



MARCH FOR SCIENCE

Discussion: “March for Science, the aftermath”

Welcome everyone, last weekend the "March for Science" dominated our capitals. Some of us protested during the marches or bridged the gap between the public and science with low-threshold activities, while others used social media to gain attention for Science.

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): I would like to compare notes.

What was the focus of your country's March for Science?

How were the responds? Politicians, media, public?

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Last saturday I responded to a woman in a science group chat by saying: I hope you had fun at the March (she was located in New York) and she wasn't happy with my "fun" comment... this made me wonder how much fun this march has been for others... Jes ☺

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Null ☺ good to see you

Dae Miami: My son went

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Awesome Dae, please share

Dae Miami: let me upload a picture

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): ☺

Scire Gaea: The San Francisco group was about evenly divided between policy protest and increasing science awareness.

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): San Francisco seemed very well prepared

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): oh wow Dae ☺

Şəmīeł Mօσnլիgħt (sammykyle): neat pic

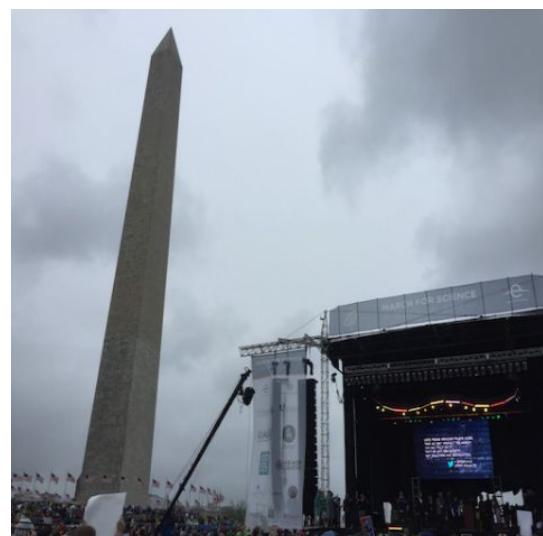
Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Hi Tagline ☺

NullSubset Burner: I found the turn out in Chicago really surprising

Tagline: Hi Chantal and all!

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): How many of us really went?

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): You were there, Null?



NullSubset Burner: nope - closest to me was Toronto- couldn't free up my schedule :(

Mike Shaw (shawza.tunwarm): I was not able to go, but St. Louis had a good-sized event that many of my students and colleagues went to.

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Same :(I tried to follow as much as possible by the media

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Scire went

Dae Miami: In US...I don't think trump took it seriously, and no politician attended the events

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Dirlandaa, did you?

Şəmijəl Məsənləğħt (sammykyle): I wasn't able to go, but I understand my school's head of science went

Dae Miami: I did not go

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): and where are you located, Sammy?

Şəmijəl Məsənləğħt (sammykyle): UK

Şəmijəl Məsənləğħt (sammykyle): She went to London

Scire Gaea: While the singular event was significant, we need it to be a starting point, not just a one time media blitz.

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): I fear you are right, Dae... I especially searched for the attention of politicians I doubt it fits Trump's views

Tagline: I went to the Washington, DC rally and Science March

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): I agree Scire

Tagline: trust me, the politicians are watching quite nervously, they are afraid of the movement

Şəmijəl Məsənləğħt (sammykyle): I was told our politician's response was feeble

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): they are yes, Tagline but for the wrong reasons

Dae Miami: tell us more tagline since you went, I am only going on what was in the TV news

Tagline: their voices are feeble but they are afraid to be confronted by their constituents

Tagline: it was in the rain and at times it was a bit heavier and it was cool

NullSubset Burner: I think the turnout in Canada was so modest because we have a pro-science /pro-evidence based gov. fully supporting STEM from education and research to business start-ups?



Tagline: and in the march, a group of girls off to my left somewhere in the throng started chanting (my favorite chant of the march) **"We're NERDS! We're WET! We're VERY VERY UPSET"**

Şəmīeł Mօσnլiğħt (sammykyle): We have a general election, there are few votes in science

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): I am with you, Null. That is my country is... therefore the march was more a... easy connect event between scientists and public.

Scire Gaea: Do not forget that of the 607 registered marches, a fair number were outside of the USA, representing a Worldwide concern over the neglect of science in public policy.

Dirlandaa (dirlandaa.pfeffer): Chantal, we had only one satellite march in the capital. I wasnt able to attend

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): ☺ Tagline

Tagline: I think in the US the big thing is that there is a persistent and growing movement to vote the bums out

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Thank you, Dirlandaa ☺ have been curious about Finland

Tagline: and that is a HUGE threat to the Republicans for 2018



NullSubset Burner: personal fav signs?- mine was " So Bad even introverts are here" lol

Dirlandaa (dirlandaa.pfeffer): i didn't even know that we had one event...it wasn't in the news

Jawsome (jes.cobalt): ☺ Null

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): oh.. I had the same... I learned about it 5 hours before it started :(

NullSubset Burner: hehe yeah i know:)

Mike Shaw (shawza.tunwarm): My impression is that the politicians were very quiet about the event.

Tagline: quiet and afraid

Şəmīeľ Məsənlığħt (sammykyle): Ours were

Tagline: very afraid, in the US

Şəmīeľ Məsənlığħt (sammykyle): They ignored it

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): and isn't science... afraid?

Tagline: trust me, we were not ignored

Scire Gaea: Chantal, in the USA, we are stuck with what we got for four more years. And the bad part is, this will have a global effect, which will not be good.

Tagline: Science is a culture, a body of knowledge

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): We are very much aware, Scire :(

Emma A Goldman (emmagoldman3): was the march intended to reach the politicians, to the press, or both?

Tagline: if the US acts to squelch it, then other countries will take advantage because ultimately, science promotes technology which promotes economic growth

NullSubset Burner: it's the broader public that's the real issues - politicians will follow public opinion - being ... well, politicians.

Şəmīeľ Məsənlığħt (sammykyle): The press in the UK are obsessed with the election crap going on, not science.

Emma A Goldman (emmagoldman3): Gandhi did follow the people Null



Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Your news reaches our homes... as does Dirlandaa's news etc... therefore we are very well informed about what is happening overthere. Cali uni transferred all its scientific environmental data over to a server in the netherlands

Dirlandaa (dirlandaa.pfeffer): yes, i got info on the science march on FB..a friend living in TX pasted the event

Dirlandaa (dirlandaa.pfeffer): then i checked if there were any in my country

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): YAY for the internet ☺

Scire Gaea: Oh, the USA will fall behind in medicine and environment, but surge ahead in aeronautics and space exploration.

Mike Shaw (shawza.tunwarm): The deletion of environmental information from government websites is very troubling, too. Esp. the EPA site.

Dae Miami: yes i see trump signed a bill to fund NASA

Tagline: and the US will surge ahead in Petro, lol

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): yes Mike :(

Tagline: well, the US dominates aerospace defense industrial sector

Dae Miami:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2017/03/21/trump-signs-nasa-bill-aimed-at-landing-on-mars/?utm_term=.7868da952f2c

NullSubset Burner: Gandhi had a spiritual and moral core not found in many people let alone many politicians - if we are banking on this type figure to push back on this - we are in trouble - i think? - besides i have very little trust in populists , even benign ones .

Scire Gaea: My understanding is that the EPA data and NASA climate data will be available via other venues.

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Whereas science is trying to connect... work multi disciplinary and share their data... politics is starting to approach science as the new enemy. That's really scaring me.

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Great point, Null

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): and media... excuse me for saying this out loud, especially in the usa and uk... isn't helping science very much

Şəmīeł Məsənlığħt (sammykyle): That's very true here

Tagline: I think that the public is going to have to rise to a new endeavor, using networking, IT and self-reporting by individuals to monitor worker safety, worker accidents, inappropriate disposal of toxins or industrial activities that pollute

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): for that you need an educated public dear

Tagline: that kind of thing and with social media and raised concern by more informed people, the politicians will not be able to hide their corruption

NullSubset Burner: objective truth has always been a thorn in the side of the powerful- nothing's changed - this is why our morale qualities as producers of scientific knowledge is so important - truth has real power.

Tagline: there are more people receptive to info over the internet than ever before

Şəmīeł Məsənlığħt (sammykyle): It seems a spill over from the emphasis on faith



Emma A Goldman (emmagoldman3): I'm not a scientist. I'm public. Did I crash a scientist meeting. I got the impression non-scientists could attend.

Tagline: and if the government will not report or keep track of industrial transgressions (i.e., no job killing regulations), then the PEOPLE must do so

Tagline: you are quite welcome Emma

Emma A Goldman (emmagoldman3): and I'm self educated.

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): No Emma! please feel welcome... we aren't all scientists but at least science enthusiasts ☺

Tagline: so was Michael Faraday, Emma so that is a good thing!

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): ☺

Emma A Goldman (emmagoldman3): I'm probably older than a lot of you, so I know a lot. :)

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Excellent ☺

Şəmīeł Məsənlığħt (sammykyle): Cool

Emma A Goldman (emmagoldman3): I'm Canadian if that is not on my profile.

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Did any of you see the twitter #marchforscience?

Şamjieł Mօσηլիgħt (sammykyle): I want to be a geek but I am not smart enough, which is why I come here



Tagline: my favorite sign I saw at the Washington march was carried by a laboratory-type guy saying "NOW I AM A MAD SCIENTIST!"

Fumon Crystal: yes, I see the hashtag.

Mike Shaw (shawza.tunwarm): I was happy to see the local organization continue to pull together this week, rather than just disappearing. There are a lot of young scientists involved, concerned, and showing leadership.

Emma A Goldman (emmagoldman3): yes...I saw the twitter march for science, but thought it was only in our country

Tagline: I saw a group of PLANT BIOLOGISTS even, carrying a banner

Tagline: there were people of all ages from all scientific disciplines one can imagine and non-scientists as well

Emma A Goldman (emmagoldman3): I read about funding for science research in Canada not improving from the past repressive conservative government.

Fumon Crystal: Currently in Japan , we find many fake news on radioactivity which ignore the reports of UNSCEAR and Fukushima Medical University. Despite of almost all foods being not-detected and safe from Cesium 134-137, the serious discrimination against Fukushima citizens is concerned.

Tagline: Canada has their extremists as well

Tagline: but from my vantage point, they seem more moderate than the crazies in the US

NullSubset Burner: yes- 25% est. of every population on earth.

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): When you watch the timeline of the twitter hashtag you see japan starting, australia and the photo's and posts are all positive... eastern europe follows, western europe, uk...same responses. And then the usa wakes up and starts posting... next to the supporters suddenly negative, conspiracy theories and dumb comments start to fill the timeline. It looked as if america has a huge group of people really thinking science is bullshit. How will america change this? Since media is an important factor in science image?

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Thank you, Fumon... I have been trying to follow that discussion from here

Mike Shaw (shawza.tunwarm): I think the average american (if there is such a thing) is neutral-to-well disposed toward science. There are a lot of antiscience people, but not so many that the politicians can simply dismiss scientists out of hand. The idiots are more vocal, and that is a problem.

Mike Shaw (shawza.tunwarm): <when I say scientist, I mean it in the most inclusive sense!>

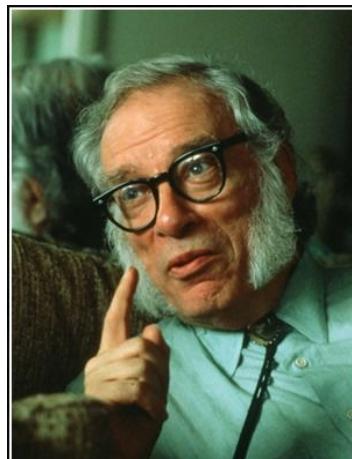
Scire Gaea: In the USA, the extreme views are the most vocal, and so seem very large on venues such as social media.

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): You might have a point there, Mike

NullSubset Burner: not sure its that cut and dry - the same people that would deny specific areas of science would also seek out medial testament based on the scientific method.

Şəmīeľ Məsənlığħt (sammykyle): Is there a large anti science feeling in the US?

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): sure and use a cell phone and the internet etc



There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there has always been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that "my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge."

— Isaac Asimov —

AZ QUOTES

Mike Shaw (shawza.tunwarm): Isaac Asimov's quote about the US is still true... essentially there is huge anti-intellectualism sentiment.

Tagline: If I start to explain something to someone and it gets too scientific, almost inevitably here in the US, they start to talk about their religious faith. In effect, for most of the day-to-day people I run into where I live, religion is an ersatz for objective knowledge and they seem to use that as a coping mechanism to help ignore their ignorance.

Scire Gaea: I think it is a small anti science group, which dominates the media because scientists and science supporters are so reserved and quiet.

Mike Shaw (shawza.tunwarm): Agreed, Tagline.

Şəmīeľ Məsənlığħt (sammykyle): I find it annoying to hear people claim successful medical treatment as a 'miracle'.

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Thats how my media reports about the usa, yes, Tagline

Jawsome (jes.cobalt): Me too Sammy

Tagline: If you talk in simple terms about molecular biology or genetics issues, you get creationism in response and it becomes a waste of time.

Tagline: it is frustrating actually

Scire Gaea: So you guys, become vocal. When someone posts something absurd, jump all over it -- do not let false facts go unchallenged.

Tango Rottersman: I think every thing about this began with the Creationism

Şəmīel Məsənlügħiż (sammykyle): I also hate the ignorant dismissing something as 'it's just a theory'.



Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): You know scientists in Iraq complain about that feeling too, Tagline... in other ways but still the same... their gov keeps a close eye on them and gatherings between intellectuals are not allowed so everyone acts like a fool

Tagline: the thing is that social media and cable television makes it easy for people to be self-indulgent and seek out personal validation for their sentiments and biases over becoming informed but at some point, most of those subjective or politically or economically motivated opinions become transparently absurd to many

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): I am happy to hear that

Tagline: it is a slow progress however

Tagline: you know, a bit earlier Dae asked me what I heard at the rally and I responded

Tagline: mostly chants and read signs

Tagline: it was for me essentially a coming together of people to show by numbers our concerns more than an opportunity to garner new information

Emma A Goldman (emmagoldman3): I heard an interview yesterday with the guy who started wikipedia. He is crowdfunding for an alternate news source.

Tagline: really?

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): I heard that too, Emma, great idea

Tagline: old fashioned journalism is losing its mojo I guess

Mike Shaw (shawza.tunwarm): Progress is sometimes 2 steps forward, and one step back. I think the U.S. is in a "one-step-back" period, which will eventually make it clear that a stronger focus on science is in the national (and world) interest.

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Journalists like medical people should pledge to an oath... the truth and nothing but the truth

Tagline: I read today that there have been 800 incidents of harassment and murders of journalists in Mexico (by cartels as well as by political officials) over the past decade or so and only two murders (about 2%) have been solved

Şamīeł Mօσողիկ (sammykyle): But truth can be subjective

Tagline: that is called faith or opinion, Moonlight

Mike Shaw (shawza.tunwarm): Stick to verifiable truths...

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Typical, Tagline... turkey is putting them all in jail...works too

Tagline: truth is reproducible by other objective observers

Şamīeł Mօσողիկ (sammykyle): Sorry, I was expressing an opinion\

Tagline: Erdogan is a blight on Humanity

Mike Shaw (shawza.tunwarm): no need to apologize!

Tagline: sorry, Moonlight

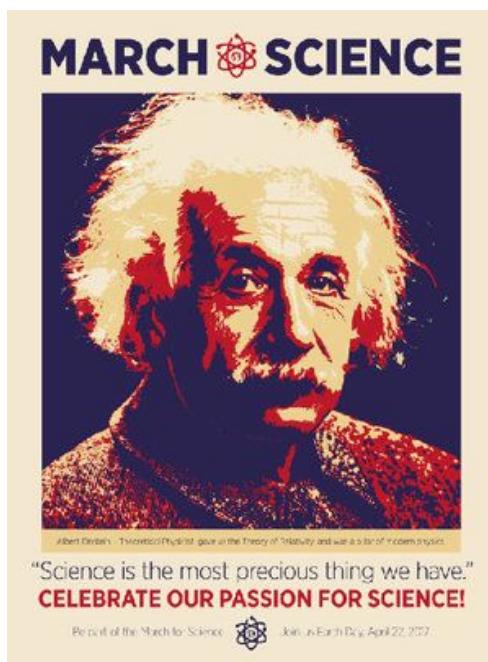
Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Opinion are welcome Samiel... we aren't researching but sharing thoughts and experiences ☺

Tagline: did not mean to seem on the attack :)

Mike Shaw (shawza.tunwarm): <same!>

NullSubset Burner: truth can also be objective - not believing in gravity won't stop you from falling.

Tagline: right



NullSubset Burner: my grasp of the obvious is absolute-lol :P

Tagline: objective truth works across platforms (i.e., for other people in the same physical Universe or physical system)

Scire Gaea: Just throwing this in the pot: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archimedean_Oath

Tagline: until you hit something like Bertrand Russel's Paradox, eh NullSubset burner?

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): a fact is a fact which makes truth to me... if erdogan arrests 3 judges... the facts are 3 judges are arrested... the explanation might be a topic for discussion but the fact remains the 3 got in jail. Research journalism should investigate the stories of both sides.

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): ☺ Scire

Tagline: res ipsa loquitur or Latin for (the fact) "It speaks for itself"

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): ☺

Tagline: I saw on the Internet one other sign I liked regarding the Science March



Tagline: it stated "this is the only wall we need" and it showed two buildings, one a dome with a cross on it to indicate religion and the other the capital dome as for Congress

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): I hope the organisation of March for Science continues to activate people like us to bridge... we have been doing this for almost 10 years now and we can use a global support ☺

Mike Shaw (shawza.tunwarm): :)

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): wow thats powerful, Tagline

Tagline: and the wall was drawn between those two entities indicating separation between gov and religion

Tagline: Yes I was impressed by it

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): I saw many creative and intelligent signs ☺ awesome to see

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): and yes Mike and Scire have a point... scientists seldom do speak up and this should change

Scire Gaea: Breaking news: today's People's Climate March just reached the Whitehouse, in 90F heat.

Tagline: that was really a cool thing about this outpouring of people is the inherent creativity starts to show and something new is said in one way or another

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Thousands in amsterdam today too 😊

Tagline: yes, they said it was swelteringly hot in Washington, DC today

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): But we don't have a climate change happening

Tagline: right, right lol

Tagline: EPA Director Scott Pruitt and Trump had the EPA Website take the page about CLIMATE CHANGE off the Internet just before the Climate March

Tagline: they would agree, Chantal, lol

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): I bet 😊

NullSubset Burner: Scientist's are in the same lot as everyone else - activism of one kind or another is required- but keep in mind to many in the public - science workers are among the privileged and considered out of touch with the worry's and concerns of regular people.

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Lets hope the usa uni's still know how to be rebels and hide the data

Fumon Crystal: Love trumps hate:)

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): yes true Null

Mike Shaw (shawza.tunwarm): I think that most agree that climate change is happening, but many ignore (or choose not to understand) the clear evidence of anthropogenic contributions to climate change.



Scire Gaea: "There is no planet B"

Tagline: there again, the INTERNET and social media and IT in general has made it possible for the PEOPLE to outflank the ability of repressive government policies and actions (which usually entails concealing information or presenting it as they would have it)

Tagline: I like that one too, Scire

Tagline: You know, NullSubSet, there is something of a movement growing in terms of the image of scientists in Hollywood productions

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Jes... did australia report about the science march?

Tagline: I think it began with Good Will Hunting and A Beautiful Mind

Tagline: and The Enigma Machine stoked it further

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): gosh hollywood... that's one of the main factors americans still believe in... make believe

Tagline: and that Tele bit Big Bang which I saw once...

Tagline: it is, Chantal but it is significant that they have started making scientists look cool

Jawsome (jes.cobalt): We had some good turnouts Canberra in particular. The media neglected to inform about it ahead of time, so I only had very short notice. but they did report on the gathering itself, and positively too. Which I was happy about

Tagline: I read a bit about Ron Howard who wants to raise respect for scientists and he is behind this new GENIUS series

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): ☺ Jes

Jawsome (jes.cobalt): Sydney also very good about 5000

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Scientists are cool

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Science is

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Our lives get easier, less fearful due to understanding and more inventive due to it

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): its the most positive power tool we have

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): and it doesn't discriminate

Jawsome (jes.cobalt): Very true, yes



Tagline: I just thought of another sign that I thought was clever - "EVER HAD POLIO? ME EITHER!"

Scire Gaea: I must depart for my eleven o'clock. See you all later. Good discussion.

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): yesterday DNA experts informed us... they found several primitive species-DNA from cave dirt... not human remains but from dirt they were able to extract a full mitochondrial DNA of 6 people... Neanderthal and denisovians

Mike Shaw (shawza.tunwarm): Bye!

Tagline: that sort of reflects what you are saying I think, Chantal

Mandel Solano: In Stockholm capital of Sweden we were 2,500 participants in the march

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): hehhe Tagline, I liked that one

Tagline: Bye Mike

Fumon Crystal: cya Mike

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): Waves at Mike ☺

Mike Shaw (shawza.tunwarm): See everyone soon!

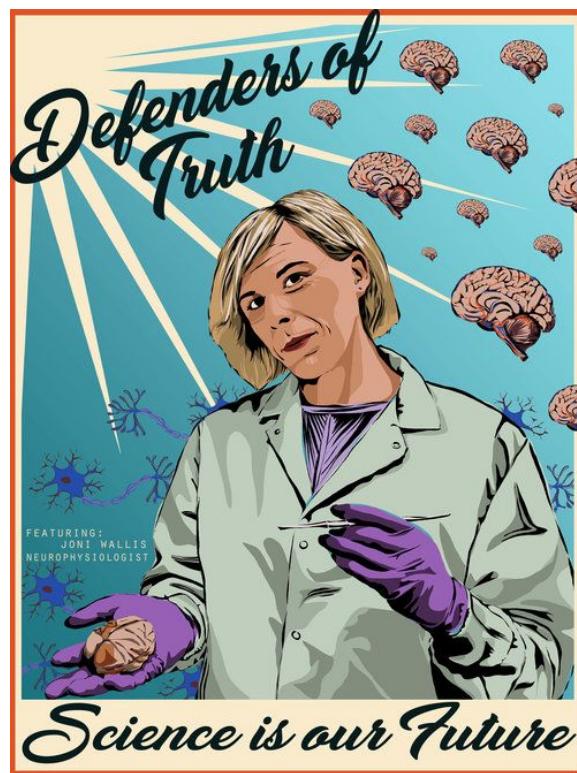
Tagline: good turnout, Mandel

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): I saw photo's Mandel, great gathering ☺

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): and all in spirit ☺

Mandel Solano: yes:)

Chantal Jager (nymf.hathaway): I know we reached the hour of ending... Thank you for participating, I will make a pdf of this meeting and put it online.



THE SCIENCE CIRCLE

