

Is Science Consensual?

Nobody asked but ...

Consensus among scientists is unrelated to precision among scientists. Wrong theories have had as much to do with knowledge advancement as correct theories, probably much more. For how many millennia did humanity believe, claim knowledge of, theories of geology before plate tectonics. And I fear plate tectonics itself will suffer some modification as time goes by (I use “fear” and “suffer” ironically). Did science end with Galileo, Copernicus, Descartes, Newton, Einstein, or Turing? Please note that I didn’t include any names of pop science journalists in that list — they seem to be aiming to kill science by making it a race against time.

— Kilgore Forelle