

# Decolonizing Science in Africa: Initial Steps

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# Order of Presentation

- Decolonizing Science- What it means and Why the need for?
- The Africa-centric peer review workshop in 2022- What were the objectives?
- Some key Issues that the Africa-centric peer review workshop in 2022

# What is Decolonizing?

- Chandrima Ganguly explains that the Decolonizing SOAS Working Group defines decolonizing as
- *“The effort to interrogate and transform the institutional, structural and epistemological legacies of colonialism”*

# Why the call for Decolonizing of Science

- Some people have described Decolonizing Science to mean
- *“A call for the scientific community to break free from the knowledge production dominated by the colonial nations- particularly the Western World (Eurocentrism) to make scientific room for scholars from all corners of the globe”*
- Source: [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

# What can be done?

- There must be intense efforts to address the issue of the Western dominance on science
- Training and Conscientizing of young scientists
- .....

# The Workshop in 2022- Objectives

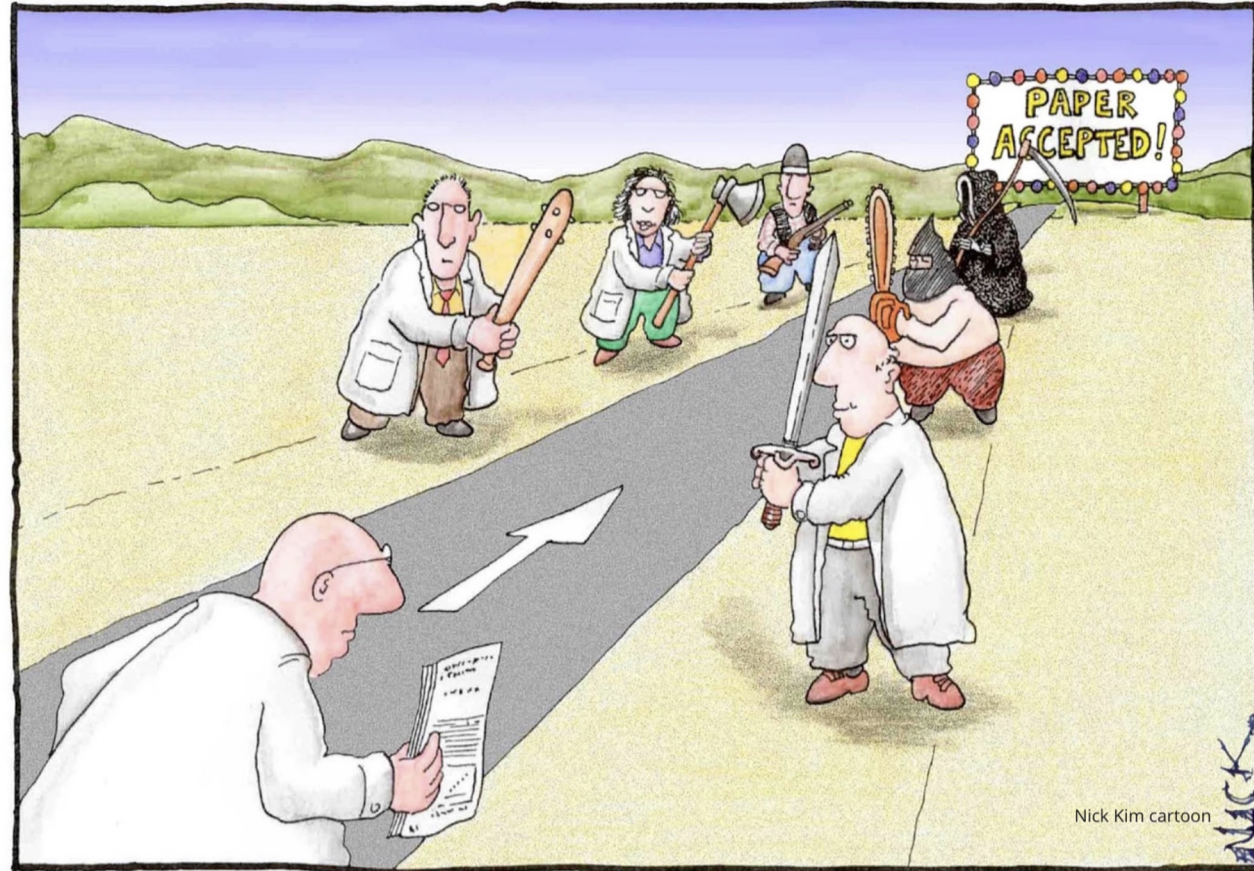
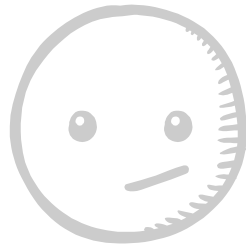
[ Source: OpenPeer Reviewers in Africa- WACREB , 2023]

- To **build capacity and enthusiasm** for scholarly open review of preprints among African researchers
- To offer **opportunities to actively participate in peer review** and gain recognition through community engagement
- To help **decolonize the academic publishing process** by creating equitable opportunities for African researchers to engage, lead, and teach others

# Key Issues that the Africa- centric Workshop

- Why the need to publish?
- What is a Peer Review?
- Bias- Systems of Oppression
- Preprints

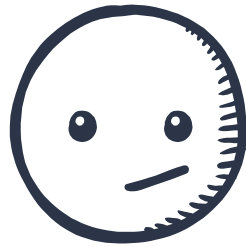
# Publish or Perish



Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as "quite an improvement."



# What is Peer Review?



Peer review is the evaluation of work by one or more people with similar competencies as the producers of the work. It functions as a form of self-regulation by **qualified members of a profession** within the relevant field.

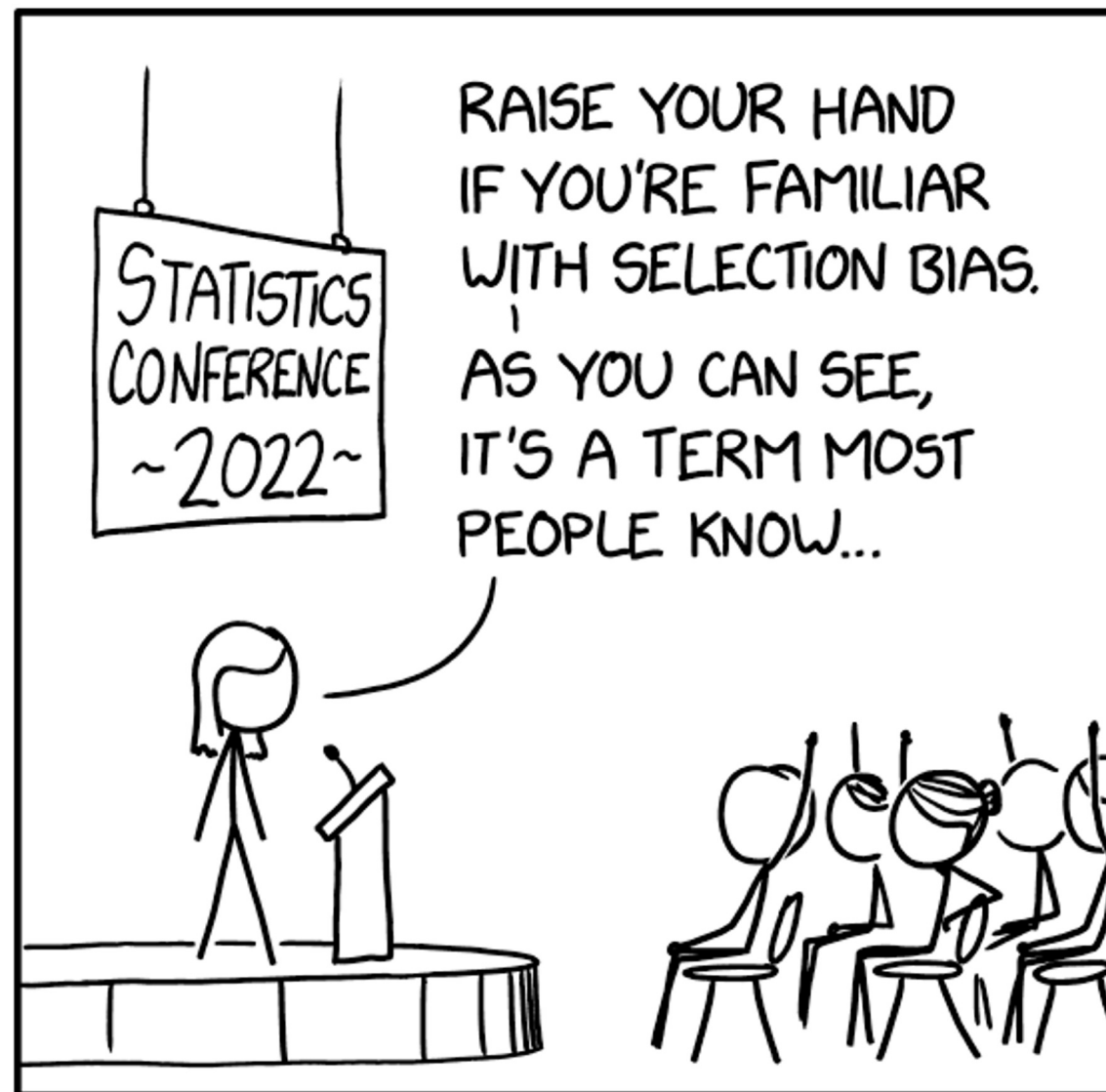
—Wikipedia

# What is bias?

Bias is a disproportionate weight in favor of or against an idea or thing, usually in a way that is closed-minded, prejudicial, or unfair.

Biases can be innate or learned. People may develop biases for or against an individual, a group, or a belief.

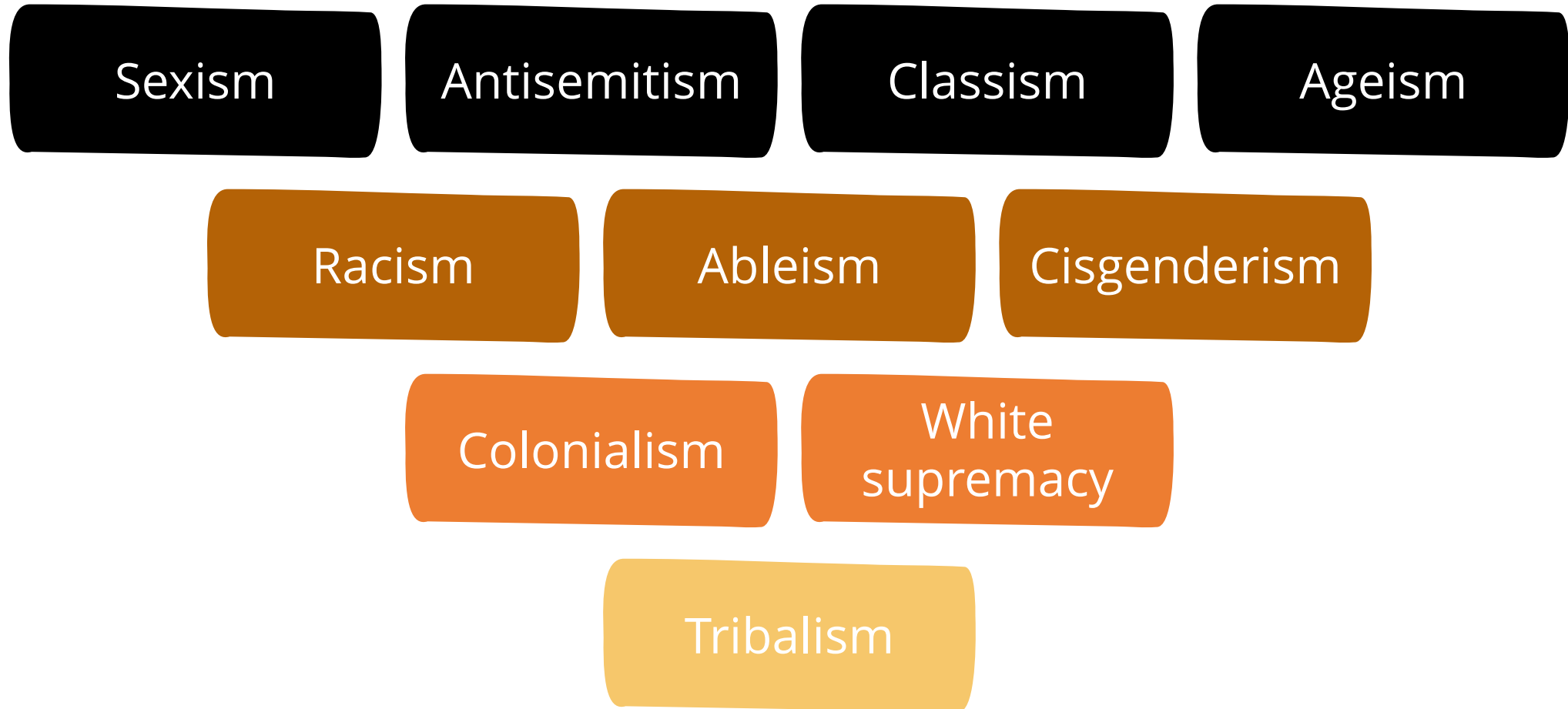
—[Wikipedia](#)



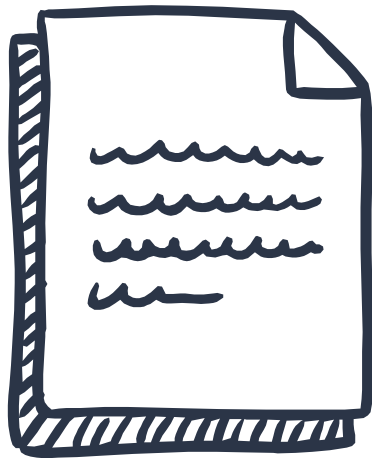
Source: <https://xkcd.com/2618/> - [CC BY-NC 2.5](#)

# What do we mean by Systems of Oppression?

Discriminatory institutions, structures, norms, policies, and practices used to oppress groups of people.



# What is a Preprint?



A **preprint** is a version of a scholarly or scientific paper that precedes formal peer review and publication in a peer-reviewed scholarly or scientific journal. The preprint may be available, often as a non-typeset version available free, before or after a paper is published in a journal.

—Wikipedia

# Preprints complement journals & open up peer review



Thank You