

NOTES FOR CURRICULAR REFORM

- MICHAEL FEUER
- JERUSALEM JULY 8 2021

LOGIC

- STEM education can promote civic responsibility
- Civic education can promote STEM learning

CONTEXT

EROSION OF TRUST IN SCIENCE

- See, e.g., Holden Thorp, “We’re on our own,” (editorial), *Science*, Sept. 23, 2020
- See also <https://items.ssrc.org/author/michael-j-feuer/>

COLLECTIVE ACTION

“Liberty for the wolves has
often meant death for the
sheep”

-Isaiah Berlin

- “...had observed control measures been adopted one week earlier, the US would have avoided 645,660... confirmed cases and 35,287 deaths nationwide ..” (Jeffrey Shaman, Columbia U)
- On risk assessment and social consequences:
<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2021/04/28/the-johnson-and-johnson-vaccine-pause-and-the-challenge-of-risk-assessment/>
- Concerns in Israel <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/israeli-tribalism-will-be-the-death-of-us/>

ARE WE AT AN INFLECTION POINT?



or



?

An inflection point is *an event that results in a **significant change*** in the progress of a company, industry, sector, economy, or geopolitical situation and can be considered *a turning point after which a dramatic change, **with either positive or negative results...***

PUBLIC
EDUCATION

&

EDUCATING
THE PUBLIC

- Public engagement
- Pluralism and civics
- From “political science” to “political STEM”
 - Toward consensus and compromise?
 - Engagement with media, government, business, philanthropy

BEYOND
ZERO-SUM
THINKING:
STEM “SELLS”

- Examples for a revived civics curriculum
 - Why research is a public good (science policy)
 - Traffic congestion (mathematics of choice)
 - Climate (Nordhaus and carbon taxation)
<https://www.aapss.org/news/william-nordhaus-to-speak-at-moynihan-event-focusing-on-climate-policy/>)
- Other examples:
 - Census (politics of statistical sampling)
 - Voting (Condorcet theorem, rank-choice voting)

See:

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/sci/371/6528/442.full.pdf>

SCIENCE AND COLLECTIVE ACTION



GLOBAL COOPERATION

*OPPORTUNITY FOR
ENLIGHTENED
PHILANTHROPY AND
GOVERNMENT
INVESTMENT...*

- Externalities cross borders
 - Climate
 - COVID
 - Extremism
- Curricular reform and int'l competitiveness
 - PISA shock
 - National self-interest vs. global progress: another example of "externality" theory

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ולהתראות

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