topic of this paper of is well within his remit and consistent with the University's Code of Ethics and in particular the academic freedom of staff;
2. A comprehensive application process is required for human research projects. This application process includes the proposal and any research instruments, such as a survey, that are to be utilised. The project undertaken by Professor Lewandowsky followed this process and the project, including the survey, was conducted as approved by the Human Ethics Committee. Please note that while the use of the UWA staff list to generate respondents for the project was undertaken, information gathered through this process was not reported in the paper under discussion. The survey population invited to participate was as outlined in the paper's Method section; and
3. The paper has been peer-reviewed and accepted in a high quality, international journal.

Academic freedom is recognised and protected by this University as essential to the proper conduct of teaching, research and scholarship. Freedom of intellectual thought and enquiry and the open exchange of ideas and evidence are a University core value. It is the University's expectation that all academic and research staff are guided by a commitment to freedom of inquiry and exercise their traditional rights to examine social values and to criticise and challenge the belief structures of society in the spirit of a responsible and honest search for knowledge and its dissemination.

The University recognises your right to express your concern and I believe that we have appropriately considered the matters you have raised. The University will not act further on this matter.

Regards

Gina Barron
Manager, Complaint Resolution Unit

Office of the University Secretary M456A
The University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway Crawley WA 6009
www.complaints.uwa.edu.au

Contacts:

Gina Barron +61 8 (Mon – Fri)
Hayley McFarlane +61 8 (Mon - Wed)
Maggie Van Putten +61 8 (Wed - Fri)
Mobile:
Fax: + 61 8 6488 1075

From: Holly Beattie
Sent: Tuesday, 9 October 2012 10:31 AM
To: Robyn Owens
Cc: Bernadette Ferns
Subject: Letter from Jim Hutchinson

Dear Robyn

Please find attached a letter from
recommend a response?

with respect to Professor Lewandowsky's paper. Can you please

Thank you.

Holly

Holly Beattie | Executive Officer to the Vice-Chancellor
Vice-Chancellery | M464 | The University of Western Australia | 35 Stirling Highway | Crawley WA 6009
Tel +61 8 | Mobile | E-Mail
Achieve International Excellence

Holly Beattie

From: Holly Beattie
Sent: Thursday, 11 October 2012 12:15 PM
To: Paul Johnson
Subject: FW: Letter from
Attachments: SCAN8168_000.pdf

Hi Paul

FYI, please see Lewandowsky complaint letter attached. Final paragraph: "Unless I am persuaded to change my interim view I will send my complaints on to both the outside funding body and the university Senate. I will, of course, include any response material from the university. It would be helpful if your response to this letter was received within 30 days of the date shown above".

Holly

From: Holly Beattie
Sent: Tuesday, 9 October 2012 10:31 AM
To: Robyn Owens
Cc: Bernadette Ferns
Subject: Letter from

Dear Robyn

Please find attached a letter from
recommend a response?

with respect to Professor Lewandowsky's paper. Can you please

Thank you.

Holly

Holly Beattie | Executive Officer to the Vice-Chancellor
Vice-Chancellery | M464 | The University of Western Australia | 35 Stirling Highway | Crawley WA 6009
Tel +61 8 | Mobile | E-Mail
Achieve International Excellence

Holly Beattie

From: Robyn Owens
Sent: Thursday, 11 October 2012 11:19 PM
To: Holly Beattie
Cc: Bernadette Ferns
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky

Hi Holly,

Gina has crafted a standard response that Bernadette can give you, and she has a specific response to the letter. bernadette will liaise.

Robyn

On 11/10/2012, at 1:15 PM, Holly Beattie <

Hi Robyn

Given it is likely that Paul is going to receive more letters and emails about the Lewandowsky paper, would it be useful to have a standard response up my sleeve?

Something that acknowledges that they've taken the time to write and a broad statement of UWA's position on letting science be science, or words that are correct.

The inevitable outcome is that if we don't respond, that will be the story. If we do respond, the two-sentence statement will be in the public domain as fast as you can say climate sceptic.

Would you or one of your staff please offer me a few words I could keep handy?

Holly

Holly Beattie | Executive Officer to the Vice-Chancellor
Vice-Chancellery | M464 | The University of Western Australia | 35 Stirling Highway | Crawley WA 6009
Tel +61 8 | Mobile | E-Mail
Achieve International Excellence

Holly Beattie

From: Gina Barron
Sent: Thursday, 11 October 2012 10:05 AM
To:
Cc: DVCR; Holly Beattie
Subject: Letter regarding research undertaken by Professor Lewandowsky

Dear

I write to acknowledge receipt of your letter by the Vice-Chancellor and to advise that a response is being prepared.

Regards, Gina

Gina Barron
Manager, Complaint Resolution Unit

Office of the University Secretary M456A
The University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway Crawley WA 6009
www.complaints.uwa.edu.au

Contacts:
Gina Barron +61 8 (Mon – Fri)
Hayley McFarlane +61 8 (Mon - Wed)
Maggie Van Putten +61 8 (Wed - Fri)
Mobile:
Fax: + 61 8 6488 1075

CRICOS Provider Code 00126G

IMPORTANT: This email is intended for the individual/entity named above only. It may contain information which is confidential and privileged. If you receive this e-mail in error, please notify me by return e-mail or phone and delete it from your system.

Holly Beattie

From: Robyn Owens
Sent: Wednesday, 10 October 2012 4:00 PM
To: Paul Johnson
Subject: Fwd: forthcoming nature climate change paper
Attachments: nclimate1720.pdf; ATT00001.htm

For your information.

Robyn

Professor Robyn Owens | Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

M460 The University of Western Australia

T: +61 8 | F: +61 8 6488 1013 | M: | E:

Begin forwarded message:

From: Stephan Lewandowsky < >
Subject: forthcoming nature climate change paper
Date: October 10, 2012 1:38:28 PM GMT+08:00
To: Robyn Owens < >
Cc: Gina Barron < >

Dear Robyn:

See enclosed for a forthcoming (but as yet embargoed) paper in *Nature Climate Change*. I thought you might be interested in an advance copy as this is likely to attract public attention once it is officially released. I don't know when that will be, but at the moment it's strictly embargoed.

One might consider the message of this paper to be fairly innocuous, but that is unlikely to put a dent in the enthusiasm of those who thrive on launching email campaigns against academics.

Kind regards, Steve

Winthrop Professor Stephan Lewandowsky
School of Psychology
University of Western Australia
Crawley, W.A. 6009 AUSTRALIA

Twitter: @STWorg

UWA team's blog: <http://www.shapingtomorrowsworld.org>
Media work: <http://www.shapingtomorrowsworld.org/inthemedias.htm>
Academic: <http://www.cogsciwa.com>

Mobile:

Released under Freedom of Information Act, 1992

051

Bernadette Ferns

From: Stephan Lewandowsky
Sent: Wednesday, 10 October 2012 1:33 PM
To: Robyn Owens
Subject: FOI release
Attachments: FOI Documents.pdf

Dear Robyn:

UWA is about to release a batch of my emails relating to the conspiracy paper to an individual in Sydney. I have enclosed the package, which to untrained eyes might suggest that Kate Kirk and I crossed every 't' and dotted every 'i' with respect to the ethics application.

Nonetheless, I am fairly certain that this package contains material for 3 further conspiracy theories. Indeed, there may be more, as it is difficult to anticipate the full spectrum of the blogosphere.

I have a team of researchers standing by to monitor the launch of those theories on the internet: My next paper on this issue will be about the response to the first paper.

It wouldn't surprise me if you were to receive further submissions shortly that arise from the enclosed batch of emails.

Kind regards Steve

Winthrop Professor Stephan Lewandowsky
School of Psychology
University of Western Australia
Crawley, W.A. 6009 AUSTRALIA

Twitter: @STWorg

UWA team's blog: <http://www.shapingtomorrowworld.org>

Media work: <http://www.shapingtomorrowworld.org/inthemedias.htm>

Academic: <http://www.cogsciwa.com>

Mobile:

Office: +61 8

e-mail:

Bernadette Ferns

From: Bernadette Ferns
Sent: Tuesday, 9 October 2012 4:59 PM
To: Gina Barron
Subject: FW: Letter from {Lewandowsky}
Attachments: SCAN8168_000.pdf

Hi Gina

Here is another letter sent to the VC from , re Lewandowsky. Robyn would like to discuss with you and prepare a draft response for the VC.

Re , she would like to respond briefly, also after speaking to you.

Perhaps we can find some time on Wed 10 Oct. She is free in the afternoon.

Regards

Bernadette Ferns
Exec Asstt to Prof. Robyn Owens, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
The University of Western Australia (M460)
Phone: (61-8) | Fax: (61-8) 6488 1013 | Email:

From: Holly Beattie
Sent: Tuesday, 9 October 2012 10:31 AM
To: Robyn Owens
Cc: Bernadette Ferns
Subject: Letter from [RO TO PREPARE DRAFT REPLY FOR VC]

Dear Robyn

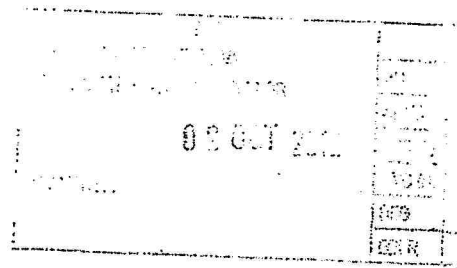
Please find attached a letter from with respect to Professor Lewandowsky's paper. Can you please recommend a response?

Thank you.

Holly

Holly Beattie | Executive Officer to the Vice-Chancellor
Vice-Chancellery | M464 | The University of Western Australia | 35 Stirling Highway | Crawley WA 6009
Tel +61 8 | Mobile | E-Mail
Achieve International Excellence

740357
12/82509



28.09.2012

Professor Paul Johnson
Vice Chancellor
Vice-Chancellery
The University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway
CRAWLEY WA 6009

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Vice Chancellor,

"Rejection of (climate) science."

I am writing to you in connection with some curious recent research conducted at your university involving Professor Lewandowsky ('the project').

The results of this research were mentioned in *University News*, Thursday 23 August 2012 under the heading - What motivates rejection of (climate) science? A paper in press at *Psychological Science* based on the research appears on Professor Lewandowsky's university website. It is cited as:

Lewandowsky, S., Oberauer, K., & Gignac, C. E. (in press). NASA faked the moon landing—therefore (climate) science is a hoax: An anatomy of the motivated rejection of science. (*the paper*)

The research used a survey questionnaire which was said to have been administered to more than a 1000 visitors to blogs dedicated to discussions of climate science.

I note several matters relating to the conduct of the project as follows:

1. On 21.10 2010 the following message was circulated to university staff using the university computer server and the staff mailing list:

"UWA researcher Charles Hanich is seeking participants for a web-based survey of attitudes towards climate science (and other sciences) and skepticism. The survey carries no risks for participants. To participate in the survey please use this link:

http://www.kwiksurveys.com/online-survey.php?surveyID=HKLJIN_61fa37b2

Completion should take less than 10 minutes and all data will be analyzed anonymously and without monitoring or identifying individual responses.

Ref: RA/4/1/4007

[Notice approved by: Human Research Ethics Committee, Research Services, University of Western Australia]"

Charles Hanich was involved in the project and the questionnaire referred to in the UWA notice is the questionnaire used in the project. It follows that to the extent that the survey responses included those from UWA staff who are/were not visitors to blogs dedicated to discussions of climate science then the surveyed population may have been inaccurately described in the paper.

2. The recipients were self selected. Surveys in which the recipients are self selected have well known problems many of which lead to the results being unrepresentative of the population which is surveyed. The results of such surveys can only rarely

be used to draw useful general conclusions. The authors' attempt to minimise these problems for the project are set out in the paper at pages 12 and 13. That attempt is unconvincing.

Notwithstanding their own recognition of the problems of respondent self selection the authors claim an original contribution to their research field by stating at page 14:

"However, to our knowledge, our results are the first to provide empirical evidence for the correlation between a general construct of conspiracist ideation and the general tendency to reject well-founded science." (my emphasis).

Given the shortcomings of the project which are self evident and which are acknowledged by the authors the generality of the above claim cannot be sustained.

I am surprised that such a statement would survive conscientious peer review.

3. A version of the questionnaire used in the project recently crossed my desk. I enclose a copy. The enclosed version includes all of the questions asked in the project questionnaire but with five options for answering each question rather than the four options used in the project. The paper makes clear that not all answers were used for analysis. Why the otiose questions were included in the survey is not explained.

My own education and work experience is in the areas of agriculture, agricultural economics (including statistics and econometrics) and law. My current retirement research interests include weather and climate amongst several other science oriented subjects. I have never studied psychology in any formal way but in my general reading I have formed the impression that as a field of study psychology is far from being a 'hard' science; I am aware that some people characterise it as a social science.

I am troubled by the generally unscientific construction of several of the questions in the questionnaire. I am indebted to an anonymous blogger for setting out clearly the main issues with the questions (other than the climate questions) as follows:

Quote:

Question 3: What is 'social justice'? This term is relative to culture, ethos, and mores. In a non-anthropologic or sociologic survey, with such a complete lack of context or definition, this term is functionally meaningless.

Question 4: The word localized is not defined and thus contextually void. Localized here could mean at a city, county, province, national, continental, global, or stellar scale. Without defining the bounds there is no ability to ascertain the level of 'acceptable impact' the survey participants feel is allowable to a free market economy.

Question 5: Again, sustainable development is vague and contextually void. Sustainable development is a term that is dependent on local and regional economy, culture, and historic population factors

which are not explored by this survey. Question is meaningless.

Question 6: "Unsustainable consumption"? See comments re: Q5

Question 7: Allows one of two choices thus automatically filtering out a valid third choice that WMD were ONE of the considerations among others leading to the invasion.

Question 8: Given the apparent intent of the survey author, including the phrase "known as the New World Order" applies an automatic filter to a certain number of participants. Question would have greater validity if the phrase was omitted.

Question 9: Leaves out the option that is was produced in a lab under research conditions and released accidentally which is a valid choice.

Question is predetermined to show either a 'conspiracy' or 'mindlessly accept the press-release' mindset.

Question 10: Assumes that foreknowledge (if any) was specifically for the purpose of allowing the attack to occur, not poor military planning or failure to comprehend the realistic possibility of an attack. Question is biased.

Question 11: Many flaws. Leaves out a valid choice of "or other agencies". Also falls subject to the same criticism of question 9.

Question 13: Question is logically flawed. Properly asked should have omitted "in a Hollywood studio".

Question 14: Could be argued that this question is logically flawed as well. Given that the question appears intended to uncover a 'secret alien contact', 'secret alien influence', or 'conspiracy' mentality, the question probably should have been written as follows: "One or more government or international agencies have, or had in the past, secret bases that

contain hidden alien spacecraft, alien bodies, or alien technology.”

Question 16: Also logically flawed and poorly written unless this question was worded to filter out everything but a very narrow group respondents. Everything following ‘attacks to take place’ could have been omitted. Alternatively everything between “achieve” and “goals” could have been omitted. The wording of the question excludes an entire group of potential respondents.

Question 18: Narrow filter (again). Excludes assassination attempt theory by groups other than the royal family. Possibly invalid question again as it is very narrow. Would need to see the underlying methodology and psychology that went into the question design.

Question 19: Again and oddly placed, narrow filter. Why “Neo Nazi”? There are many other conspiracy theories here as well: Government (foreign or domestic); Shadow government; false flag; etc.

Question 20: False choice leaving some respondent no alternative but to answer falsely. What about the group of respondents who do not feel it is a hoax perpetrated by scientists but by government agencies or corporations with vested financial interest in ‘green’ technology? Or that don’t feel it is a hoax, merely poor science? Or that it isn’t a hoax, but simply a runaway political process that has taken on a life of its own?

Question 26: Assumes that all respondents believe that CFC’s WERE a serious threat originally. Question should have a predecessor or descendant question to filter out or identify the bias inherent in the question wording.

Question 27: See comments re: Q 26

Question 35: Possible inherent bias. By not quantifying the intensity (high or low) and direction

(positive or negative), nor including any clarifying questions in the survey, this question classifies all respondents into one of two buckets. This may be valid or may not depending on the intent of the survey.

Question 38: Identical criticism as in Q 35."

Unquote

4. I endorse the above criticisms and add:
 - 4.1 Each question ought to have had "Don't Know" as a possible answer; and
 - 4.2 The climate questions - 22, 23, 24 and 25 are clearly 'key' questions for the authors. They rely on Somerville, 2011 to provide a description (in Footnote 1 of page 24 of the paper) of what they believe to be the core aspects of climate science. Interestingly they overlook an important sentence on page 512 of the quoted Somerville paper which is:
'The increasing atmospheric CO2 concentration due to human activities is the single most important factor causing global warming but there are many others'. (emphasis added).

Had the authors picked up on Somerville's hint, underlined above, and surveyed the burgeoning climate attribution literature they might not have focused so narrowly on the burning of fossil fuels as the cause of global warming when drafting (or copying) the climate questions.

There are currently in the peer reviewed climate science literature a growing number of reported research findings and discussions

of causes of global warming which are unrelated to changes in the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

One example is the present interest in sunspot activity/inactivity, particularly the research and scientific speculation surrounding Solar Cycles 24 and 25. At the 2011 annual meeting of the Solar Physics Division of the American Astronomical Society papers dealing with three separate lines of research being pursued at the US National Solar Observatory (NSO) and the US Air Force Research Laboratory were discussed. Dr Frank Hill associate director of the NSO Solar Synoptic Network concluded that these three completely separate views of the sun were pointing in the same direction – the sunspot cycle may be going into hibernation.

If Solar Cycle 24 is weak and Solar Cycle 25 is weak or nonexistent then such a solar slowdown could presage a second Maunder Minimum. This was a 70 year period with virtually no sunspots during 1645-1715. The Maunder Minimum coincided with the middle and coldest part of the Little Ice Age. The English great frost of 1708/09 was the coldest period for 500 years.

No one has suggested or demonstrated a mechanism whereby the burning of fossil fuels on earth has an influence on solar cycles.

A further example is the linkage of ocean phenomena to variability of global surface temperature. It is not surprising that the oceans exert a significant influence on climate since about 70 per cent of the surface of the globe is covered by ocean. Also, it is now generally accepted that the earth is warmed by the sun heating the oceans and land directly. These heat sources then in turn heat the atmosphere.

The Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) is receiving a good deal of attention at present. The PDO (a term coined in 1996) is a long-lived El Niño-like pattern of Pacific climate variability. The PDO is not a single physical mode of ocean variability, but rather the sum of several processes with different dynamical origins. Several independent studies find evidence for just two full PDO cycles in the past century: "cool" PDO regimes prevailed from 1890-1924 and again from 1947-1976, while "warm" PDO regimes dominated from 1925-1946 and from 1977 through (at least) the mid-1990's. [<http://jisao.washington.edu/pdo/> and Wiki PDO]

If the PDO is now in a cold phase, as Professor Judith Curry

[<http://judithcurry.com/2011/01/04/scenarios-2010-2040-part-iii-climate-shifts/>]

and others consider it to be, then global surface temperature may remain little changed or perhaps a little cooler for at least

a decade. This will happen regardless of the rate of increase in the atmospheric concentration of CO₂ caused by burning fossil fuels or otherwise.

It follows that the climate questions used in the project were highly restrictive in referring only to 'the burning of fossil fuels' as a cause of climate change/global warming. No option was given for a respondent to agree that the globe was warming, perhaps catastrophically, for some other reason (or reasons). Nor was a respondent given the option of agreeing that the warming trend of the past (50 ?) years might slow and even reverse without human emission control initiatives (as would occur with a quiet sun assisted by a cold PDO). This is the major defect of the questionnaire and probably ought to consign all of the results to the dustbin of climate research failures.

In my own case, for example, if I had been a respondent I would have scored the climate questions as follows:

22: Strongly Disagree

23. Strongly Disagree

24. Strongly Disagree. (Note: This question ought to have allowed an option to switch to a lower CO₂ emitting process. It is unrealistic and barking mad both scientifically and economically to speak of 'a substantial

shift to a non CO2 emitting energy source' on a global scale)

25: Strongly Disagree

As I discuss above it is perfectly rational and scientifically valid to discount the burning of fossil fuels as an explanatory variable for climate change/global warming. Yet according to the authors, if I had answered the climate questions as set out above I would have demonstrated rejection of science. In reality, what I would actually have done was to reject the narrow view of the causation of climate change/global warming demonstrated by the authors. To do that requires a detailed application of climate science and well developed personal scepticism on my part.

5. I also note that the preparation of the paper attracted support from a Discovery Grant from the Australian Research Council and an Australian Professorial Fellowship to the first author.
6. My questions to you in your capacity as Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer of the university are as follows:
 - 6.1 Does the use of the UWA staff list to generate respondents for the project invalidate the stated definition of the survey population as 'visitors to blogs dedicated to discussions of climate science' ?;
 - 6.2 Does the University of Western Australia endorse the design and wording of the survey instrument as being of a professional standard suitable for the generation of

unbiased and scientifically persuasive results?

If so, please let me have a detailed response to the several criticisms raised in sections 2, 3 and 4 of this letter.

If not, please advise me of the steps which the university now plans to take to have the work reviewed by an independent academic auditor or panel; such review to include recommendations for future action by the university concerning the research produced by the project.

- 6.3 I am concerned that scarce federal research funds have been allocated to a research project which would have little public interest or benefit and doubtful academic merit even if conducted in a professional and scientific manner. Of equal concern is that researchers are maintained on a public (university) payroll with publically funded running expenses to produce research which may not be of a competent standard.

I am sympathetic to the view that university researchers must be permitted to engage freely in research without direction from university administrators, research funders and governments. But, researchers have a corresponding responsibility to ensure that taxpayer funds are not wasted by incompetence or by advocacy disguised as research.

The 'peer review' process has long been identified as the mechanism which controls the originality and quality of academic papers. That process works best in the hard sciences but appears to me to work less well in the soft sciences. Apart from the criticisms cited above about the survey, the paper itself has other shortcomings. For example, the survey instrument was not reproduced in the paper. It should have been. Unless a referee was diligent enough to call for a copy then that referee would be unaware of the many deficiencies in the instrument and hence of the resulting survey data. In this case the peer review process allowed a poorly conducted project to find its way into print in a poorly written paper.

Does the university rely solely on the peer review system to ensure a minimum level of research competence or does it have some further and more robust procedures? Please advise and describe if there be such.

Subject to what I might be told by you or others on behalf of the university my interim view is that the paper is worthless and a waste of scarce resources; both financial and staff time. Unless I am persuaded to change my interim view I will send my complaints on to both the outside funding body and the university Senate. I will, of course, include any response material received from the university.

It would be helpful if your response to this letter was received within 30 days of the date shown above.

Yours faithfully

Encl.

An email response to the writer will suffice at:

Janeen Robertson

From: Bill Loudon < >
Sent: Tuesday, 9 October 2012 1:49 AM
To: Janeen Robertson
Subject: FW: Lewandowsky et al, "NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science"

From: [SMTP]
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 1:48:46 AM
To: Gina Barron; DVCR
Cc: Bill Loudon; Paul Johnson
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky et al, "NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science"
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Dear Professor Owens,

Having read the attached email, it comes as no surprise to me that I did not receive it. The email address it was sent to is instead of . Therefore it should have bounced back to you as undelivered. You should have picked up the error, realised the mistake and re-sent it to my correct email address. But it appears accuracy is not particularly important at UWA.

I also note that it is a 'form letter' response which I have seen published on the internet at various locations so apart from my name and my incorrect email address, it had the exact same content as letters you have sent to others. It answered questions I hadn't asked and failed to address issues I did raise. That is disappointing and tells me that the university isn't taking this matter seriously.

Having read the response it appears that Professor Robyn Owens, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) is claiming that as far as the University is concerned, provided :

1. The paper yet to be published paper in question is within Professor Lewandowsky's remit and consistent with the University's Code of Ethics;
2. The research was undertaken in a manner compliant with the University's strict Human Ethics approval;
3. A review of all correspondence to the blog sites was undertaken confirming the contact with blog sites;
4. Prof Lewandowsky has now released the names of the skeptical blog sites he had spuriously withheld previously; and
5. The paper has been peer-reviewed and accepted in a 'high quality', international journal;

Then as far as the University of Western Australia is concerned it doesn't matter that:

1. The survey methodology was flawed from the outset in a number of ways. That even though Professor Lewandowsky was made aware of the flaws he went ahead with it anyway and didn't advise the journal or the reviewers of those flaws which they may have reasonably expected a PhD level Psychology academic would not allow to taint his research? **Note 1.**

2. The analysis of the results contain undergraduate errors designed to feed an obvious bias rather than provide real scientific analysis? **Note 2.**

Bernadette Ferns

From: Stephan Lewandowsky
Sent: Tuesday, 9 October 2012 1:49 PM
To: Robyn Owens
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky et al, ³NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science²

Hi Robyn, thanks. I am intrigued that this individual saw fit to give you a lesson on how you should have handled your email correspondence.

There appears to be ample room for a psychological research project on the sense of entitlement and self-importance those individuals exhibit.

Regards Steve

From: Robyn Owens
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 1:32 PM
To: Stephan Lewandowsky
Subject: Fwd: Lewandowsky et al, ³NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science²

Steve,

For your information. The VC has asked me to draft a brief response.

Robyn

Professor Robyn Owens | Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

M460 The University of Western Australia

T: +61 | F: +61 8 6488 1013 | M: | E: _____

Begin forwarded message:

From: DVCR < >
Subject: FW: Lewandowsky et al, ³NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science²
Date: October 9, 2012 9:01:28 AM GMT+08:00
To: Robyn Owens < >

From: [mailto:]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 October 2012 1:49 AM
To: Gina Barron; DVCR
Cc: Bill Loudon; Paul Johnson

Subject: Re: Lewandowsky et al, ³NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science²

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1. The survey methodology was flawed from the outset in a number of ways. That even though Professor Lewandowsky was made aware of the flaws he went ahead with it anyway and didn't advise the journal or the reviewers of those flaws which they may have reasonably expected a PhD level Psychology academic would not allow to taint his research? **Note 1.**
2. The analysis of the results contain undergraduate errors designed to feed an obvious bias rather than provide real scientific analysis? **Note 2.**
3. In dealing with reasonable critiques from properly qualified people, Professor Lewandowsky has chosen to vilify the questioner and cast aspersions on their motives rather than address the questions in a professional and scientific manner? **Note 3.**
4. With regards to point 3. Professor Lewandowsky has breached the Universities own rules in operation of the University funded blog-site on which he chose to defend his work? **Note 4.**
5. Properly qualified experts in the area of work from around the world have drawn attention to the deficiencies of Lewandowsky's pre-publication paper which was released with great fanfare. Yet the University has no interest in the quality control of the work done by their key staff, just as long as it ticks a few bureaucratic boxes? **Note 5.**

Notes

1. Survey Methodology Flawed

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a) *I believe Lewandowsky's survey methodology was flawed in that it simply set out to prove what he held as a biased view of those he termed skeptics or deniers who are people who are unconvinced that humans are causing dangerous climate change. This is evidenced by the following which muddies his whole survey approach. In May 2010, Lewandowsky published an editorial sneering at those who had the temerity to question the Climategate "inquiries", an editorial replete with dehumanizing language (in Paul Bain's sense). Lewandowsky referred to "armies of irate pensioners". Skeptics were said to "obsessively yelp". But Lewandowsky's central image used to dehumanize skeptics was his comparison of skeptics to believers in outlandish conspiracy theories: that NASA faked the moon landing, that 9/11 was an inside job of the Bush Administration, that Prince Philip ran the world drug trade.*

Lewandowsky's editorial came in the immediate wake of the Oxburgh "inquiry" – which had been widely derided by skeptics. Lewandowsky compared derision of the Oxburgh inquiry – a quick-and-dirty inquiry that maintained no transcripts, took no evidence from critics, asked its participants to destroy their personal notes – to a refusal to accept findings of a thorough and bipartisan US Congressional report into 9/11.

Little noticed at the time was Lewandowsky's caricature of what skeptics actually believe – a caricature clearly serving to dehumanize his targets. See: <http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/33900.html>

b) *Lewandowsky sent the survey request to so-called 'pro-science' blog sites at least two weeks prior to sending it to 'skeptical' sites. When sent to the 'pro-science' sites it was identified as research being carried out by Lewandowsky. The emailed invitation to the Skeptic sites was sent by a Lewandowsky assistant. The different approach to the release of the survey impacted participation and invalidates results.*

c) *Other's noted the obvious flaws in the survey methodology: I went through the above and felt it has numerous problems – questions are framed in absolute terms but lack useful definition (climate change is used frequently but is not defined, do they mean CAGW, natural variability with some anthropogenic component or what?). Climate scientists is used as a generic term without distinguishing between modelers (PlayStation® Climatology) or physical scientists (very few geologists are impressed by claims of CAGW, for example).*

Basically it seems to be fishing for conspiracy theorists in an effort to associate them with CAGW skepticism. I suspect Hanich & HREC are likely to get a lot of complaints about this framing.

In any event, virtually all of the respondents appear to have come from the eight stridently anti-skeptical blocs, with most presumably referred by Deltoid, Tamino and Skeptical Science.

In addition to the ordinary problems of an online survey, Lewandowsky's decision to distribute his survey via anti-skeptical blogs had other shortcomings. Whatever anonymity the survey might have had was tainted by the association of the survey with Lewandowsky at the Deltoid, Hot Topic and (perhaps) Skeptical Science. In addition, potential respondents had already read the feedback of previous survey takers. At Tamino's blog, commenters wrote:

You missed the long series of questions about various conspiracy theories. Those were fun!..

I guess they're trying to use those survey questions to identify the nuts haha... All those conspiracy ones were a bit ridiculous...

Yeah, those conspiracy theory questions were pretty funny, but does anyone think that hardcore deniers are going to be fooled by such a transparent attempt to paint them as paranoids?

Similar observations were made at Lambert's blog:

The questions seemed to be picked in hopes to see "climate change deniers" "denying" also everything else there is a consensus at...

I think the "conspiracy theory" section is too heavy-handed to be useful. There's no chance that people won't figure out what the survey is looking for here, and everyone knows that "conspiracy theory!!" is pejorative. So I suspect that a lot of people who actually do think that climate scientists are rigging the data will hide their beliefs, even in an anonymous survey, because they're worried that they're going to be painted as conspiracy theorists. Maybe with good reason, maybe not

Lucia sized up Lewandowsky's methodology (in her usual to-the-point style) as follows:

These sorts of surveys almost scream out and say "Please, please! Enter fake data!!" Of those who fake, the most likely thing is that a "skydragon" will enter a ridiculous survey pretending to be an alarmist and vice versa. But you can never be sure.

See: <http://climateaudit.org/2012/09/08/lewandowsky-scam/>

d) [See 4.a) below] *Lewandowsky's results are bogus because of his reliance on fake and fraudulent data, not because of replication issues in his factor analysis. Nor do I believe that there should be any "doubt" on this point. In my opinion, the evidence is clear-cut Lewandowsky used fake responses from respondents at stridently anti-skeptic blogs who fraudulently passed themselves off as skeptics [to] the seemingly credulous Lewandowsky.*

e) [See point 5. below] **Mistake 6:** Since Lewandowsky committed this howler, and is obviously unaware of it, he cannot see it in the people he interviews, who often make a similar error. That is, when a civilian is asked, "Do you believe in climate change?" he often answers "No," but the mistake is to assume he is answering the question as stated, when in reality he has answered the modified question, "Do you believe in climate change and should the government regulate, rule, tax, control, mandate, penalize, etc., etc. to combat this change?" Such an elementary mistake by a psychologist shows us just how far the madness has progressed.

f) [See point 5. below] *Now, the rest of Lewdandowsky's work is more mundane. He commits the freshman mistake of only seeking evidence for his beliefs, and for none that would contradict him (and of which there is plenty); he says things like "Another common attribute of the contemporary rejection of science is its reliance on the internet" and then uses the internet himself in his "science"; he questions the influence of Steven McIntyre of Climateaudit forgetting that McIntyre is a domain expert and he, Lewandowsky is not.*

g) *Lewandowsky's paper is cross-disciplinary. It combines psychology with economics and political science, but none of the authors has any academic qualifications in that area. As a result the questions that seek to measure adherence to "laissez-faire free-market economics" are nonsense. <http://www.ambitgambit.com/2012/09/23/fish-rot-from-the-head-part-3-why-lewandowskys-free-market-questions-are-nonsense/>*

h) *What he should have done was to construct a matrix of economic beliefs from the free market to the command economy and then placed all of his respondents in that matrix. It is an approach commonly used in political science and would have cured most of the conceptual issues he has with economics.*

By asking the questions he does, what he reveals is his personal bias that you have the free market on one side and the environment on the other.

But that is what his survey is all about. He equates free-market economics with anti-science and the environment with science. He then tries to equate free-market economics with conspiracy theories, and conspiracy theories with anti-science.

Released under Freedom of Information Act, 1992

In fact, he is the one who is anti-science demonstrated in poor survey construction, substandard understanding of concepts and meaningless statistical analysis of tiny samples, all techniques in search of the pre-manufactured conclusion that people who are skeptical of the IPCC reports are mad. <http://www.ambitgambit.com/2012/09/23/fish-rot-from-the-head-part-3-why-lewandowskys-free-market-questions-are-nonsense/>

i) By his own admission, Lewandowsky did not exclude multiple survey responses from the same IP address a basic precaution when doing an online survey. This allowed the survey to be 'gamed' by those who wanted to crank up the 'denier' responses. Which appears to have happened. Lewandowsky received multiple warnings that this may happen.

j) It is clear from reading comments at blog sites that the biased objective of Lewandowsky's 'research' was obvious and this alone should have caused the project to be aborted, or at least this should have been disclosed to the paper's reviewers and the journal. Here are examples of blog comments at the time of the survey: Commenters could see what the survey was "getting at": <http://joannenova.com.au/2012/08/lewandowsky-shows-skeptics-are-nutters-by-asking-alarmists-to-fill-out-survey/>

pointer | August 30, 2010 at 11:42 am

Yeah, those conspiracy theory questions were pretty funny, but does anyone think that hardcore deniers are going to be fooled by such a transparent attempt to paint them as paranoids?

Also, here are two words that, when put together, ought to make anyone critical of this research: "online" and "survey".

Rattus Norvegicus August 29, 2010, 11:30 pm

Eh, it was pretty easy to figure out what they were looking at. Perceived SES vs. support of "free market" ideology vs. subscription to conspiracy theories vs. acceptance of well formed scientific consensus.

sod:

"i am looking forward to the results of this one. but i fear very few denialists will take it."

Dan August 31, 2010, 6:52 pm

... I think the "conspiracy theory" section is too heavy-handed to be useful. There's no chance that people won't figure out what the survey is looking for here, and everyone knows that "conspiracy theory!!" is pejorative.

Anonymous

I would have thought that inviting Deltoid readers to participate in a questionnaire of this sort is likely to produce statistically skewed results since it likely to encounter a preponderance of respondents who are "pro-science" rather than "skeptical of science".

2. Analysis of Survey Results Flawed

a) 10 of the respondents have a significant probability of being produced by people attempting to scam the survey. I base this conclusion on their having reported absurdly low (<2) consensus percentages for at least one of the three categories. An additional response (#861 on the spreadsheet) represents an almost perfect "warmist" caricature of a "skeptic", scoring 1 for all global warming questions, and 4 for all free market and conspiracy theory questions. There may be wackos out there that believe every single conspiracy theory they have heard, but they are a vanishingly few in number, and are likely to appear in a survey with such a small sample size. A second respondent (890) almost exactly mirrored respondent 861 except for giving a 3 for the Martin Luther King Jr assassination, and lower values for the scientific consensus questions. Again this response is almost certainly a scam.

Combined, these respondents account for 2 of the strongly agree results in almost every conspiracy theory question; and the other potential scammers also have a noticable number of strong agreements to conspiracy theories. For most conspiracy theory questions, "skeptics" only had two respondents that strongly agreed, the two scammed results. Given the low number of "skeptical" respondents overall; these two scammed responses significantly affect the results regarding conspiracy theory ideation. Indeed, given the dubious interpretation of weakly agreed responses (see previous post), this paper has no data worth interpreting with regard to conspiracy theory ideation.

See: <http://www.skepticalscience.com/news.php?n=1540#84398>

b) As others have observed, the number of actual respondents purporting to believe in the various conspiracies was, in many cases, very small. Only 10 respondents purported to believe in Lewandowsky's signature Moon Landing conspiracy. These included a disproportionate number of scam responses. Indeed, probably all of these responses were scams.

However, Lewandowsky's statistical analysis was unequal to the very low hurdle of identifying these scam responses. Lewandowsky applied a technique closely related to principal components to scam and non-scam data alike, homogenizing them into a conspiratorial ideation. See: <http://climateaudit.org/2012/09/08/lewandowsky-scam/>

c) Despite Lewandowsky's contrary statements and implications, even for most of the wacko conspiracies (e.g. the cluster around Moon, AIDS), more respondents professed to be warmists than skeptics. The only conspiracy (or wacko beliefs) with a purported majority of "skeptics" are: the New World Order conspiracy; and purported disbelief in the connection of HIV to AIDS and smoking to lung cancer, both with vanishingly small samples (16 and 11 respectively) and evidently contaminated by fake answers. The anomalous results for the New World Order conspiracy is very suggestive of a second strategy of fake response (in addition to the simple vote-stuffing commented on by Curtis) – a strategy in which the fake respondents were concerned to avoid exclusion by agreeing with the most wacko conspiracies (as, for example, Swami et al 2009, an article cited by Lewandowsky, had excluded Elvis sightings.)

See: <http://climateaudit.org/2012/09/08/lewandowsky-scam/>

d) The precise proportion of fakes in the skydragon population is impossible to assess, given Lewandowsky's abysmal methodology, but, as noted above, there is strong evidence that it is a substantial percentage.

In my opinion, there are two main lines of fake response: (1) respondents who had fun with the survey, filling in multiple fake conspiracy beliefs; (2) respondents who attempted more limited gaming, commonly pretending to adhere to the New World Order conspiracy. Overall, a remarkable 40% (49) of skydragon respondents purported to believe in one or more of the 8 most wacko conspiracies (CYNewWorldOrder, SARS, CYAIDS, CYMoon, CYArea51, CY911, CYRoswell and CYDiana). 20 purported to believe in two or more of the wacko conspiracies with 10 purporting to believe in 4 or more wacko conspiracies, and 3 in all eight. Tom Curtis has drawn attention to the implausibility not just of someone seriously holding such positions, but of the additional implausibility of multiple such paranoids turning up on cue at the Lewandowsky poll. In

Released under Freedom of Information Act, 1992

my opinion, his arguments on this point are irrefutable and the strained attempts of Skeptical Science commenters to challenge him on this point defy credulity.

In the article itself, Lewandowsky had alluded to the possibility of fake responses, but bizarrely (for someone supposedly competent in the field) argued that multiple fake responses could only occur with a "conspiracy", overlooking the entirely plausible (and in this case, probable) situation of a small but significant fraction of respondents making fake responses in a situation that, as Lucia observed, practically invited fake responses satirizing skeptics:

Another objection might raise the possibility that our respondents wilfully accentuated their replies in order to subvert our presumed intentions. As in most behavioural research, this possibility cannot be ruled out. However, unless a substantial subset of the more than 1,000 respondents conspired to coordinate their responses, any individual accentuation or provocation would only have injected more noise into our data. This seems unlikely because subsets of our items have been used in previous laboratory research, and for those subsets, our data did not differ in a meaningful way from published

Lewandowsky's argument is completely insufficient to dismiss the possibility that 4-5% of the responses were warmists having some fun pretending to be skeptics. Nor do I think that the faking was entirely one way. In my opinion, some of the "warmist" responses with high conspiratorial ideation were fakes as well. <http://climateaudit.org/2012/09/08/lewandowsky-scam/>

e) [see 4.a) below] *"As noted above, the reason why I was unable to replicate Lewandowsky's explained variance claims was because they were incorrect – they came from the eigenvectors (from principal components) and not the factors (from factor analysis). The person who appears to be in need of Multivariate 101 is Lewandowsky himself."*

f) [see 4.a) below] *"Lewandowsky's attempt to divert attention to the number of retained factors was a fabricated diversion on several counts. I made no attempt to emulate Lewandowsky's unreported retention procedure. I used two factors to analyse the FM question not because of a "fiat" on my part, but because Lewandowsky himself had used that number. Nor did I propose the use of two factors for the third (CO2) analysis: I noticed that 86% explained variance arose with two factors. As matters turned out, Lewandowsky had made a different error – one that I had not guessed in my previous post, but one that pervaded his other factor analyses as well."*

g) [See 4.a) below] *That Lewandowsky additionally misrepresented explained variances from principal components as explained variances from factor analysis seems a very minor peccadillo in comparison (as I noted at the time.) On this last point, to borrow Lewandowsky's words, there seem to be two alternatives. Either Lewandowsky "made a beginner's mistake, in which case he should stop posing as an expert in statistics and take a refresher of Multivariate Analysis 101".*

Or else Lewandowsky, cognizant of how thoroughly compromised his results are by fake/fraudulent data, rather than thanking his critics for spotting defects and withdrawing his study, has decided to double down by trying to manufacture doubt about criticism of the degree to which his data and results have been thoroughly compromised in the "hope that no one would see through his manufacture of doubt."

h) [See point 5. below] *He admits confirmation bias by calling dividing his sample into "pro-science" and "skeptic", when the point in question is what the science says. He builds "latent variable" models to "prove" what he already believed, and biased himself to confirm; latent variable analysis being a lovely technique to give desirable results. He amusingly assures his audience of his "theoretical results": not theories of climate, but psychological (academics do love a theory). He can't help himself but use the ugly term denial, an appalling word one would have thought a psychologist would have understood was inappropriate.*

i) The conspiracy which gave its name to the subtitle of the paper in fact had only 10 adherents (and only 3 of these thought global warming was a hoax). This hardly supports the proposition that climate sceptics think the NASA Moon Landing was faked!

j) The total number of people who accepted one or more of Lewandowsky's conspiracy theories was actually 553, and the greatest number who accepted any one of the theories was 289 while the smallest was 10. The error for a sample size of 10 is plus or minus 30.99% at 50%, so the conclusions drawn on the question with the sample of 10 – whether the moon landing was faked or not – are useless.

k) There is no scientific definition of a 'conspiracy theory' only the author's definition. there is no explanation of why certain conspiracies were included in the survey and others left out and why ones included in the survey were left out of the analysis. Presumably because they didn't suit the author's desired conclusions. What if for instance, Lewandowsky had included that 'Climate Sceptics were funded by Big Oil', which is an often made claim by so called pro-science people. Could he then claim in his results that skeptics are prone to conspiracy theories?

3. Lewandowsky Breaches Professional Standards

a) It is worth looking at where Lewandowsky's moral compass starts out. How does he feel about a fellow climate activist who commits fraud in order to obtain confidential documents? Who then creates a fake document which purports to be from the organisation he is setting out to damage. And then 'leaks' these documents to the press? Clearly in his own editorial Lewandowsky thinks that if you believe the public good is worth it, then any misconduct is justifiable.

See: <http://theconversation.edu.au/the-morality-of-unmasking-heartland-5494> It would therefore be no surprise if he deliberately manufactured the desired results in this 'research' given his views.

"Revealing to the public the active, vicious, and well-funded campaign of denial that seeks to delay action against climate change likely constitutes a classic public good. It is a matter of personal moral judgement whether that public good justifies Gleick's sting operation to obtain those revelations."

b) [See 4.a) below] Professor making public unsubstantiated allegations on a UWA funded blog site: *Lewandowsky repugnantly alleged that I might have "intentionally rigged his re-"analysis" so that it deviated from our EFA's in the hope that no one would see through his manufacture of doubt."*

4. Lewandowsky Breached UWA Blog-sites own rules (ShapingTomorrowsWorld)

a) The following is from my previous email dated 22 September 2012. It highlights an breach by Lewandowsky of the rules applying to the University's Blog-site where he chose to make some responses to criticisms from world respected statistician Steve McIntyre at Climate Audit blog site. I extracted Professor Lewandowsky's rule breaching, puerile and unprofessional accusation and the relevant responses by McIntyre showing the flaws in Lewandowsky's response which have not been rebutted to date. See: <http://climateaudit.org/2012/09/20/conspiracy-theorist-lewandowsky-tries-to-manufacture-doubt/>

Lewandowsky's Accusations

Lewandowsky ended his blog post with the following accusation:

There are two explanations for this obvious flaw in Mr. McIntyre's re-"analysis". Either he made a beginner's mistake, in which case he should stop posing as an expert in statistics and take a refresher of Multivariate Analysis 101. Or else, he intentionally rigged his re-

Released under Freedom of Information Act, 1992

"analysis" so that it deviated from our EFA's in the hope that no one would see through his manufacture of doubt.

McIntyre's Response:

As noted above, the reason why I was unable to replicate Lewandowsky's explained variance claims was because they were incorrect – they came from the eigenvectors (from principal components) and not the factors (from factor analysis). The person who appears to be in need of Multivariate 101 is Lewandowsky himself.

Lewandowsky's attempt to divert attention to the number of retained factors was a fabricated diversion on several counts. I made no attempt to emulate Lewandowsky's unreported retention procedure. I used two factors to analyse the FM question not because of a "fiat" on my part, but because Lewandowsky himself had used that number. Nor did I propose the use of two factors for the third (CO2) analysis: I noticed that 86% explained variance arose with two factors. As matters turned out, Lewandowsky had made a different error – one that I had not guessed in my previous post, but one that pervaded his other factor analyses as well.

Lewandowsky repugnantly alleged that I might have "intentionally rigged his re-"analysis" so that it deviated from our EFA's in the hope that no one would see through his manufacture of doubt."

Lewandowsky's results are bogus because of his reliance on fake and fraudulent data, not because of replication issues in his factor analysis. Nor do I believe that there should be any "doubt" on this point. In my opinion, the evidence is clearcut: Lewandowsky used fake responses from respondents at stridently anti-skeptic blogs who fraudulently passed themselves off as skeptics [to] the seemingly credulous Lewandowsky.

That Lewandowsky additionally misrepresented explained variances from principal components as explained variances from factor analysis seems a very minor peccadillo in comparison (as I noted at the time.) On this last point, to borrow Lewandowsky's words, there seem to be two alternatives. Either Lewandowsky "made a beginner's mistake, in which case he should stop posing as an expert in statistics and take a refresher of Multivariate Analysis 101".

Or else Lewandowsky, cognizant of how thoroughly compromised his results are by fake/fraudulent data, rather than thanking his critics for spotting defects and withdrawing his study, has decided to double down by trying to manufacture doubt about criticism of the degree to which his data and results have been thoroughly compromised in the "hope that no one would see through his manufacture of doubt."

5. Experts and commentators Around the World Have Drawn Attention to Flaws in Lewandowsky Paper

There has been much attention and derision brought to the Lewandowsky et al paper and it is yet to be officially published. So many people must wonder which University this paper sprang from. Imagine what the response might be from academia should this paper actually see the light of day in a journal, other than as a study of what not to do? There are so many examples I could provide, but it would make for a very long email so I will restrict myself to just a couple:

a) William M Briggs, PhD, Cornell University Professor & Statistical Consultant. His CV is here (http://wmbriggs.com/public/briggs_cv_new.pdf): So he is no bunny with regards to statistical analysis. Here's what he says about Lewandowsky et al's latest work:

"One day a terrific psychological study is going to be written on the madness and mass lunacy which arose after climate change swam into the public's ken. I don't mean the actions and thoughts of the man-in-the-street, which were and are no different in this area than they were and are in any political matters. No: the real curiosity is what happened to academia, inside departments which haven't anything to do with climatology.

There, surrounded by people eager to agree with each other and fuelled by infinite estimates of their own intelligence, great hoards of degreed non-experts, people who couldn't derive the Omega equation if you threatened to remove their tenure and who think Vorticity is a town in Spain, lectured all of mankind on why The End Was Near, Unless...

Unless they, the non-experts, were hearkened to, esteemed, feted, moneyed, and just plain listened to, dammit.

The cornerstone of this future pathological report may well be the peer-reviewed Psychological Science paper "NASA faked the moon landing—Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science" by Stephan Lewandowsky, Klaus Oberauer, and Gilles Gignac, perhaps the completest, most representative work of its odd era.

Everything that could have been done wrong, was done wrong. Every bias that could have been manifested, was manifested. Every fallacy pertinent to the matter at hand was made. The conclusions, regurgitated from unnecessarily complicated statistical procedures, did not follow from the evidence gathered, which itself was suspect. In its way, then, the paper is a jewel, a gift to the future, a fundamental text to how easy it is to fool oneself.

Consider that its errors are not far to seek. Take the opening sentence: "Although nearly all domain experts agree that human CO₂ emissions are altering the world's climate, segments of the public remain unconvinced by the scientific evidence." Isn't that gorgeous? I count at least seven mistakes, and we are only at the very beginning!

Mistake 1: Lewandowsky is not a domain expert, and by his argument is not qualified to speak on matters climatic, yet speak he does.

Mistake 2: His opinion about how to consider the science of climate change is therefore no more valuable than any other non-domain expert's (about the physics), but he considers by this act of publishing that it is.

Mistake 3: He conflates voting with truth. His fallacy is to suppose that because the majority of domain experts say X, X is therefore true.

Mistake 4: He conflates numbers with weight of evidence. His fallacy is to suppose the minority of domain experts who do not agree with the majority are not to be listened to because they are only a minority.

Mistake 5: He confuses physics with economics, a vulgar but common error. It may be true that, say, temperatures will rise by 0.50 C in the next five decades, but it does not follow that any theory of what will happen because of this temperature rise is true, nor is it true that anybody's suggestion to combat the adverse consequences of what will happen is therefore worthy of consideration.

Mistake 6: Since Lewandowsky committed this howler, and is obviously unaware of it, he cannot see it in the people he interviews, who often make a similar error. That is, when a civilian is asked, "Do you believe in climate change?" he often answers "No," but the mistake is to assume he is answering the question as stated, when in reality he has answered the modified question, "Do you believe in climate change and should the government regulate, rule, tax, control, mandate, penalize, etc., etc. to combat this change?" Such an elementary mistake by a psychologist shows us just how far the madness has progressed.

Mistake 7: Lewandowsky, because he is not a domain expert, misunderstood the basic physics. There are no domain experts who do not agree that mankind changes the climate. The only matters in question are: how much? where? when? with what certainty can we know? Notice the absence of "What can be done?" Because this requires expertise in human behaviour, and that expertise is what is suspiciously missing in this paper.

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My dears, I emphasize that this was merely the opening sentence, and that much worse was to come. But before that, there was one more error, more grievous than any other, embedded in his starting sentence. This is Lewandowsky's befuddlement that any non-domain expert could deign to question "the scientific evidence" (when much of what is "science" is instead politics). He assumes that any who do so, even in the admitted presence of disagreement over what "the" science is, suffers from a psychological flaw. Science has spoken, thinks he, and therefore nothing remains to be said. An actual instance of doublethink, and really quite marvellous when you consider the economy of words used to express it.

Now, the rest of Lewdandowsky's work is more mundane. He commits the freshman mistake of only seeking evidence for his beliefs, and for none that would contradict him (and of which there is plenty); he says things like "Another common attribute of the contemporary rejection of science is its reliance on the internet" and then uses the internet himself in his "science"; he questions the influence of Steven McIntyre of Climateaudit forgetting that McIntyre is a domain expert and he, Lewandowsky is not.

He admits confirmation bias by calling dividing his sample into "pro-science" and "skeptic", when the point in question is what the science says. He builds "latent variable" models to "prove" what he already believed, and biased himself to confirm; latent variable analysis being a lovely technique to give desirable results. He amusingly assures his audience of his "theoretical results": not theories of climate, but psychological (academics do love a theory). He can't help himself but use the ugly term denial, an appalling word one would have thought a psychologist would have understood was inappropriate.

As I said, a book could be written, and probably will be written on everything that has gone wrong with this paper.

We haven't time here to list and review each error: we leave that to genuine psychologists.

Source: <http://wmbriggs.com/blog/?p=6164>

b) World renown climate scientist **Judith Curry is Professor and Chair of the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the Georgia Institute of Technology** and President (co-owner) of Climate Forecast Applications Network (CFAN). She received a Ph.D. in Geophysical Sciences from the University of Chicago in 1982. Prior to joining the faculty at Georgia Tech, she held faculty positions at the University of Colorado, Penn State University and Purdue University. **She currently serves on the NASA Advisory Council Earth Science Subcommittee and has recently served on the National Academies Climate Research Committee and the Space Studies Board, and the NOAA Climate Working Group.**

In a recent blog post titled 'BS Detectors' here: <http://judithcurry.com/2012/09/15/bs-detectors/> she wrote:

Conspiracy theorists (?) The latest 'explanation' for lack of belief in the IPCC consensus 'truth' is that these non believers are conspiracy theorists. See Stephan Lewandowsky's editorial Evidence is overrated if you are a conspiracy theorist (<http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/33900.html>). **Lewandowsky's 'evidence' was a scammed internet survey.** Bloggers such as Steve McIntyre, Anthony Watts, Bishop Hill, Lucia, JoNova are all over this, and have exposed the scam (note: there are multiple posts on each of these blogs). BS detection in action. While I have used the term 'auditors' for deep investigations of problems with climate data, BS detection seems much more apt for this particular issue. **Lew, get a clue. I hope this experience with the skeptical bloggers has revealed what they are really all about, as they have revealed YOUR conspiracy by finding a really big pile.**

c) I have traced back one of the most common quotes I have seen used in blog sites and columns around the world to Graham Young, a columnist and freelance writer whom I wasn't particularly aware of previously. But he struck a chord with this:

They say that fish rot from the head, so could the drop in Australia's performance in education be due to the quality of some of the academics holding tenured positions at universities rather than what happens in primary and secondary school?

If credentialled, well-funded and tenured tertiary institution staff are capable of dishing-up research which should fail an undergraduate, what chance have lower echelons?

Which brings me to the case of Professor Stephan Lewandowsky, who has been recently making a career trying to link what he calls "climate denial" with delusion.

His latest project is a study entitled MOTIVATED REJECTION OF SCIENCE and sub-titled "NASA faked the moon landing|Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science".

It could have been sub-titled "The man who polled his prejudices and mistook them for the facts".

He then carried out a detailed analysis of the survey and paper which can be read at various publications and at his personal blog site here: <http://www.ambitgambit.com>

Professor Owens I find it difficult to believe there is no precedent in the history of UWA where a paper has been produced by a member of staff which was sub standard which managed to pass what in this case must have been a very cursory peer review process, where UWA has become aware of the deficiencies in the paper before publication and taken steps to have the paper withdrawn. Alternatively where UWA wish they would have been aware of the deficiencies in time to have such a paper withdrawn.

Being aware of all the issues mentioned above, are you prepared to confirm that:

- a) The University of Western Australia intends to take no action to have the paper withdrawn or significantly re-written before publication? and**
- b) You believe that Winthrop Professor Stephan Lewandowsky and his co-authors in the paper Lewandowsky et al, 'NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science' represents a high standard of work from the School of Psychology at the University of Western Australia and is something the University is proud of?**

Yours Sincerely

On 8 October 2012 08:28, Gina Barron <
Dear

> wrote:

Professor Robyn Owens, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), responded to you on 21 September 2012. Attached is a copy of the email.

Regards, Gina

Gina Barron
Manager, Complaint Resolution Unit

Office of the University Secretary M456A
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35 Stirling Highway Crawley WA 6009
www.complaints.uwa.edu.au

Contacts:
Gina Barron +61 8 (Mon - Fri)
Hayley McFarlane +61 8 (Mon - Wed)
Maggie Van Putten +61 8 (Wed - Fri)
Mobile:
Fax: + 61 8 6488 1075

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IMPORTANT: This email is intended for the individual/entity named above only. It may contain information which is confidential and privileged. If you receive this e-mail in error, please notify me by return e-mail or phone and delete it from your system.

From: [mailto:]
Sent: Sunday, 7 October 2012 10:47 PM
To: Bill Loudon
Cc: Gina Barron

Subject: Re: Lewandowsky et al, ³NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science²

Dear Professor Loudon,

You indicated two weeks ago that a response was being prepared. As yet I have not received a response. Is anyone at the University able to give me an idea when I can expect to be in receipt of a response, and why it is taking so long to draft a response if Professor Lewandowsky's survey, research and analysis is as robust as he and others at UWA have claimed to date?

Thank You

On 24 September 2012 06:47, Bill Loudon < > wrote:
Dear

Thank you for this further information. A University response is currently being prepared.

Sincerely
Bill Loudon

Professor Bill Loudon | Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Vice-Chancellery | M464 | The University of Western Australia | 35 Stirling Highway | Crawley WA 6009
Tel +61 8 | Fax +61 8 6488 1013 | E-Mail
Achieve International Excellence

From: []
Sent: Saturday, 22 September 2012 12:00 AM
To: Bill Loudon
Cc: Paul Johnson
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky et al, ³NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science²

Dear Professor Loudon,

Thank you for your response.

I haven't corresponded with Professor Owens, who I understand is head of research, but I did email Professor Paul Johnson, so perhaps he has forwarded my email to Prof Owens.

I do hope the University takes this matter more seriously than it has in the past, and does not respond with some pat answer about intellectual freedom, and the research having passed the ethics committee and that the paper has passed peer review! That would be akin to the SS officers simply claiming they were following orders. At some stage the University has to be more proactive, and take a closer look at what their officers and representatives are doing.

I am afraid that since writing to yourself and Professor Johnson it appears that Professor Lewandowsky has continued to create more embarrassment with unprofessional behaviour and accusations in order to protect shabby work which was done with the sole objective of 'proving' his pre-held conviction about those he terms climate deniers.

It is quite ironic that any NASA astronaut who has actually landed on the moon and who has been prepared to go on the record with regards their views on climate change are clearly in the 'climate skeptic' camp.

In addition to my previous correspondence, I urge the University to review the behaviour of Prof Lewandowsky which continues to bring disrepute not just on to himself but onto UWA. Below is a link to 'Climate Audit' a blog site of Steve McKintyre's has proven to be a competent statistician. He was one of the team who demonstrated how flawed the now infamous 'Hockey Stick' graph was. He has pointed out some major flaws in Lewandowsky's survey and paper. To which Lewandowsky responded on his personal blog in a very unprofessional manner. You, or whoever is reviewing the matter can read the whole post, but I thought it would be instructive to extract just a small part of McKintyre's response after he had demonstrated the errors in Lewandowsky's explanations: (I have added the bolding). As I understand it, the paper has not yet been published in Psychological Science. It would seem to be doing everyone a favour to have it withdrawn before it is!)

<http://climateaudit.org/2012/09/20/conspiracy-theorist-lewandowsky-tries-to-manufacture-doubt/>

Lewandowsky's Accusations

Lewandowsky ended his blog post with the following accusation:

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Lewandowsky's attempt to divert attention to the number of retained factors was a fabricated diversion on several counts. I made no attempt to emulate lewandowsky's unreported retention procedure. I used two factors to analyse the FM question not because of a "fiat" on my part, but because Lewandowsky himself had used that number. Nor did I propose the use of two factors for the third (CO2) analysis: I noticed that 86% explained variance arose with two factors. As matters turned out, **Lewandowsky had made a different error – one that I had not guessed in my previous post, but one that pervaded his other factor analyses as well.**

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Or else Lewandowsky, cognizant of how thoroughly compromised his results are by fake/fraudulent data, rather than thanking his critics for spotting defects and withdrawing his study, has decided to double down by trying to manufacture doubt about criticism of the degree to which his data and results have been thoroughly compromised in the "hope that no one would see through his manufacture of doubt."

On 19 September 2012 15:57, Bill Loudon <_____> wrote:

Dear

Thank you for this further email. I have been overseas for five weeks on leave and not accessing my email. I understand that you have also been corresponding with the Vice-Chancellor and Professor Owens, and that a University response to you is being prepared.

Yours sincerely
Bill Loudon

Professor Bill Loudon | Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Vice-Chancellery | M464 | The University of Western Australia | 35 Stirling Highway | Crawley WA 6009
Tel +61 8 | Fax +61 8 6488 1013 | E-Mail _____
Achieve International Excellence

From: <_____>

Date: Sun, 9 Sep 2012 23:45:11 +0800

To: Bill Loudon <_____>

Subject: Lewandowsky et al, "NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science"

Surely you and the University cannot be happy with the very poor quality of paper Prof Lewandowsky and others have recently had published. Frankly I am surprised it passed peer review at 'Psychological Science' as I doubt it would pass as the work of a first year undergraduate assignment unless everyone who read it was so blinded by confirmation bias they couldn't see the very obvious flaws in methodology. The title of the paper alone should have been enough to alert people to it's less than scientific objectives.

In the face of questions and criticisms Lewandowsky has compounded his sins with regards this paper with immature and puerile comments rather than address the very appropriate questions and comments raised.

Steve McIntyre at Climate Audit has provided a nicely detailed review of the paper, it's faults and methodology flaws here: <http://climateaudit.org/2012/09/08/lewandowsky-scam/>.

It is high time the University of Western Australia took some action against Professor Lewandowsky who with the assistance of others at the university continues to diminish the universities once good reputation.

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Based on past experience I don't really expect a response or action from you on this matter. In June I wrote to Prof Lewandowsky myself with a question about his paper saying that I intended to do a more detailed review, but he didn't even acknowledge the email, let alone respond.

I am however keeping a copy of all correspondence on these issues so that the University cannot at some point in the future claim they were unaware of Prof Lewandowsky's activities, or that no one had brought their concerns regarding his activities to the attention of the University.

The first place my dossier will be going will be the grants commission and the relevant minister on a change of Federal Government. The Government will be looking for areas to cut costs and the School of Psychology at UWA would be ground zero if this is the quality of work their Professor's continue to publish!

Bernadette Ferns

From: CRU - regoffice
Sent: Tuesday, 9 October 2012 10:34 AM
To: Bernadette Ferns
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky et al, ³NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science²

I think the response was posted by someone on one of the blogs as he immediately followed up with an email that said he hoped he did not get that sort of response. I sent him a copy of the response sent to him yesterday in follow up to an email to Bill. You will see Robyn now has a long response and he notes that he did not get the initial email. He got mine because I replied to his email.

Cheers, Gina

Gina Barron
Manager, Complaint Resolution Unit

Office of the University Secretary M456A
The University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway Crawley WA 6009
www.complaints.uwa.edu.au

Contacts:
Gina Barron +61 8 (Mon - Fri)
Hayley McFarlane +61 8 (Mon - Wed)
Maggie Van Putten +61 8 (Wed - Fri)
Mobile:
Fax: + 61 8 6488 1075

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From: Bernadette Ferns
Sent: Tuesday, 9 October 2012 10:24 AM
To: CRU - regoffice
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky et al, ³NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science²

I could not figure out how he knew it was sent to the wrong email address, because he would not have received it.

Regards
Bernadette

From: CRU - regoffice
Sent: Tuesday, 9 October 2012 10:19 AM
To: Bernadette Ferns
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky et al, ³NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science²

Thanks Bernadette – I will follow up with Maggie. I am not sure though if it is of import as I do not think any response made will be acceptable.

Regards, Gina

Gina Barron
Manager, Complaint Resolution Unit

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From: Bernadette Ferns
Sent: Tuesday, 9 October 2012 10:18 AM
To: CRU - regoffice
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky et al, ³NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science²

Hi Gina

We did get a bounce back and I emailed Maggie to ask for the correct email address but she did not get back to me. My apologies for not following up with her.

Regards
 Bernadette

From: CRU - regoffice
Sent: Tuesday, 9 October 2012 10:15 AM
To: Bernadette Ferns
Subject: FW: Lewandowsky et al, ³NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science²

Hi Bernadette, did we get a bounce back email from this as he is saying it went to the wrong email address?

Regards, Gina

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From: Gina Barron
Sent: Monday, 8 October 2012 8:28 AM
To: '
Cc: Bill Loudon
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky et al, ³NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science²

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Manager, Complaint Resolution Unit

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Tel +61 | Fax +61 8 6488 1013 | E-Mail

Achieve International Excellence

From:]
Sent: Saturday, 22 September 2012 12:00 AM
To: Bill Loudon
Cc: Paul Johnson
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As noted above, **the reason why I was unable to replicate Lewandowsky's explained variance claims was because they were incorrect** – they came from the eigenvectors (from principal components) and not the factors (from factor analysis). The person who appears to be in need of Multivariate 101 is Lewandowsky himself.

Lewandowsky's attempt to divert attention to the number of retained factors was a fabricated diversion on several counts. I made no attempt to emulate Lewandowsky's unreported retention procedure. I used two factors to analyse the FM question not because of a "fiat" on my part, but because Lewandowsky himself had used that number. Nor did I propose the use of two factors for the third (CO2) analysis: I noticed that 86% explained variance arose with two factors. As matters turned out, **Lewandowsky had made a different error – one that I had not guessed in my previous post, but one that pervaded his other factor analyses as well.**

Lewandowsky repugnantly alleged that I might have "intentionally rigged his re-analysis" so that it deviated from our EFA's in the hope that no one would see through his manufacture of doubt."

Lewandowsky's results are bogus because of his reliance on fake and fraudulent data, not because of replication issues in his factor analysis. Nor do I believe that there should be any "doubt" on this point. In my opinion, the evidence is clearcut: **Lewandowsky used fake responses from respondents at stridently anti-skeptic blogs who fraudulently passed themselves off as skeptics [to] the seemingly credulous Lewandowsky.**

That Lewandowsky additionally misrepresented explained variances from principal components as explained variances from factor analysis seems a very minor peccadillo in comparison (as I noted at the time.) On this last point, to borrow Lewandowsky's words, there seem to be two alternatives. **Either Lewandowsky "made a beginner's mistake, in which case he should stop posing as an expert in statistics and take a refresher of Multivariate Analysis 101".**

Or else Lewandowsky, cognizant of how thoroughly compromised his results are by fake/fraudulent data, rather than thanking his critics for spotting defects and withdrawing his study, has decided to double down by trying to manufacture doubt about criticism of the degree to which his data and results have been thoroughly compromised in the "hope that no one would see through his manufacture of doubt."

On 19 September 2012 15:57, Bill Loudon <_____> wrote:

Dear

Thank you for this further email. I have been overseas for five weeks on leave and not accessing my email. I understand that you have also been corresponding with the Vice-Chancellor and Professor Owens, and that a University response to you is being prepared.

Yours sincerely
Bill Loudon

Professor Bill Loudon | Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Vice-Chancellor | M464 | The University of Western Australia | 35 Stirling Highway | Crawley WA 6009
Tel +61 8 _____ | Fax +61 8 6488 1013 | E-Mail _____
Achieve International Excellence

From: <_____>
Date: Sun, 9 Sep 2012 23:45:11 +0800
To: Bill Loudon <_____>
Subject: Lewandowsky et al, "NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science"

Surely you and the University cannot be happy with the very poor quality of paper Prof Lewandowsky and others have recently had published. Frankly I am surprised it passed peer review at 'Psychological Science' as I doubt it would pass as

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the work of a first year undergraduate assignment unless everyone who read it was so blinded by confirmation bias they couldn't see the very obvious flaws in methodology. The title of the paper alone should have been enough to alert people to it's less than scientific objectives.

In the face of questions and criticisms Lewandowsky has compounded his sins with regards this paper with immature and puerile comments rather than address the very appropriate questions and comments raised.

Steve McIntyre at Climate Audit has provided a nicely detailed review of the paper, it's faults and methodology flaws here: <http://climateaudit.org/2012/09/08/lewandowsky-scam/>.

It is high time the University of Western Australia took some action against Professor Lewandowsky who with the assistance of others at the university continues to diminish the universities once good reputation.

Based on past experience I don't really expect a response or action from you on this matter. In June I wrote to Prof Lewandowsky myself with a question about his paper saying that I intended to do a more detailed review, but he didn't even acknowledge the email, let alone respond.

I am however keeping a copy of all correspondence on these issues so that the University cannot at some point in the future claim they were unaware of Prof Lewandowsky's activities, or that no one had brought their concerns regarding his activities to the attention of the University.

The first place my dossier will be going will be the grants commission and the relevant minister on a change of Federal Government. The Government will be looking for areas to cut costs and the School of Psychology at UWA would be ground zero if this is the quality of work their Professor's continue to publish!

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Janeen Robertson

From: Bill Loudon
Sent: Monday, 8 October 2012 8:28 AM
To: Janeen Robertson
Subject: FW: Lewandowsky et al, "NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science"
Attachments: Response Email.pdf

From: Gina Barron
Sent: Monday, October 08, 2012 8:28:01 AM
To: '
Cc: Bill Loudon
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky et al, "NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science"
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Dear

Professor Robyn Owens, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), responded to you on 21 September 2012. Attached is a copy of the email.

Regards, Gina

Gina Barron
Manager, Complaint Resolution Unit

Office of the University Secretary M456A
 The University of Western Australia
 35 Stirling Highway Crawley WA 6009
www.complaints.uwa.edu.au

Contacts:
 Gina Barron +61 8 (Mon – Fri)
 Hayley McFarlane +61 8 (Mon - Wed)
 Maggie Van Putten +61 8 (Wed - Fri)
Mobile:
Fax: + 61 8 6488 1075

CRICOS Provider Code 00126G

IMPORTANT: This email is intended for the individual/entity named above only. It may contain information which is confidential and privileged. If you receive this e-mail in error, please notify me by return e-mail or phone and delete it from your system.

From: [mailto:]
Sent: Sunday, 7 October 2012 10:47 PM
To: Bill Loudon
Cc: Gina Barron
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky et al, "NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science"

Dear Professor Loudon,

You indicated two weeks ago that a response was being prepared. As yet I have not received a response. Is anyone at the University able to give me an idea when I can expect to be in receipt of a response, and why it is taking so long to draft a response if Professor Lewandowsky's survey, research and analysis is as robust as he and others at UWA have claimed to date?

Janeen Robertson

From: Bill Loudon <
Sent: Sunday, 7 October 2012 10:47 PM
To: Janeen Robertson
Subject: FW: Lewandowsky et al, "NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science"

From: [SMTP:
Sent: Sunday, October 07, 2012 10:46:54 PM
To: Bill Loudon
Cc: Gina Barron
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky et al, "NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science"
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Dear Professor Loudon,

You indicated two weeks ago that a response was being prepared. As yet I have not received a response. Is anyone at the University able to give me an idea when I can expect to be in receipt of a response, and why it is taking so long to draft a response if Professor Lewandowsky's survey, research and analysis is as robust as he and others at UWA have claimed to date?

Thank You

On 24 September 2012 06:47, Bill Loudon <
Dear > wrote:

Thank you for this further information. A University response is currently being prepared.

Sincerely
Bill Loudon

Professor Bill Loudon | Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Vice-Chancellery | M464 | The University of Western Australia | 35 Stirling Highway | Crawley WA 6009
Tel +61 8 | Fax +61 8 6488 1013 | E-Mail

Achieve International Excellence

From:]
Sent: Saturday, 22 September 2012 12:00 AM
To: Bill Loudon
Cc: Paul Johnson
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky et al, "NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science"

Dear Professor Loudon,

Thank you for your response.

Bernadette Ferns

From: < >
Sent: Friday, 28 September 2012 11:36 PM
To: DVCR
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky paper

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Professor Owens.

No doubt you are closely following progress on the Professor Stephan Lewandowsky issue. It continues to get considerable coverage on a range of international blogs, some with very high readership. You may not be aware of a thoughtful piece on the issue by The Pointman. thepointman.wordpress.com/2012/09/28/intentions-profiles-and-predictability/

The Pointman gives a useful summary of the state of play on the issue. Professor Lewandowsky doesn't, shall we say, come out looking good.

UWA rates a mention too: "I shudder to think of the impact it's had on the reputations of Lewandowsky, the Psychological Science journal and the University of Western Australia, but the real effect of the paper, which turned out to be a propaganda disaster, will be longer term. Will Lewandowsky find it more difficult to get published in the future? Will Psychological Science continue to accept such activist articles. Will they continue to use the people who peer-reviewed it?

Will the University of Western Australia, continue to lend its good name to what I can only class as propagandist activities? Certainly, if I were an alumnus of that august centre of learning, I'd be having a quiet word, if only to protect the value of my degree. A few more escapades like that, and the place will soon have the academic reputation of the University of Easy Access."

Apologies if you are already familiar with this piece.

On Fri, Sep 21, 2012 at 11:09 AM, DVCR < > wrote:

Dear

Thank you for your recent contact regarding your concerns about the paper "NASA faced the moon landing-Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science" by Lewandowsky, S., Oberauer, K., & Gignac, C. E. (in press, *Psychological Science*).

Your complaint was received and managed consistent with the University Policy on: Public Complaints. Information about the policy and the associated can be found at:
<http://www.complaints.uwa.edu.au/home/general#Whatis>

As a member of the University Executive and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), the matters were referred to me for consideration. I have completed my review and find that:

1. The focus of Professor Lewandowsky's research relates directly to his interest and expertise in scepticism and the updating of memory. As such, the topic of this paper of is well within his remit and consistent with the University's Code of Ethics and in particular the academic freedom of staff;
2. The research was undertaken in a manner compliant with the University's strict Human Ethics approval;
3. A review of all correspondence to the blog sites was undertaken confirming the contact with blog sites;
4. In considering the release of the names of the blog sites that did not respond to Prof Lewandowsky's initial request, it is noted that Prof Lewandowsky was concerned that he would breach research ethics by releasing the names. Following receipt of legal advice, Prof Lewandowsky has now released the names of the blog sites; and
5. The paper has been peer-reviewed and accepted in a high quality, international journal.

Academic freedom is recognised and protected by this University as essential to the proper conduct of teaching, research and scholarship. Freedom of intellectual thought and enquiry and the open exchange of ideas and evidence are a University core value. It is the University's expectation that all academic and research staff are guided by a commitment to freedom of inquiry and exercise their traditional rights to examine social values and to criticise and challenge the belief structures of society in the spirit of a responsible and honest search for knowledge and its dissemination.

The University recognises your right to express your concern and I believe that we have appropriately considered the matters you have raised.

Regards

Professor Robyn Owens
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
The University of Western Australia, M460
35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009
Phone: +61 8
Fax: +61 8 6488 1013
Email:
CRICOS Provider number 00126G

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Bernadette Ferns

From: Stephan Lewandowsky
Sent: Friday, 28 September 2012 9:43 AM
To: Robyn Owens
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky paper

Hi Robyn, thanks. Funny thing that the 'tight knit' community he refers to is (a) the peer-reviewed literature and (b) the mainstream media to date. Both have been supportive of my work without exception. The only place where there has been frenetic noise is in the blogosphere, but none of that shows up in my Google alert so it is contained to a very small but noisy (and tightly knit, perhaps?) community (<http://www.shapingtomorrowsworld.org/lewandowskyPluralIgno.html>).

My sense is that even that noise is slowly ebbing, although it will be reinvigorated in October when the emails to the blogs are being released under FOI. They will trigger at least 2 further conspiracy theories (I can already guess which), and I have a team of researchers standing by to trace their evolution on the web for our next paper.

I have never had any of my research confirmed so thoroughly (and involuntarily) by people's responses.

Regards Steve

From: Robyn Owens
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 9:31 AM
To: Stephan Lewandowsky
Subject: Fwd: Lewandowsky paper

FYI.

Robyn

Professor Robyn Owens | Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

M460 The University of Western Australia

T: +61 8 | F: +61 8 6488 1013 | M: | E:

Begin forwarded message:

From: < >
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky paper
Date: September 28, 2012 8:55:27 AM GMT+08:00
To: DVCR < >
Reply-To: < >

Dear Robyn,

Released under Freedom of Information Act, 1992

||It's too bad your group seem intent on passing off badly formulated arguments and strawmen as real science.

Not getting a lot of love outside you tight knit community though.|

<http://noconsensus.wordpress.com/2012/09/27/lewandowsky-to-remove-all-blog-based-references/>

Regards

From: DVCR < >
To: < >
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2012 9:09 AM
Subject: Lewandowsky paper

Dear

Thank you for your recent contact regarding your concerns about the paper "NASA faced the moon landing- Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science" by Lewandowsky, S., Oberauer, K., & Gignac, C. E. (in press, *Psychological Science*).

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The University recognises your right to express your concern and I believe that we have appropriately considered the matters you have raised.

Regards

Professor Robyn Owens
 Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
 The University of Western Australia, M460

Bernadette Ferns

From: < >
Sent: Wednesday, 26 September 2012 10:11 AM
To: DVCR
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky paper

Dear Professor Owens,

I'm so glad that you are satisfied.

It logically follows then that we can get an understanding of the thinking of ALP supporters by asking Liberal or National supporters their opinions.

We can also find out the beliefs of Christians by polling Atheists. What an interesting and novel concept.

You do not get an accurate description of sceptic views by polling at stridently "warmist" sites. If this piece of basic common sense eludes the faculty of the UWA then I'm afraid there is no hope for decent research in your institution.

And really, "peer reviewed and accepted"? As if that means anything. As an avid reader of Retractionwatch I'm well aware that many openly fraudulent papers "pass" peer review. Considering the way the paper is being shredded even by warmists statisticians I can only assume that those doing the peer review are deficient in basic language and mathematical skills. But review is done Gratis and I suppose you get what you pay for. ;-)

<http://retractionwatch.wordpress.com/>

I would also point out that your point 5 is nothing more than the logical fallacy of "Appeal to Authority" and I frankly expected better from a Professor.

Regards,

----- Original Message -----

From: DVCR
To: .
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2012 11:09 AM
Subject: Lewandowsky paper

Dear

Thank you for your recent contact regarding your concerns about the paper "NASA faced the moon landing- Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science" by Lewandowsky, S., Oberauer, K., & Gignac, C. E. (in press, *Psychological Science*).

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The University recognises your right to express your concern and I believe that we have appropriately considered the matters you have raised.

Regards

Professor Robyn Owens
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
The University of Western Australia, M460
35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009
Phone: +61 8
Fax: +61 8 6488 1013
Email:
CRICOS Provider number 00126G

Bernadette Ferns

From: Bernadette Ferns
Sent: Tuesday, 25 September 2012 10:38 AM
To: Paul Johnson; Bill Loudon
Cc: Holly Beattie; Janeen Robertson; Gina Barron; Robyn Owens
Subject: Lewandowsky paper

Dear Paul and Bill

Robyn has responded to all complaints/comments received in relation to Stephan Lewandowsky's paper. A copy of her response is given below, for your information.

Regards

Bernadette Ferns
Exec Asstt to Prof. Robyn Owens, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
The University of Western Australia (M460)
Phone: (61-8) | Fax: (61-8) 6488 1013 | Email:

Thank you for your recent contact regarding your concerns about the paper "NASA faced the moon landing- Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science" by Lewandowsky, S., Oberauer, K., & Gignac, C. E. (in press, *Psychological Science*).

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Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
The University of Western Australia, M460
35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009
Phone: +61 8
Fax: +61 8 6488 1013
Email: _____
CRICOS Provider number 00126G

Bernadette Ferns

From: Robyn Owens
Sent: Monday, 24 September 2012 3:21 PM
To: Maggie Van Putten
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky paper

Hi Maggie

This one bounced back as well. Is the email address correct?

Regards
Bernadette

From: Maggie Van Putten
Sent: Friday, 21 September 2012 9:55 AM
To: Bernadette Ferns; Gina Barron
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky paper

Hi Bernadette
Apologies, I think I left off the .au – the one below is correct.

Regards
Maggie

Maggie Van Putten | Project and Policy Officer

Complaint Resolution Unit
Office of the University Secretary
The University of Western Australia
Phone

From: Bernadette Ferns
Sent: Friday, 21 September 2012 9:21 AM
To: Gina Barron
Subject: FW: Lewandowsky paper

Gina

This one bounced back.

Regards
Bernadette

From: DVCR
Sent: Friday, 21 September 2012 9:10 AM

To:

Subject: Lewandowsky paper

Dear

Thank you for your recent contact regarding your concerns about the paper "NASA faced the moon landing- Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science" by Lewandowsky, S., Oberauer, K., & Gignac, C. E. (in press, *Psychological Science*).

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Professor Robyn Owens
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
The University of Western Australia, M460
35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009
Phone: +61 8
Fax: +61 8 6488 1013
Email:
CRICOS Provider number 00126G

Janeen Robertson

From: Bill Loudon
Sent: Monday, 24 September 2012 9:46 AM
To: Janeen Robertson
Subject: FW: Lewandowsky et al, ³NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science²

From: Bill Loudon < >
Date: Mon, 24 Sep 2012 06:47:30 +0800
To: < >
Cc: Gina Barron < >
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky et al, ³NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science²

Dear

Thank you for this further information. A University response is currently being prepared.

Sincerely
Bill Loudon

Professor Bill Loudon | Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Vice-Chancellery | M464 | The University of Western Australia | 35 Stirling Highway | Crawley WA 6009
Tel +61 8 | Fax + 61 8 6488 1013 | E-Mail _____

Achieve International Excellence

From:]
Sent: Saturday, 22 September 2012 12:00 AM
To: Bill Loudon
Cc: Paul Johnson
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky et al, ³NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science²

Dear Professor Loudon,

Thank you for your response.

I haven't corresponded with Professor Owens, who I understand is head of research, but I did email Professor Paul Johnson, so perhaps he has forwarded my email to Prof Owens.

I do hope the University takes this matter more seriously than it has in the past, and does not respond with some pat answer about intellectual freedom, and the research having passed the ethics committee and that the paper has passed peer review! That would be akin to the SS officers simply claiming they were following orders. At some stage the University has to be more proactive, and take a closer look at what their officers and representatives are doing.

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I am afraid that since writing to yourself and Professor Johnson it appears that Professor Lewandowsky has continued to create more embarrassment with unprofessional behaviour and accusations in order to protect shabby work which was done with the sole objective of 'proving' his pre-held conviction about those he terms climate deniers.

It is quite ironic that any NASA astronaut who has actually landed on the moon and who has been prepared to go on the record with regards their views on climate change are clearly in the 'climate skeptic' camp.

In addition to my previous correspondence, I urge the University to review the behaviour of Prof Lewandowsky which continues to bring disrepute not just on to himself but onto UWA. Below is a link to 'Climate Audit' a blog site of Steve McIntyre's has proven to be a competent statistician. He was one of the team who demonstrated how flawed the now infamous 'Hockey Stick' graph was. He has pointed out some major flaws in Lewandowsky's survey and paper. To which Lewandowsky responded on his personal blog in a very unprofessional manner. You, or whoever is reviewing the matter can read the whole post, but I thought it would be instructive to extract just a small part of McIntyre's response after he had demonstrated the errors in Lewandowsky's explanations: (I have added the bolding). As I understand it, the paper has not yet been published in Psychological Science. It would seem to be doing everyone a favour to have it withdrawn before it is!

<http://climateaudit.org/2012/09/20/conspiracy-theorist-lewandowsky-tries-to-manufacture-doubt/>

Lewandowsky's Accusations

Lewandowsky ended his blog post with the following accusation:

There are two explanations for this obvious flaw in Mr. McIntyre's re-"analysis": Either he made a beginner's mistake, in which case he should stop posing as an expert in statistics and take a refresher of Multivariate Analysis 101. Or else, he intentionally rigged his re-"analysis" so that it deviated from our EFA's in the hope that no one would see through his manufacture of doubt.

As noted above, **the reason why I was unable to replicate Lewandowsky's explained variance claims was because they were incorrect** they came from the eigenvectors (from principal components) and not the factors (from factor analysis). The person who appears to be in need of Multivariate 101 is Lewandowsky himself.

Lewandowsky's attempt to divert attention to the number of retained factors was a fabricated diversion on several counts. I made no attempt to emulate lewandowsky's unreported retention procedure. I used two factors to analyse the FM question not because of a "fiat" on my part, but because Lewandowsky himself had used that number. Nor did I propose the use of two factors for the third (CO2) analysis: I noticed that 86% explained variance arose with two factors. As matters turned out, **Lewandowsky had made a different error one that I had not guessed in my previous post, but one that pervaded his other factor analyses as well.**

Lewandowsky repugnantly alleged that I might have "intentionally rigged his re-"analysis" so that it deviated from our EFA's in the hope that no one would see through his manufacture of doubt."

Lewandowsky's results are bogus because of his reliance on fake and fraudulent data, not because of replication issues in his factor analysis. Nor do I believe that there should be any "doubt" on this point. In my opinion, the evidence is clearcut: **Lewandowsky used fake responses from respondents at stridently anti-skeptical blogs who fraudulently passed themselves off as skeptics [to] the seemingly credulous Lewandowsky.**

That Lewandowsky additionally misrepresented explained variances from principal components as explained variances from factor analysis seems a very minor peccadillo in comparison (as I noted at the time.) On this last point, to borrow Lewandowsky's words, there seem to be two alternatives. **Either Lewandowsky "made a beginner's mistake, in which case he should stop posing as an expert in statistics and take a refresher of Multivariate Analysis 101".**

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else Lewandowsky, cognizant of how thoroughly compromised his results are by fake/fraudulent data, rather than thanking his critics for spotting defects and withdrawing his study, has decided to double down by trying to manufacture doubt about criticism of the degree to which his data and results have been thoroughly compromised in the "hope that no one would see through his manufacture of doubt."

On 19 September 2012 15:57, Bill Loudon < > wrote:
Dear

Thank you for this further email. I have been overseas for five weeks on leave and not accessing my email. I understand that you have also been corresponding with the Vice-Chancellor and Professor Owens, and that a University response to you is being prepared.

Yours sincerely
Bill Loudon

Professor Bill Loudon | Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Vice-Chancellery | M464 | The University of Western Australia | 35 Stirling Highway | Crawley WA 6009
Tel +61 8 | Fax +61 8 6488 1013 | E-Mail
Achieve International Excellence

From: < >
Date: Sun, 9 Sep 2012 23:45:11 +0800
To: Bill Loudon < >
Subject: Lewandowsky et al, "NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science"

Surely you and the University cannot be happy with the very poor quality of paper Prof Lewandowsky and others have recently had published. Frankly I am surprised it passed peer review at 'Psychological Science' as I doubt it would pass as the work of a first year undergraduate assignment unless everyone who read it was so blinded by confirmation bias they couldn't see the very obvious flaws in methodology. The title of the paper alone should have been enough to alert people to it's less than scientific objectives.

In the face of questions and criticisms Lewandowsky has compounded his sins with regards this paper with immature and puerile comments rather than address the very appropriate questions and comments raised.

Steve McIntyre at Climate Audit has provided a nicely detailed review of the paper, it's faults and methodology flaws here: <http://climateaudit.org/2012/09/08/lewandowsky-scam/>.

It is high time the University of Western Australia took some action against Professor Lewandowsky who with the assistance of others at the university continues to diminish the universities once good reputation.

Based on past experience I don't really expect a response or action from you on this matter. In June I wrote to Prof. Lewandowsky myself with a question about his paper saying that I intended to do a more detailed review, but he didn't even acknowledge the email, let alone respond.

I am however keeping a copy of all correspondence on these issues so that the University cannot at some point in the future claim they were unaware of Prof Lewandowsky's activities, or that no one had brought their concerns regarding his activities to the attention of the University.

The first place my dossier will be going will be the grants commission and the relevant minister on a change of Federal Government. The Government will be looking for areas to cut costs and the School of Psychology at UWA would be ground zero if this is the quality of work their Professor's continue to publish!

Bernadette Ferns

From: Gina Barron
Sent: Monday, 24 September 2012 9:40 AM
To: Robyn Owens
Subject: FW: Lewandowsky et al, ²NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science²

Hi Robyn,

I am fairly sure that 's email to Bill was sent after he received the response. We will add to the file.

Regards, Gina

Gina Barron
Manager, Complaint Resolution Unit

Office of the University Secretary M456A
 The University of Western Australia
 35 Stirling Highway Crawley WA 6009
www.complaints.uwa.edu.au

Contacts:
 Gina Barron +61 8 (Mon – Fri)
 Hayley McFarlane +61 8 (Mon - Wed)
 Maggie Van Putten +61 8 (Wed - Fri)
Mobile:
Fax: + 61 8 6488 1075

CRICOS Provider Code 00126G

IMPORTANT: This email is intended for the individual/entity named above only. It may contain information which is confidential and privileged. If you receive this e-mail in error, please notify me by return e-mail or phone and delete it from your system.

From: Bill Loudon
Sent: Monday, 24 September 2012 6:48 AM
To:
Cc: Gina Barron
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky et al, ³NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science²

Dear

Thank you for this further information. A University response is currently being prepared.

Sincerely
 Bill Loudon

Professor Bill Loudon | Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor
 Vice-Chancellery | M464 | The University of Western Australia | 35 Stirling Highway | Crawley WA 6009
 Tel +61 8 | Fax + 61 8 6488 1013 | E-Mail

Achieve International Excellence

Bernadette Ferns

From: Gina Barron
Sent: Monday, 24 September 2012 9:07 AM
To: Bernadette Ferns
Subject: Robyn's response re Lewandowski

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Monday, 24 September 2012 11:30 AM
Flag Status: Completed

Hi Bernadette – could you please send a copy of Robyn's response to Bill and Paul so they know that the review by Robyn is completed. Thanks.

Regards, Gina

Gina Barron
Manager, Complaint Resolution Unit

Office of the University Secretary M456A
The University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway Crawley WA 6009
www.complaints.uwa.edu.au

Contacts:
Gina Barron +61 8 (Mon – Fri)
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Bernadette Ferns

From: Stephan Lewandowsky
Sent: Saturday, 22 September 2012 7:09 PM
To: Robyn Owens
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky paper

Hi Robyn, thanks for that, I am pleased that the recipients of your responses replied in a more-or-less constructive manner.

The internet is still abuzz with re-"analyses" of our data.

It also wouldn't surprise me if the impending release of the emails to the blogs, which must occur on or before 18 October, will elicit another storm of conspiracy theorizing and (possibly) complaints. Not that there is anything in those emails, but that's never stopped anyone.

Regards Steve

PS: I am heading to Heathrow later today, will be back in WA late Sunday, back at UWA on Monday.

From: Robyn Owens
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 3:43 PM
To: Stephan Lewandowsky
Subject: Fwd: Lewandowsky paper

Another..

R

Begin forwarded message:

From: <_____>
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky paper
Date: 21 September 2012 10:17:38 AM AWST
To: DVCR <_____>

Robyn,

Thank you for your polite and detailed response.

On Fri, Sep 21, 2012 at 11:09 AM, DVCR <_____>

> wrote:

Dear

Thank you for your recent contact regarding your concerns about the paper "NASA faced the moon landing-
 herefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science" by
 wandowsky, S., Oberauer, K., & Gignac, C. E. (in press, *Psychological Science*).

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<http://www.complaints.uwa.edu.au/home/general#Whatis>

As a member of the University Executive and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), the matters were referred to me for consideration. I have completed my review and find that:

1. The focus of Professor Lewandowsky's research relates directly to his interest and expertise in scepticism and the updating of memory. As such, the topic of this paper of is well within his remit and consistent with the University's Code of Ethics and in particular the academic freedom of staff;
2. The research was undertaken in a manner compliant with the University's strict Human Ethics approval;
3. A review of all correspondence to the blog sites was undertaken confirming the contact with blog sites;
4. In considering the release of the names of the blog sites that did not respond to Prof Lewandowsky's initial request, it is noted that Prof Lewandowsky was concerned that he would breach research ethics by releasing the names. Following receipt of legal advice, Prof Lewandowsky has now released the names of the blog sites; and
5. The paper has been peer-reviewed and accepted in a high quality, international journal.

Academic freedom is recognised and protected by this University as essential to the proper conduct of teaching, research and scholarship. Freedom of intellectual thought and enquiry and the open exchange of ideas and evidence are a University core value. It is the University's expectation that all academic and research staff are guided by a commitment to freedom of inquiry and exercise their traditional rights to examine social values and to criticise and challenge the belief structures of society in the spirit of a responsible and honest search for knowledge and its dissemination.

The University recognises your right to express your concern and I believe that we have appropriately considered the matters you have raised.

Regards

Professor Robyn Owens
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
The University of Western Australia, M460
5 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009
one: +61 8

Janeen Robertson

From: Bill Loudon < >
Sent: Saturday, 22 September 2012 12:00 AM
To: Janeen Robertson
Subject: FW: Lewandowsky et al, 'NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science'

From: [SMTP:
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 12:00:20 AM
To: Bill Loudon
Cc: Paul Johnson
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky et al, 'NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science'
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Dear Professor Loudon,

Thank you for your response.

I haven't corresponded with Professor Owens, who I understand is head of research, but I did email Professor Paul Johnson, so perhaps he has forwarded my email to Prof Owens.

I do hope the University takes this matter more seriously than it has in the past, and does not respond with some pat answer about intellectual freedom, and the research having passed the ethics committee and that the paper has passed peer review! That would be akin to the SS officers simply claiming they were following orders. At some stage the University has to be more proactive, and take a closer look at what their officers and representatives are doing.

I am afraid that since writing to yourself and Professor Johnson it appears that Professor Lewandowsky has continued to create more embarrassment with unprofessional behaviour and accusations in order to protect shabby work which was done with the sole objective of 'proving' his pre-held conviction about those he terms climate deniers.

It is quite ironic that any NASA astronaut who has actually landed on the moon and who has been prepared to go on the record with regards their views on climate change are clearly in the 'climate skeptic' camp.

In addition to my previous correspondence, I urge the University to review the behaviour of Prof Lewandowsky which continues to bring disrepute not just on to himself but onto UWA. Below is a link to 'Climate Audit' a blog site of Steve McKintyre's has proven to be a competent statistician. He was one of the team who demonstrated how flawed the now infamous 'Hockey Stick' graph was. He has pointed out some major flaws in Lewandowsky's survey and paper. To which Lewandowsky responded on his personal blog in a very unprofessional manner. You, or whoever is reviewing the matter can read the whole post, but I thought it would be instructive to extract just a small part of McKintyre's response after he had demonstrated the errors in Lewandowsky's explanations: (I have added the bolding). As I understand it, the paper has not yet been published in Psychological Science. It would seem to be doing everyone a favour to have it withdrawn before it is!)

<http://climateaudit.org/2012/09/20/conspiracy-theorist-lewandowsky-tries-to-manufacture-doubt/>

Lewandowsky's Accusations

Madette Ferns

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From: <
Sent: Saturday, 22 September 2012 11:54 AM
To: DVCR
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky paper

Dear Sir thank you for your reply, just to save myself the trouble of rewriting a reply I refer you to the comments on Joe Nova's page. Suffice to say I am yet to meet a skeptic who believes the moonlanding was faked so the strawman argument from the start should have give you pause for thought. Obviously that was not the case, but given the shoddy work of this paper no surprises there. It's too bad your institution is following in the footsteps of many others around the world, promoting and protecting shoddy work practices and then hiding under the umbrella of "Academic Freedom".

<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/08/lewandowsky-shows-skeptics-are-nutters-by-asking-alarmists-to-fill-out-survey/>

From: DVCR <
To: "
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2012 9:09 AM
Subject: Lewandowsky paper

Dear

Thank you for your recent contact regarding your concerns about the paper "NASA faced the moon landing- Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science" by Lewandowsky, S., Oberauer, K., & Gignac, C. E. (in press, *Psychological Science*).

Your complaint was received and managed consistent with the University Policy on: Public Complaints. Information about the policy and the associated can be found at: <http://www.complaints.uwa.edu.au/home/general#Whatis>

As a member of the University Executive and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), the matters were referred to me for consideration. I have completed my review and find that:

1. The focus of Professor Lewandowsky's research relates directly to his interest and expertise in scepticism and the updating of memory. As such, the topic of this paper of is well within his remit and consistent with the University's Code of Ethics and in particular the academic freedom of staff;
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5. The paper has been peer-reviewed and accepted in a high quality, international journal.

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examine social values and to criticise and challenge the belief structures of society in the spirit of a responsible and honest search for knowledge and its dissemination. 111

The University recognises your right to express your concern and I believe that we have appropriately considered the matters you have raised.

Regards

Professor Robyn Owens
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
The University of Western Australia, M460
35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009
Phone: +61 8
Fax: +61 8 6488 1013
Email:
CRICOS Provider number 00126G

idette Ferns

Friday, 21 September 2012 8:31 PM
DVCR
Re: Lewandowsky paper

Subject:

Thank you for your response, it is appreciated. I should note that Steve McIntyre, who runs the website Climate Audit and is a professional statistician, unlike Prof. Lewandowsky, has debunked the Professor's use of statistics in this paper comprehensively. As an intelligent and reasonable sceptic, myself, I found the paper risible, and a means just for the Professor to publish his own bizarre views which themselves suggest that he thinks climate scepticism to be a conspiracy. He seems a little obsessed, and if he did not purvey his views in such an unpleasant manner, I would feel sorry for him. As it is, I rather think he is personality disordered. I say this having had personal experience of such.

Peer review. Ah yes. Michael Mann's now completely discredited paper with the infamous Hockey Stick was peer reviewed. The process is not worth a cent any more.

Kind regards,

On 21/09/2012 02:09, DVCR wrote:

Dear

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35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009
Phone: +61 8
Fax: +61 8 6488 1013
Email:
CRICOS Provider number 00126G

Bernadette Ferns

From: < >
Sent: Friday, 21 September 2012 11:50 PM
To: DVCR
Subject: RE: Lewandowsky paper

Professor Robyn Owens:

Thank you for your reply.

You have convinced me that Dr. Lewandowsky acted within your University's ethical standards.

You have not convinced me that Dr. Lewandowsky's paper "failed basic tests of competency." You argue "The paper has been peer-reviewed and accepted in a high quality, international journal." First, as you are surely aware, acceptance in a "high quality, international journal" does not ensure correctness. There have been many published papers in a multitude of disciplines that have under the light of intense scrutiny proved to be flawed. Second, apparently experts in statistics (e.g., Steve McIntyre and William M. Briggs) deplore not only the way Dr. Lewandowsky conducted the survey, they deplore Dr. Lewandowsky's statistical treatment. Third and last, the UWA must be aware of the fact that "peer review" in the field of climate science has been tainted almost beyond recovery and is considered by many to be a joke. If (a) you had submitted Dr. Lewandowsky's statistical analysis to three professional statisticians (one who believes in Anthropogenic Global Warming, one who doesn't, and one who is neutral, and (b) they all concluded that Dr. Lewandowsky's statistical analysis was consistent with good statistical practices, then you would have convinced me of the paper's competency. As it now stands, you haven't.

Again, thank you for your response.

From: _____
To: _____
Date: Fri, 21 Sep 2012 09:09:54 +0800
Subject: Lewandowsky paper

Dear

Thank you for your recent contact regarding your concerns about the paper "NASA faced the moon landing-Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science" by Lewandowsky, S., Oberauer, K., & Gignac, C. E. (in press, *Psychological Science*).

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commitment to freedom of inquiry and exercise their traditional rights to examine social values and to criticise and challenge the belief structures of society in the spirit of a responsible and honest search for knowledge and its dissemination.

The University recognises your right to express your concern and I believe that we have appropriately considered the matters you have raised.

Regards

Professor Robyn Owens
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
The University of Western Australia, M460
35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009
Phone: +61 8
Fax: +61 8 6488 1013
Email: _____
CRICOS Provider number 00126G

Bernadette Ferns

From: <
Sent: Friday, 21 September 2012 10:34 AM
To: DVCR
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky paper

Hello,

To clarify, my correspondence was not a complaint, I just had some questions after reading the paper. Still mostly unanswered, but not a big deal.

Thanks,

On Sep 20, 2012, at 8:09 PM, DVCR < > wrote:

Dear

Thank you for your recent contact regarding your concerns about the paper "NASA faced the moon landing-Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science" by Lewandowsky, S., Oberauer, K., & Gignac, C. E. (in press, *Psychological Science*).

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The University recognises your right to express your concern and I believe that we have appropriately considered the matters you have raised.

Regards

Professor Robyn Owens
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
The University of Western Australia, M460
35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009
Phone: +61 8
Fax: +61 8 6488 1013
Email:
CRICOS Provider number 00126G

Bernadette Ferns

From: < >
Sent: Friday, 21 September 2012 10:18 AM
To: DVCR
Subject: Re: Lewandowsky paper

Robyn,

Thank you for your polite and detailed response.

On Fri, Sep 21, 2012 at 11:09 AM, DVCR < > wrote:

Dear

Thank you for your recent contact regarding your concerns about the paper "NASA faced the moon landing- Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science" by Lewandowsky, S., Oberauer, K., & Gignac, C. E. (in press, *Psychological Science*).

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Gina Barron

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From: Bernadette Ferns
Sent: Friday, 21 September 2012 9:20 AM
To: Gina Barron
Subject: FW: Lewandowsky paper

From: DVCR
Sent: Friday, 21 September 2012 9:10 AM
To:
Subject: Lewandowsky paper

Dear

Thank you for your recent contact regarding your concerns about the paper "NASA faced the moon landing- Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science" by Lewandowsky, S., Oberauer, K., & Gignac, C. E. (in press, *Psychological Science*).

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The University recognises your right to express your concern and I believe that we have appropriately considered the matters you have raised.

Regards

Professor Robyn Owens
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
The University of Western Australia, M460
35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009
Phone: +61 8
Fax: +61 8 6488 1013

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mail:
RICOS Provider number 00126G

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Bernadette Ferns

From: Bernadette Ferns
Sent: Friday, 21 September 2012 9:18 AM
To: Gina Barron
Subject: FW: Draft response re Lewandowsky paper
Attachments: Complainant listing for Lewandowsky.docx

Dear Gina

I have sent these responses to the people list. I'll forward you a copy.

One of the emails bounced back:

Regards

Bernadette Ferns
Exec Asstt to Prof. Robyn Owens, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
The University of Western Australia (M460)
Phone: (61-8) | Fax: (61-8) 6488 1013 | Email: _____

From: Gina Barron
Sent: Thursday, 20 September 2012 12:59 PM
To: Bernadette Ferns
Subject: FW: Draft response re Lewandowsky paper

Hi Bernadette,

Attached is a list of each of the complainants and their email address for your use. When you have sent them all, if you can forward them back to me we will place them on file.

Regards, Gina

Gina Barron
Manager, Complaint Resolution Unit

Office of the University Secretary M456A
The University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway Crawley WA 6009
www.complaints.uwa.edu.au

Contacts:
Gina Barron +61 8 (Mon - Fri)
Hayley McFarlane +61 8 (Mon - Wed)
Maggie Van Putten +61 8 (Wed - Fri)
Mobile:
Fax: + 61 8 6488 1075

CRICOS Provider Code 00126G

IMPORTANT: This email is intended for the individual/entity named above only. It may contain information which is confidential and privileged. If you receive this e-mail in error, please notify me by return e-mail or phone and delete it from your system.

From: Robyn Owens
Sent: Thursday, 20 September 2012 10:47 AM
To: Gina Barron

sed under Freedom of Information Act, 1992
Bernadette Ferns
Subject: Re: Draft response re Lewandowsky paper

122

Thanks Gina,

This is good. I'm happy for it to come from my DVCR email. Can you send Bernadette the full list of emails addresses? There are a couple of little typos which I have corrected in the text below:

Dear

Thank you for your recent contact regarding your concerns about the paper "NASA faced the moon landing- Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science" by Lewandowsky, S., Oberauer, K., & Gignac, C. E. (in press, *Psychological Science*).

Your complaint was received and managed consistent with the University Policy on Public Complaints. Information about the policy and the associated can be found at: <http://www.complaints.uwa.edu.au/home/general#WhatIs>

As a member of the University Executive and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), the matters were referred to me for consideration. I have completed my review and find that:

1. The focus of Professor Lewandowsky's research relates directly to his interest and expertise in scepticism and the updating of memory. As such the topic of this paper is well within his remit and consistent with the University's Code of Ethics and in particular the academic freedom of staff;
2. The research was undertaken in a manner compliant with the University's strict Human Ethics approval;
3. A review of all correspondence to the blog sites was undertaken confirming the contact with blog sites;
4. In considering the release of the names of the blog sites that did not respond to Prof Lewandowsky's initial request it is noted that Prof Lewandowsky was concerned that he would breach research ethics by releasing the names. Following receipt of legal advice, Prof Lewandowsky has now released the names of the blog sites; and
5. The paper has been peer-reviewed and accepted in a high quality, international journal.

Academic freedom is recognised and protected by this University as essential to the proper conduct of teaching, research and scholarship. Freedom of intellectual thought and enquiry and the open exchange of ideas and evidence are a University core value. It is the University's expectation that all academic and research staff are guided by a commitment to freedom of inquiry and exercise their traditional rights to examine social values and to criticise and challenge the belief structures of society in the spirit of a responsible and honest search for knowledge and its dissemination.

The University recognises your right to express your concern and I believe that we have appropriately considered the matters you have raised.

Regards,

Professor Robyn Owens | Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

M460 The University of Western Australia

T: +61 8

| F: +61 8 6488 1013 | M:

| E: _____

Dear

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The University recognises your right to express your concern and I believe that we have appropriately considered the matters you have raised.

Regards,

Name	Email	Date responded to
	<u>@rankexploits.com</u>	
	<u>@climatedepot.com</u>	
	<u>@scef.org.uk</u>	

Madette Ferns

From: DVCR
Sent: Friday, 21 September 2012 9:10 AM
To:
Subject: Lewandowsky paper

Dear

Thank you for your recent contact regarding your concerns about the paper "NASA faced the moon landing- Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science" by Lewandowsky, S., Oberauer, K., & Gignac, C. E. (in press, *Psychological Science*).

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Professor Robyn Owens
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
The University of Western Australia, M460
35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009
Phone: +61 8
Fax: +61 8 6488 1013
Email:
CRICOS Provider number 00126G

Bernadette Ferns

From: Bill Loudon
Sent: Wednesday, 19 September 2012 4:07 PM
To: Robyn Owens; Gina Barron
Subject: Re: Professor Stephan Lewandowsky
Attachments: Re: Your Prof Lewandowsky

FYI – I have received a number of emails from _____ and replied to them. I have not responded to the details of his claims, but to the general matter of academic fair comment. I attach the 2012 round of correspondence. There was also a round of correspondence in 2011. I was on leave when he wrote to me on 9 September this year, and have responded today to let him know that a University response is being prepared. Cheers, Bill

Professor Bill Loudon | Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Vice-Chancellery | M464 | The University of Western Australia | 35 Stirling Highway | Crawley WA 6009
Tel +61 8 _____ | Fax +61 8 6488 1013 | E-Mail _____
Achieve International Excellence

From: Robyn Owens <_____>
Date: Wed, 19 Sep 2012 07:38:28 +0800
To: Gina Barron <_____>, Stephan Lewandowsky <_____>
Cc: Bill Loudon <_____>
Subject: Fwd: Professor Stephan Lewandowsky

Hi Gina,

Can you respond to this one with a standard response, on Paul's behalf, and then we should look at the final response we send all of them on the process we have undertaken since these complaints began. I don't think I have received any of his complaints so far.

Thanks,

Robyn

Begin forwarded message:

From: Paul Johnson <_____>
Subject: FW: Professor Stephan Lewandowsky
Date: 18 September 2012 5:03:46 PM AWST
To: Robyn Owens <_____>

Robyn,
Another one requiring the standard response. Make sure you keep a record.
Paul

--
Professor Paul Johnson
Vice-Chancellor
The University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway
Crawley, 6009
Western Australia
T: (08)
E:

From: < >
 To: Paul Johnson < >
 Subject: Professor Stephan Lewandowsky

Dear Professor Paul Johnson,

I have written to the University a number of times regarding my concerns about Professor Stephan Lewandowsky. It is my belief that he has breached UWA's guidelines regarding members of staff speaking publicly on matters outside their area of expertise when identifying themselves as members of the University faculty. The correspondence will be on file and while Lewandowsky and his supporters have claimed that his work, and public speeches and writings have been relevant to his work in cognitive memory and related areas, only the most naive would not recognise his ultra politicised position on Climate change matters. He has been ardently supported in this regard by others at the University including Prof Carmen Lawrence.

There is no doubt that his politicised position has enabled Professor Lewandowsky to attract funding to the University, judging by the recent list of research grants. He has also most likely attracted a growing band of admiring and impressionable young students who unfortunately must be getting a very one sided view to how science and research works. This may be wonderful for the University in the short term as you build student numbers, yet I not you are decreasing funding in areas of real science such as engineering. No doubt UWA will soon be scratching to come up with a marketing slogan as good as Curtin's 'WA's most preferred University' as it all becomes about numbers! That is if you don't mind the trashing of the universities reputation!

I personally know three clinical Psychologists who studied at UWA, a number of others who majored in psychology at UWA (all of them honours students), and a couple who are currently studying there. They all share my disappointment with Professor Lewandowsky who has become the best known public face of the school of Psychology, if not the entire University. He receives regular coverage in the Press, the ABC Drum Unleashed, 'The Conversation' and his writings and musings which are designed to be eye-catching and quotable are repeated throughout the media.

I was personally appalled when I saw the survey the Psychology Dept was circulating to blog sites in 2010 allegedly seeking to carry out research. It should have been obvious to anyone who had done any statistical analysis or market research at undergraduate level that the questionnaire was grossly flawed, and it did not require a lot of thought to raise serious questions regarding possible issues with survey methodology and interpretation. So I was absolutely stunned when I saw the paper which is to be published in 'Psychological Science' as a result of that so-called research. "NASA faked the moon landing—Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science". Even the title is so brazenly non-scientific and designed to titillate not educate. But when you check the data upon which the title is based you realised how far Lewandowsky is prepared to go to allow his own bias and preconceived notions affect his judgement.

I have already written to Bill Loudon about this matter pointing out some of the issues (without response). I have previously corresponded with Bill on the Lewandowsky matter but I believe he has decided to ignore me. I have assured him, I am keeping a file of all my correspondence because I have no doubt that Lewandowsky's work will be properly outed at some stage and UWA will not have the luxury of saying they were unaware there were problems and issues with his modus operandi.

What Prof William M Briggs has to say

But don't take my word for it. Here is what one expert said: William M Briggs, PhD, Professor & Statistical Consultant. His CV is here: http://wmb Briggs.com/public/briggs_cv_new.pdf Here is some of his more recent activities:

- (1) 2004-present Adjunct Professor of Statistical Science, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. I teach and advise mid-career students in the Masters Professional Studies program. Main focus: philosophy of science, epistemology, foundational Bayesian theory and methods.
- (2) 2001-present Chief Analytics O

ased under Freedom of Information Act, 1992

Edgehogs.com. Mined NFL, NCAA, and Mixed Martial Arts historical performance and betting data and designed and coded the "X-Rating", a measure of predictive skill of sports predictions. Log on and try your hand picking sports!

1998-present. Statistical consultant, Various companies General examples I co-designed and created the Wall Street Journal's undergraduate college rankings, based on a nation-wide recruiter survey: see the 13 September 2010 WSJ, or ask me for more information. Created predictive (time-series) housing prices model for brokerage firm, a decision model incorporating planned renovations; data mining on proprietary housing sales database. Built model to forecast if and when transformers will fail, based on data taken from transformer maintenance, weather, and load. Advised law firms about "cancer cluster" claims, and physicians falsely accused of Medicare fraud. Directed internet company in the penny-auction market. Programmed a real-time reverse mortgage clock.

So he is no bunny with regards to statistical analysis. Here's what he says about Lewandowsky's latest work:

One day a terrific psychological study is going to be written on the madness and mass lunacy which arose after climate change swam into the public's ken. I don't mean the actions and thoughts of the man-in-the-street, which were and are no different in this area than they were and are in any political matter. No: the real curiosity is what happened to academia, inside departments which haven't anything to do with climatology.

There, surrounded by people eager to agree with each other and fuelled by infinite estimates of their own intelligence, great hoards of degreed non-experts, people who couldn't derive the Omega equation if you threatened to remove their tenure and who think Vorticity is a town in Spain, lectured all of mankind on why The End Was Near, Unless...

Unless they, the non-experts, were hearkened to, esteemed, feted, moneyed, and just plain listened to, dammit.

The cornerstone of this future pathological report may well be the peer-reviewed Psychological Science paper "NASA faked the moon landing—Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science" by Stephan Lewandowsky, Klaus Oberauer, and Gilles Gignac, perhaps the completest, most representative work of its odd era.

Everything that could have been done wrong, was done wrong. Every bias that could have been manifested, was manifested. Every fallacy pertinent to the matter at hand was made. The conclusions, regurgitated from unnecessarily complicated statistical procedures, did not follow from the evidence gathered, which itself was suspect. In its way, then, the paper is a jewel, a gift to the future, a fundamental text to how easy it is to fool oneself.

Consider that its errors are not far to seek¹. Take the opening sentence: "Although nearly all domain experts agree that human CO₂ emissions are altering the world's climate, segments of the public remain unconvinced by the scientific evidence." Isn't that gorgeous? I count at least seven mistakes, and we are only at the very beginning!

Mistake 1: Lewandowsky is not a domain expert, and by his argument is not qualified to speak on matters climatic, yet speak he does.

Mistake 2: His opinion about how to consider the science of climate change is therefore no more valuable than any other non-domain expert's (about the physics), but he considers by this act of publishing that it is.

- *Mistake 3: He conflates voting with truth. His fallacy is to suppose that because the majority of domain experts say X, X is therefore true.*
- *Mistake 4: He conflates numbers with weight of evidence. His fallacy is to suppose the minority of domain experts who do not agree with the majority are not to be listened to because they are only a minority.*
- *Mistake 5: He confuses physics with economics, a vulgar but common error. It may be true that, say, temperatures will rise by 0.5° C in the next five decades, but it does not follow that any theory of what will happen because of this temperature rise is true, nor is it true that anybody's suggestion to combat the adverse consequences of what will happen is therefore worthy of consideration.*
- *Mistake 6: Since Lewandowsky committed this howler, and is obviously unaware of it, he cannot see it in the people he interviews, who often make a similar error. That is, when a civilian is asked, "Do you believe in climate change?" he often answers "No," but the mistake is to assume he is answering the question as stated, when in reality he has answered the modified question, "Do you believe in climate change and should the government regulate, rule, tax, control, mandate, penalize, etc., etc. to combat this change?" Such an elementary mistake by a psychologist shows us just how far the madness has progressed.*
- *Mistake 7: Lewandowsky, because he is not a domain expert, misunderstood the basic physics. There are no domain experts who do not agree that mankind changes the climate. The only matters in question are: how much? where? when? with what certainty can we know? Notice the absence of "What can be done?" because this requires expertise in human behavior, and that expertise is what is suspiciously missing in this paper.*

My dears, I emphasize that this was merely the opening sentence, and that much worse was to come. But before that, there was one more error, more grievous than any other, embedded in his starting sentence. This is Lewandowsky's befuddlement that any non-domain expert could deign to question "the scientific evidence" (when much of what is "science" is instead politics). He assumes that any who do so, even in the admitted presence of disagreement over what "the" science is, suffers from a psychological flaw. Science has spoken, thinks he, and therefore nothing remains to be said. An actual instance of doublethink, and really quite marvelous when you consider the economy of words used to express it.

Now, the rest of Lewandowsky's work is more mundane. He commits the freshman mistake of only seeking evidence for his beliefs, and for none that would contradict him (and of which there is plenty); he says things like "Another common attribute of the contemporary rejection of science is its reliance on the internet" and then uses the internet himself in his "science"; he questions the influence of Steven McIntyre of Climateaudit forgetting that McIntyre is a domain expert and he, Lewandowsky is not.

He admits confirmation bias by calling dividing his sample into "pro-science" and "skeptical", when the point in question is what the science says. He builds "latent variable" models to "prove" what he already believed, and biased himself to confirm; latent variable analysis being a lovely technique to give desirable results. He amusingly assures his audience of his "theoretical results": not theories of climate, but psychological (academics do love a theory). He can't help himself but use the ugly term denial, an appalling word one would have thought a psychologist would have understood was inappropriate.

As I said, a book could be written, and probably will be written on everything that has gone wrong with this paper.

¹We haven't time here to list and review each error: we leave that to genuine psychologists.

1 Steve McIntyre does an analysis

Other expert in statistical analysis, Steve McIntyre goes through the statistical tests, finds questionable practices, questions he can't answer, and general failure paired with incompetence. Some people wonder in the comments if there is a point to doing this when the methodology and data are flawed beyond hope. **While I doubt this analysis will tell us anything about skeptics, it may reveal something about warmists, and in particular the Dept of Psychology at UWA.**

Details of the testing McIntyre did to replicate Lewandowsky's results are here <http://climateaudit.org/2012/09/16/trying-unsuccessfully-to-replicate-lewandowsky/> and shown thoroughly. McIntyre with colleague McKittrick were the ones who forced the IPCC to remove the so named 'Hockey stick' graph from the Summary for policy makers because it had 'mysteriously' removed the medieval warm period and the little ice age from the northern hemisphere reconstructed temperature record which made it appear that current temperatures were 'unprecedented' in recent geological history - something Al Gore used incorrectly but extensively in his film.

Without making you read everything McIntyre has to say about the Lewandowsky paper, here are some significant comments:

Trying (Unsuccessfully) to Replicate Lewandowsky

I wasn't able to replicate Lewandowsky's claim at all. I got explained variance of 43.5% in the first factor (versus Lewandowsky's 86%). I notice that the explained variance for two factors was 86%: maybe Lewandowsky got mixed up between one and two factors. If so, would such an error "matter"? In Team-world [refers to hockey stick team], we've seen that even using contaminated data upside down is held not to "matter"; perhaps the same holds in Lew-world, where we've already seen that use of fake and even fraudulent data is held not to "matter".

There are several instances of similar outcomes. I won't repeat them here. In comments Steve McIntyre finds more, and drops this gem:

Using my present best guess as to his calculation of latent variables, here is his Table 1 and my estimated correlation matrix. The two resemble one another except for conspiracy where the sign is reversed. OLS methods (of which a correlation matrix is an example) are VERY poor methods for this sort of data set. Lewandowsky may set a sort of incompetence landmark in this respect that will take many years to surpass.

It appears for all the world that Lewandowsky has replied, sort of, mentioning the SEM that McIntyre referred too, but without daring to link to him, or even mentioning Steve McIntyre's name. Though Lewandowsky is too busy to post up *all* of the data he collected two years ago he has time to craft deep and insightful lines, like *... "it is easily overlooked that data analysis is also a cognitive activity."*

McIntyre replied in comments on Lewandowsky's blog:

I've attempted to replicate the factor analysis results reported in the paper and have not been able to do so based on the information available.

Given the sketchy description of methodology in the paper, I suggest that you place the script for your results online. I've regularly done this and found that it both clarifies methodology for readers and adds to their interest.

Your assertion that "SEM permits computation of the error-free associations between constructs," is a very bold statement in statistical terms and a script implementing that claim would definitely be worth sharing.

Tom Fuller, pro survey writer describes some of the flaws

The medicalization of dissent is a delicate topic to bring up in conversations about climate change. If you use it about somebody you're almost instantly associating them with really evil people who used the tactic to further Stalinism, Naziism, Maoism, etc.

But the tactic, which really is nothing more than a fancy term for calling your opponents crazy, exists. It is reprehensible. So when I accuse climate alarmists such as Chris Mooney, Kevin Prall, John Mashey and now Stephan Lewandowsky of using the tactic of medicalizing dissent, I am not trying to say they are Stalinists, Nazis or Maoists. That would be like calling people deniers... a thuggish tactic if ever I've seen one.

Medicalizing dissent was perhaps first used by Dr. Samuel Cartwright in 1861, when he invented the term *drapetomania* to describe a new disease, suffered only by slaves. The disease was a desire for freedom. It had to be a disease, you see, because Cartwright had to justify slavery. As you can see, it's hard to talk about medicalizing dissent without being offensive.

The latest attempt is Stephan Lewandowsky's paper, 'NASA faked the moon landing, Therefore (Climate) Science is a Hoax: An Anatomy of the Motivated Rejection of Science', scheduled to be published in *Psychological Science* in the near future. The paper describes the findings of an internet survey and finds a correlation between belief in a 'laissez faire' conception of free market economies and rejection of climate science.

The paper is badly flawed, primarily because the internet survey is junk science. I am a market researcher who has extensive experience with online surveys. I've done them for government, non-governmental organizations, companies and volunteer groups. I've done a lot of them. Over 1,000, most of them in the UK when we were cranking them out like sausages to the tune of 25 a week for two years.

Stephan Lewandowski has not described the details of the fielding of his survey, which is probably wise on his part. The few details that emerge by chance in his paper are enough to invalidate his conclusions.

If you've been following the story you've probably seen most of this but it's worth recapping:

1. Lewandowsky's survey was advertised and linked to on 8 climate alarmist weblogs. So although his survey is supposed to be of skeptics, he put links on weblogs where skeptics rarely go and, if by chance they do visit, they're hardly likely to stay.

2. Lewandowsky used four different versions of the survey with questions in differing order. Sometimes you want to randomize questions (although usually you randomize responses) so that people who always pick the first answer won't prejudice the results. But Lewandowsky doesn't describe which site got which version and hasn't released the different versions. The next point shows why that's important.

3. Several questions in the survey are not covered in the analysis. This isn't really unusual. Researchers analyze and report on what's interesting to them. But in an Excel spreadsheet Lewandowsky released, the data from excluded questions is removed. That's very unusual. It's okay not to analyze some of the data—it's not okay to prevent someone else from doing so.

4. Lewandowsky allowed multiple responses from the same IP address. This means that someone could spam the survey, entering time and again to influence the results. Would they? One of the sites that linked to Lewandowsky's survey has as part of their secret tribe of activists a person who wrote, *"...people like us have to build the greatest guerilla force in human history. Now. Because time is up...Someone needs to convene a council of war of the major environmental movements, blogs, institutes etc. In a smoke filled room (OK, an incense filled room) we need a conspiracy to save humanity"* and another who wrote of skeptics, *"Sometimes you just want to let loose and scream about how you want to take those motherfucking arseholes, those closed-minded bigotted genocidal pieces of regurgitated dog shit and do unspeakable violence to their bodies and souls for what they are doing to the safety of what and who we all hold dear."* So, yes, they would probably do so in support of their cause.

5. Lewandowsky discussed the objectives of the survey while the survey was open for responses, so those who wanted to prejudice the results knew they could do so. This alone amounts to research misconduct and is cause for throwing out the results of the survey as well as the paper based on it.

Lewandowsky's inability to address any of these issues, despite writing a paper describing it and hyping it on a weblog with 8 blog posts in the past week, is evidence that he cannot address

them. He simply decided before his research began that climate skeptics are conspiracy theorists and gamed a survey to produce the results he wanted.

Is that exaggeration? No. He has written on the same subject before without any data and came to the same conclusion. In this case, he just manufactured data to support the same conclusion.

As for torturing the data, he did and it confessed.

Source: <http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/09/15/toodle-lew/>

The University of Western Australia has more to be ashamed about:

Lewandowsky's Cleansing Program

Conspiracy theorist Stephan Lewandowsky, in keeping with SkS (Skeptical Science) style, has rewritten the history of his blog hosted by the University of Western Australia. Tom Fuller, who does online commercial surveys for a living, has sharply criticized the Lewandowsky's tainted methodology – a methodology that relied on fake data to yield fake results.

Over the past week or so, Fuller has commented frequently on Lewandowsky threads [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Although Lewandowsky snipped some of Fuller's comments, over the past week or so, all or part of about 50 comments were approved.

Today, Lewandowsky (who is being assisted by an SkS squadron) liquidated every single comment by Fuller on the entire blog, leaving rebuttals to Fuller in place without the protagonist. This is different from not approving the blog comments: it's an after-the-fact cleansing of Fuller from the blog.

The University of Western Australia should hang its head in shame at Lewandowsky's Gleickian antics.

Source: <http://climateaudit.org/2012/09/15/lewandowskys-cleansing-program/>

Time for UWA to take Action

Isn't it finally time Professor Johnson for UWA to stop turning a blind eye to Professor Lewandowsky's political activism which has so blinded him that it has affected his impartiality as an academic and scientists and is making him and UWA a laughing stock and calling in to question the quality of education at the University of Western Australia. I feel most concerned for those students who have been and are currently being contaminated by the group think at the University and particularly within the School of Psychology where pseudo, or post modern 'science' is being used to justify what is essentially an ideological and or political position and certainly not one based on proper, impartial science.

It is high time you reigned in Professor Lewandowsky or cut him loose and you should start by having that ludicrous paper withdrawn from publication and considering how it was even passed through peer review because it should not have been given a pass for a first year undergraduate assignment.

Yours Sincerely

Released under Freedom of Information Act, 1992

Janeen Robertson

From: Bill Louden
Sent: Wednesday, 19 September 2012 4:07 PM
To: Janeen Robertson
Subject: FW: Professor Stephan Lewandowsky
Attachments: Re: Your Prof Lewandowsky

From: Bill Louden < >
Date: Wed, 19 Sep 2012 16:07:01 +0800
To: Robyn Owens < >, Gina Barron < >
Subject: Re: Professor Stephan Lewandowsky

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Professor Bill Louden | Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Vice-Chancellery | M464 | The University of Western Australia | 35 Stirling Highway | Crawley WA 6009
Tel +61 8 | Fax +61 8 6488 1013 | E-Mail
Achieve International Excellence

From: Robyn Owens < >
Date: Wed, 19 Sep 2012 07:38:28 +0800
To: Gina Barron < >, Stephan Lewandowsky < >
Cc: Bill Louden < >
Subject: Fwd: Professor Stephan Lewandowsky

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Thanks,

Robyn

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From: Paul Johnson < >
Subject: FW: Professor Stephan Lewandowsky
Date: 18 September 2012 5:03:46 PM AWST
To: Robyn Owens < >

Robyn,
Another one requiring the standard response. Make sure you keep a record.
Paul

--
Professor Paul Johnson