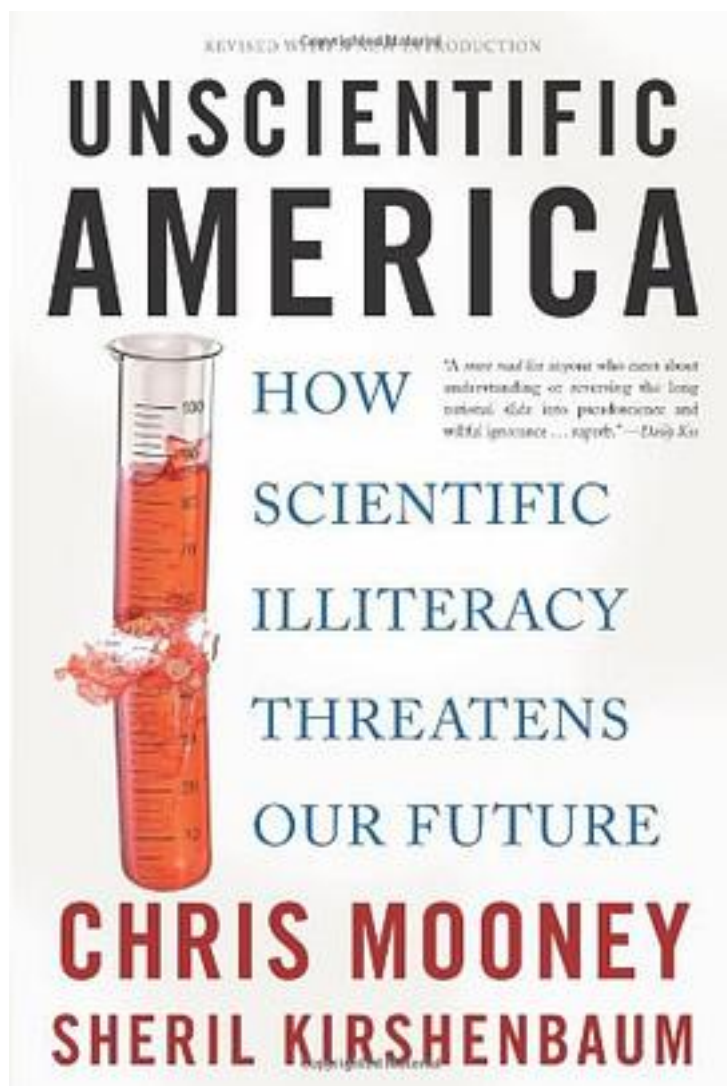


# Unscientific America



[Unscientific America\\_下载链接1](#)

著者:Mooney, Chris

出版者:Basic Books

出版时间:2009-7-14

装帧:

isbn:9780465013050

In his famous 1959 Rede lecture at Cambridge University, the scientifically-trained novelist C.P. Snow described science and the humanities as "two cultures," separated by a "gulf of mutual incomprehension." And the humanists had all the cultural power—the low prestige of science, Snow argued, left Western leaders too little educated in scientific subjects that were increasingly central to world problems: the elementary physics behind nuclear weapons, for instance, or the basics of plant science needed to feed the world's growing population.

Now, Chris Mooney and Sheril Kirshenbaum, a journalist-scientist team, offer an updated "two cultures" polemic for America in the 21st century. Just as in Snow's time, some of our gravest challenges—climate change, the energy crisis, national economic competitiveness—and gravest threats—global pandemics, nuclear proliferation—have fundamentally scientific underpinnings. Yet we still live in a culture that rarely takes science seriously or has it on the radar.

For every five hours of cable news, less than a minute is devoted to science; 46 percent of Americans reject evolution and think the Earth is less than 10,000 years old; the number of newspapers with weekly science sections has shrunk by two-thirds over the past several decades. The public is polarized over climate change—an issue where political party affiliation determines one's view of reality—and in dangerous retreat from childhood vaccinations. Meanwhile, only 18 percent of Americans have even met a scientist to begin with; more than half can't name a living scientist role model.

For this dismaying situation, Mooney and Kirshenbaum don't let anyone off the hook. They highlight the anti-intellectual tendencies of the American public (and particularly the politicians and journalists who are supposed to serve it), but also challenge the scientists themselves, who despite the best of intentions have often failed to communicate about their work effectively to a broad public—and so have ceded their critical place in the public sphere to religious and commercial propagandists.

A plea for enhanced scientific literacy, *Unscientific America* urges those who care about the place of science in our society to take unprecedented action. We must begin to train a small army of ambassadors who can translate science's message and make it relevant to the media, to politicians, and to the public in the broadest sense. An impassioned call to arms worthy of Snow's original manifesto, this book lays the groundwork for reintegrating science into the public discourse—before it's too late.

作者介绍:

克里斯·穆尼，《科学进步》杂志特约编辑，其著作《共和党人对战科学》和《暴风世界：飓风、政治、及全球变暖论战》都曾登上《纽约时报》畅销榜。穆尼在许多出版物上发表作品，包括Wired、Slate和The American Prospect。他现居新泽西州普林斯顿。

目录:

[Unscientific America\\_下载链接1](#)

标签

科学

评论

-----  
[Unscientific America\\_ 下载链接1](#)

书评

本文发表于南方都市报2012-02-26 南方阅读 科学  
这本小册子有个吓人的原名：Unscientific American。著名的科学杂志《科学美国人》加上一个不祥的un，让人想起五十年代美国肆虐一时的“Un-American”，麦卡锡主义的非美委员会。  
不错，这本书由两个美国作者合作完成，可不...

-----  
-----  
-----  
纵观本书，我感受到作者对科学群体强烈的不满。虽然也情有可原，学术、生存的担子太重了，科普的难度太大了。但说到底，科学传播的不理想，科学群体要承担主要责任。我们问科学离我们有多远，倒不如问问承载科学的这些个人，离大众有多远？不需要说别人，检讨我自己就够了。 ...

-----  
这本书中另外一个我关注的问题就是宗教和科学的关系。作者提到了新无神论者，就是

用相对激进的方式传播无神论的人们。比如为Freedom from Religion Foundation疾呼的理查德·道金斯，比如喜欢骂上帝的丁门庆（Tim Minchin）。作者对他们的态度是，认为他们在帮倒忙。而且作...

-----  
这是一本约一百页的小册子，我们每一个人都可以毫不费力的把它看完。  
希望更多的人关注这个问题吧。  
请大家想一想，在我们的生活中，你在哪里见到过科学内容，科学话题？  
科学在美国的传播困难重重，在国内情况更是不容乐观。即便有一些措施，但收效甚微  
...

-----  
[Unscientific America\\_ 下载链接1](#)