



DLMPST/IUHPST
Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science and Technology
of the **International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology**

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Statement of the DLMPST on World Philosophy Day 2021

The ongoing pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented debate in the general interested public on how we acquire scientific knowledge. Discussions on the meaning of scientific statistics, the certainty of scientific results, and the role of science in policy decisions have been seen frequently in newspapers and on social media since the start of the pandemic. These questions belong to the core of Philosophy of Science, dealing with the methodology, epistemology, and ethics of science.

The public appearance of musings and discussions about these questions have been encapsulated in the phrase "*We have all become (bobby) epidemiologists*", but we should like to correct the phrase to "*We have all become (bobby) philosophers of science*".

The public debates and their manipulation by malicious players to steer them towards science denialism have shown that a general education in basic principle of philosophy of science is crucially important in order to allow the citizenry to engage in an informed way with this fundamental interface between science and society. This includes general education (at the secondary school level), specific education for future scientists (including philosophy of science as an educational goal in science programmes), as well as the active involvement of philosophers of science in policy debates.

The Division for Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science and Technology of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (DLMPST/IUHPST) has asked for this inclusion of philosophy of science in education in our Helsinki Manifesto (August 2015)

<http://dlmpst.org/media/pdfs/dlmpst.helsinkimanifesto.pdf>

and would like to use the opportunity of *UNESCO World Philosophy Day* (18 November 2021) to ask everyone, including those in charge of educational programmes and policy decisions to make sure that philosophers of science are heard as a voice of reflection about science.

Durham & Cambridge, 18 November 2021

Nancy Cartwright & Benedikt Löwe