

Socialisation of scientific and technological research: A one-way process?

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Socialisation

- Internalisation of social norms – learning rules
- Reinforced through social interaction and acceptance of others



- Socialising science?

- Scientising society?



Scientising society – the negative side

- Medicalisation of the human condition
- Imposition of Taylorist and Fordist work practices, supported by technology



Mertonian norms of science

Norm

- UNIVERSALISM – knowledge claims subject to impersonal criteria
- COMMUNALISM – science is part of common heritage

Threat

- Nationalism, sexism, racism
- Private property rights, 'valorisation' of science



Mertonian norms of science

Norm

- **DISINTERESTEDNESS**
– institutional controls over science
- **ORGANISED SCEPTICISM** – methodological and institutional – suspension of belief in order to ask & answer difficult questions

Threat

- Publication of results and evaluation of universities according to non-scientific criteria
- Commitment to dogma & ideology



- What can science do for society?
- What can society learn from science?

