

Instruções: as questões de 1 a 10 referem-se ao texto abaixo.

# Science denial: why it happens and 5 things you can do about it

Science denial became deadly in 2020. Many political leaders failed to support what scientists knew to be effective prevention measures. Over the course of the pandemic, people died from COVID-19 still believing it did not exist.

Science denial is not new, of course. But it is more important than ever to understand why some people deny, doubt or resist scientific explanations—and what can be done to overcome these barriers to accepting science. As research psychologists, we know that everyone is susceptible to forms of this, but there are solutions. Here's our advice on how to confront five psychological challenges that can lead to science denial.

## Challenge #1: social identity

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People are social beings and tend to align with those who hold similar beliefs and values. Social media amplify alliances. You're likely to see more of what you already agree with and fewer alternative points of view. People live in information filter bubbles created by powerful algorithms. When those in your social circle share misinformation, you are more likely to believe it and share it. Misinformation multiplies and science denial grows.

Action #1: Each person has multiple social identities. We talked with a climate change denier and discovered he was also a grandparent. He opened up when thinking about his grandchildren's future, and the conversation turned to economic concerns, the root of his denial.

It is effective to listen to others' concerns and try to find common ground. Someone you connect with is more persuasive than those with whom you share less in common. When one identity is blocking acceptance of the science, leverage a second identity to make a connection.

# Challenge #2: mental shortcuts

Everyone's busy, and it would be exhausting to be vigilant deep thinkers all the time. You see an article online with a clickbait headline such as "Eat Chocolate and Live Longer" and you share it, because you assume it is true, want it to be or think it is ridiculous.

Action #2. Instead of sharing that article, learn to slow down and monitor the quick, intuitive responses that psychologist Daniel Kahneman calls System 1 thinking. Instead turn on the rational, analytical mind of System 2 and ask yourself, how do I know this is true? Is it plausible? Why do I think it is true? Then do some fact-checking. Learn to not immediately accept information you already believe, which is called confirmation bias.

#### Challenge #3: beliefs on how and what you know

Everyone has ideas about what they think knowledge is, where it comes from and whom to trust. Some people think there's always a clear right and wrong. But scientists view tentativeness as a hallmark of their discipline. Scientific claims will change as more evidence is gathered, so one may be distrustful of how public health policy shifted around COVID-19.

Journalists who present "both sides" of settled scientific agreements can unknowingly persuade readers that the science is more uncertain than it actually is, turning balance into bias. Only 57% of Americans surveyed accept that climate change is caused by human activity, compared with 97% of climate scientists, and only 55% think that scientists are certain that climate change is happening.

Action #3. Recognize that other people (or possibly even you) may be operating with misguided beliefs. You can help them adopt a scientific attitude, an openness to seeking new evidence and a willingness to change one's mind.

Recognize that very few individuals rely on a single authority for knowledge and expertise. Vaccine hesitancy, for example, has been successfully countered by doctors who persuasively contradict erroneous beliefs, as well as by friends who explain why they changed their own minds.

# Challenge #4: motivated reasoning

You might not think that how you interpret a simple graph could depend on your political views. But when people were asked to look at the same charts depicting either housing costs or the rise in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere over time, interpretations differed by political

affiliation. Conservatives were more likely than progressives to misinterpret the graph when it depicted a rise in CO2 than when it displayed housing costs. When people reason not just by examining facts, but with an unconscious bias to come to a preferred conclusion, their reasoning will be flawed.

Action #4: Maybe you think that genetically modified food is harmful to your health, but have you really examined the evidence? Look at articles with both pro and con information, evaluate the source of that information, and be open to the evidence leaning one way or the other. If you give yourself the time to think and reason, you can short-circuit your own motivated reasoning and open your mind to new information.

## Challenge #5: emotions and attitudes

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Emotions and attitudes are linked. Reactions to hearing that humans influence the climate can range from anger (if you do not believe it) to frustration (if you are concerned you may need to change your lifestyle) to anxiety and hopelessness (if you accept it is happening but think it's too late to fix things). How you feel about climate mitigation or GMO labeling aligns with whether you are for or against these policies.

Action #5: Recognize the role of emotions in decision-making about science. If you react strongly to a story about stem cells used in Parkinson's treatments, ask yourself if you are overly hopeful because you have a relative in early stages of the disease. Or are you rejecting a possibly lifesaving treatment because of your emotions?

Feelings shouldn't (and can't) be put in a box separate from how you think about science. Rather, it's important to understand and recognize that emotions are fully integrated ways of thinking and learning about science. Ask yourself if your attitude toward a science topic is based on your emotions and, if so, give yourself some time to think and reason as well as feel about the issue.

Everyone can be susceptible to these five psychological challenges that can lead to science denial, doubt and resistance. Being aware of these challenges is the first step toward taking action to meet them.

Retrieved from: HOFER, Barbara K.; SINATRA, Gale M. Science denial: why it happens and 5 things you can do about it. OUP Blog, August 26th, 2021. Available at <a href="https://blog.oup.com/2021/08/science-denial-why-it-happens-and-5-things-you-can-do-about-it/">https://blog.oup.com/2021/08/science-denial-why-it-happens-and-5-things-you-can-do-about-it/</a>. Access on June 1st, 2022.

- 1. Considere as afirmações abaixo em relação ao texto.
  - I. Segundo as autoras, o negacionismo científico sempre existiu, mas tornou-se mais disseminado durante a pandemia de COVID-19 por motivos políticos.
  - II. De acordo com Hofer e Sinatra, embora o negacionismo científico não seja uma novidade, o fato de pessoas terem morrido de COVID-19 ainda duvidando da existência da doença sugere uma escalada do fenômeno a níveis letais.
  - III. Para as autoras, a necessidade de aceitação social é um dos motivos que levam indivíduos a acatar informações sabidamente equivocadas e gostar de compartilhá-las.

## Quais estão corretas?

- A) Apenas I.
- B) Apenas II.
- C) Apenas III.
- D) I, II e III.

2.	Com base nas informações do texto, assi	nale com V (verdadeiro) ou F (falso).
	comportamento negacionista em determi ( ) As autoras afirmam que a única forn divulgação científica, mas as ações que psicologicamente desgastantes. ( ) A busca por uma suposta "neutralidad em relação a questões científicas já estabo ( ) Assim como posicionamentos políticos	smo indivíduos saudáveis e bem informados apresentem inados contextos ou em relação a certos debates. na eficaz de se combater o negacionismo é qualificar a sugerem visam tornar os debates menos polarizados e de jornalística", ao se dar ênfase a posições antagônicas elecidas, pode reforçar atitudes negacionistas. s, emoções podem interferir na forma como recebemos e undamental deixar a subjetividade de lado em debates
	Assinale a sequência correta de preenchimento dos parênteses, de cima para baixo.	
	A) F - V - F - V B) F - F - V - V C) V - F - V - F D) V - V - F - F	
3.	Assinale a alternativa que apresenta uma síntese adequada do texto.	
	A) O texto visa compreender por que algumas pessoas apresentam maior tendência a duvidar ou resistir às explicações científicas e o que pode ser feito para dissuadi-las.  B) O texto alerta para os riscos do negacionismo científico, o qual vem aumentando em funcivivermos em bolhas de informação cada vez mais sujeitas à ação de poderosos algoritmos.  C) O texto busca alertar os leitores para os desafios psicológicos que o convívio com negacio impõe, sugerindo formas de se desconstruir e invalidar posicionamentos científicos retrógra.  D) O texto desmistifica o negacionismo científico ao apresentá-lo como reação natur desafios psicológicos apontados e sugere formas de o evitarmos a partir da conscient quanto a nossos valores, crenças e reações.	
4.	Numere a coluna da direita de acordo co texto às suas respectivas conceituações:	om a da esquerda, associando as expressões retiradas do
	<ul><li>(1) clickbait headline (l. 23)</li><li>(2) System 1 thinking (l. 26)</li><li>(3) confirmation bias (l. 29)</li><li>(4) motivated reasoning (l. 57)</li></ul>	<ul> <li>( ) tendência a acatar aquilo em que se acredita</li> <li>( ) raciocínio tendencioso</li> <li>( ) manchete que visa atrair internautas</li> <li>( ) reação imediata e intuitiva</li> </ul>
	Assinale a sequência correta de preenchimento dos parênteses da coluna da direita, de cima para baixo.	
	A) 1 - 2 - 3 - 4. B) 2 - 4 - 1 - 3. C) 3 - 4 - 1 - 2. D) 4 - 2 - 3 - 1.	

5.	Assinale a tradução mais adequada para o vocábulo <i>Rather</i> (linha 70), conforme empregado no texto.
	A) Em vez disso. B) Por outro lado. C) De fato. D) Com certeza.
6.	O primeiro pronome <i>it</i> na frase " <i>if you accept it is happening but think it's too late to fix things</i> " (linhas 62-63) refere-se a:
	A) reactions to hearing (linha 60) B) humans influence the climate (linha 60) C) frustration (linha 61) D) anxiety and hopelessness (linha 62)
7.	As ações abaixo estão relacionadas a diferentes desafios elencados no texto. Numere cada ação de acordo com o número do desafio a que se refere.
	( ) Avaliar fontes que apresentem perspectivas diversas para o mesmo tema evitando pré-
	julgamentos.  ( ) Admitir a possibilidade de que as pessoas podem apresentar crenças sem embasamento, e de que elas raramente têm apenas uma referência em sua busca por conhecimento.  ( ) Questionar a veracidade e plausibilidade das informações, bem como sua motivação para acreditar que algo é verdadeiro.
	Assinale a sequência correta de preenchimento dos parênteses, de cima para baixo.
	A) 4 - 1 - 3 B) 2 - 3 - 4 C) 3 - 5 - 2 D) 4 - 3 - 2
8.	Assinale a tradução mais adequada para a frase: "When people reason not just by examining facts, but with an unconscious bias to come to a preferred conclusion, their reasoning will be flawed." (linhas 51-53)
	A) Quando as pessoas racionalizam não só avaliando fatos, mas com uma propensão inconsciente a uma conclusão favorita, seu pensamento será falho.  B) Quando a pessoa pensa não apenas por examinar fatos, mas com a tendência inconsciente a chegar a uma conclusão conveniente, sua argumentação será uma falha.  C) Quando as pessoas raciocinam não apenas pelo exame dos fatos, mas com uma inclinação inconsciente em direção a uma conclusão preferida, sua argumentação será falha.  D) Quando as pessoas argumentam não apenas examinando fatos, mas com uma tendência inconsciente a chegar a uma conclusão preferida, sua argumentação será falha.

- 9. Assinale a alternativa que contém uma palavra que **NÃO** pertence à mesma categoria das demais, conforme seu uso no texto.
  - A) likely (linha 11)
  - B) *immediately* (linha 28)
  - C) unknowingly (linha 35)
  - D) *fully* (linha 70)
- 10. Assinale a alternativa que contém duas palavras empregadas como verbos no texto.
  - A) beings (linha 10) e labeling (linha 63)
  - B) leverage (linha 20) e reasoning (linha 52)
  - C) monitor (linha 25) e short-circuit (linha 57)
  - D) balance (linha 36) e reason (linha 51)