

Social Justice Watch 0930

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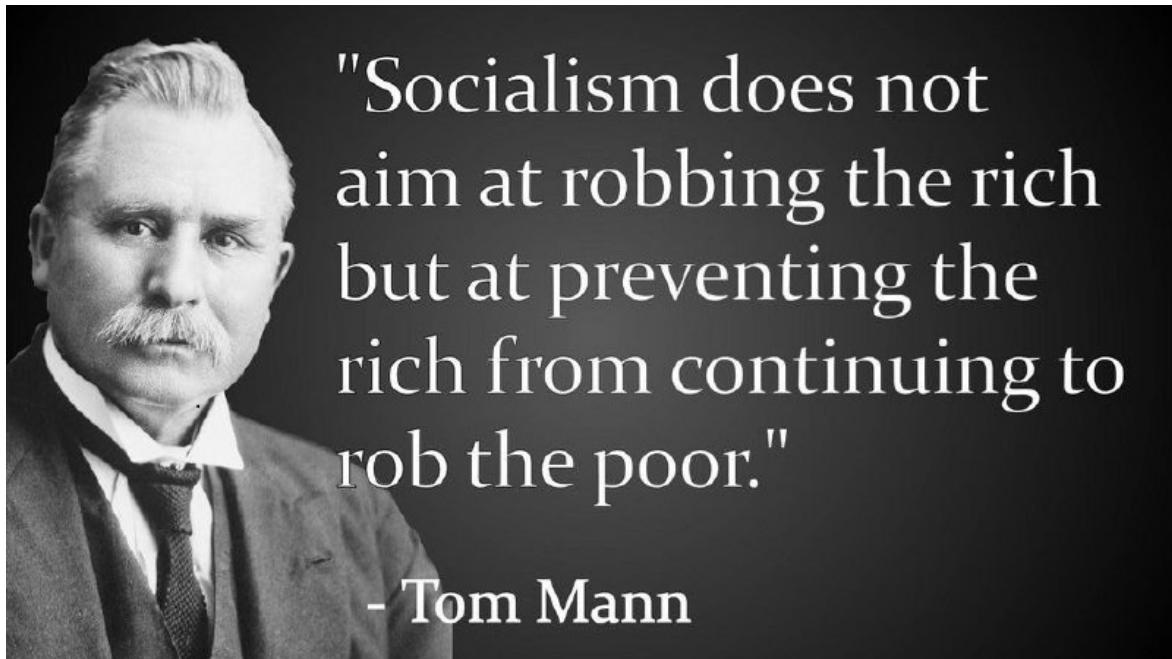
图集精选

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Men that think bulky, veiny, muscly superheroes are sexualized for women and not a male power fantasy made by men FOR men have actually IRL never talked to women. That or never actually listened to women. 🙄

Go on. Ask women what their fictional crushes were, you cowards.

<https://www.facebook.com/LetsNotDate/posts/358472022188315>



"Socialism does not aim at robbing the rich but at preventing the rich from continuing to rob the poor."

- Tom Mann

<https://www.facebook.com/LeftWingLadies/photos/a.249982242051572/123240912324091/>



7 LIES we tell people about VAGINAS

UNO
GIRL

lies we tell people about vaginas

'ALL GIRLS HAVE VAGINAS'

Gender can seem confusing, but simply put, some people are born with the genitals that match their gender and some are not. It doesn't have to be complicated, and quite honestly, someone else's genitals are none of our business!



lies we tell people about vaginas

'IT HAS TO BE TIGHT!'

VAGINAS ARE MUSCLES, they stretch,
move and can get wider without
becoming 'loose'. DO NOT USE A 'VAGINA
TIGHTENING CREAM' they are dangerous
and completely unnecessary!! If you
want to do something to help after having
a baby, do some keegel exercises!



lies we tell girls about vaginas

'YOU HAVE TO WASH IT'

VAGINAS ARE SELF CLEANING! isn't that amaaaaazing? okay great, so you can chuck out that 'vaginal wash' you have, because you honestly do not need it. Vaginas will smell and produce liquid but that's all good stuff, not something you need to wash away!



lies we tell people about vaginas

'DISCHARGE IS DISGUSTING!'

DISCHARGE IS NORMAL AND NOT SOMETHING DISGUSTING! You know how you might have a white stain on your pants? That's NORMAL, it's something your body does to clean and moisturise your vagina – how lovely is that!

UNO
GIRL

lies we tell people about vaginas

'YOUR VAGINA SHOULDN'T SMELL'

VAGINAS SMELL, okay let's just accept that! The smell is totally natural and can change depending on time of month, what you eat, hormones etc. but it's normal! Anyone who shames you for it, does not deserve to be near it!



lies we tell people about vaginas

'THERE IS A PERFECT VAGINA'

THERE IS NO 'NORMAL' OR 'PERFECT' VAGINA.

The vulvas we see in movies, porn etc. only represent one of the million beautiful vulvas out there! Skin colour changes, labias change, skin texture can change, and it's all BEAUTIFUL



<https://www.facebook.com/transarmy/posts/197703745058145>

INTERNATIONAL
SAFE ABORTION
DAY

**ABORTION
IS A
HUMAN
RIGHT.**



INTERNATIONAL
SAFE ABORTION
DAY

**CRIMINALISING
ABORTION DOES NOT
STOP ABORTIONS.**

IT MAKES THEM LESS SAFE.



INTERNATIONAL
SAFE ABORTION
DAY

40% OF WOMEN
LIVE IN COUNTRIES WITH
HIGHLY **RESTRICTIVE**
ABORTION LAWS.



INTERNATIONAL
SAFE ABORTION
DAY

IT IS **NOT ONLY**
CISGENDER WOMEN &
GIRLS WHO NEED ABORTIONS.



International Safe Abortion Day - 28 Sept [source](#)

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消息精选

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Here's another story about \$750 and the criminal punishment bureaucracy:

As public defender, I represented a man who sat in jail for over a month on a drug possession case, because of cash bail set in the amount of \$750. He couldn't afford to pay.

[#trumptaxreturns source](#)

[https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/planet-money/id290783428?
i=1000492561272](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/planet-money/id290783428?i=1000492561272)

Apple Podcasts

Planet Money: Sell Me Your Climate Bombs on Apple Podcasts
Show Planet Money, Ep Sell Me Your Climate Bombs - Sep 25, 2020

[telegra.ph/What-Its-Like-Being-a-Relationship-Anarchist-09-29-2](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/what-its-like-being-a-relationship-anarchist-09-29-2)

Telegraph

The CUT | What It's Like Being a Relationship Anarchist
Relationship anarchy (RA), a term coined by Andie Nordgren, is a relationship philosophy which draws its tenets from political anarchy, the main one being that all relationships (romantic and otherwise) shouldn't be bound by any rules not agreed upon by the...

[telegra.ph/Americans-prioritize-being-a-world-leader-in-scientific-achievements-more-than-other-global-publics-09-29](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/americans-prioritize-being-a-world-leader-in-scientific-achievements-more-than-other-global-publics-09-29)

Telegraph

Americans prioritize being a world leader in scientific achievements more than other global publics

Americans place high priority on being a world leader in scientific achievement and see positive returns from government investments in scientific research, according to a Pew Research Center survey of 20 publics conducted between October 2019 and March 2020....

[telegra.ph/Science-and-Scientists-Held-in-High-Esteem-Across-Global-Publics-09-29](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/Science-and-Scientists-Held-in-High-Esteem-Across-Global-Publics-09-29)

Telegraph

Science and Scientists Held in High Esteem Across Global Publics

This report examines cross-national perceptions of science and its place in society along with attitudes on a number of science-related issues. Data in this report come from a survey conducted across 20 publics from October 2019 to March 2020 across Europe...

<https://youtu.be/KIf5ELaOjOk>

YouTube

Revealed: Trump campaign strategy to deter millions of Black Americans from voting in 2016

Trump's election campaign wanted to deter millions of Black Americans from voting in 2016. The 'Deterrence' project can be revealed after Channel 4 News obtained the database used by Trump's digital campaign team.

(Subscribe: https://bit.ly/C4_News_Subscribe)...

Nancy Pelosi: 28 years ago, we traveled to Tiananmen Square to honor the courage & sacrifice of the students, workers & ordinary citizens who stood for the dignity & human rights that all people deserve. To this day, we remain committed to sharing their story with the world. [#Tiananmen30 source](#)

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Americans prioritize being a world leader in scientific achievements more than other global publics

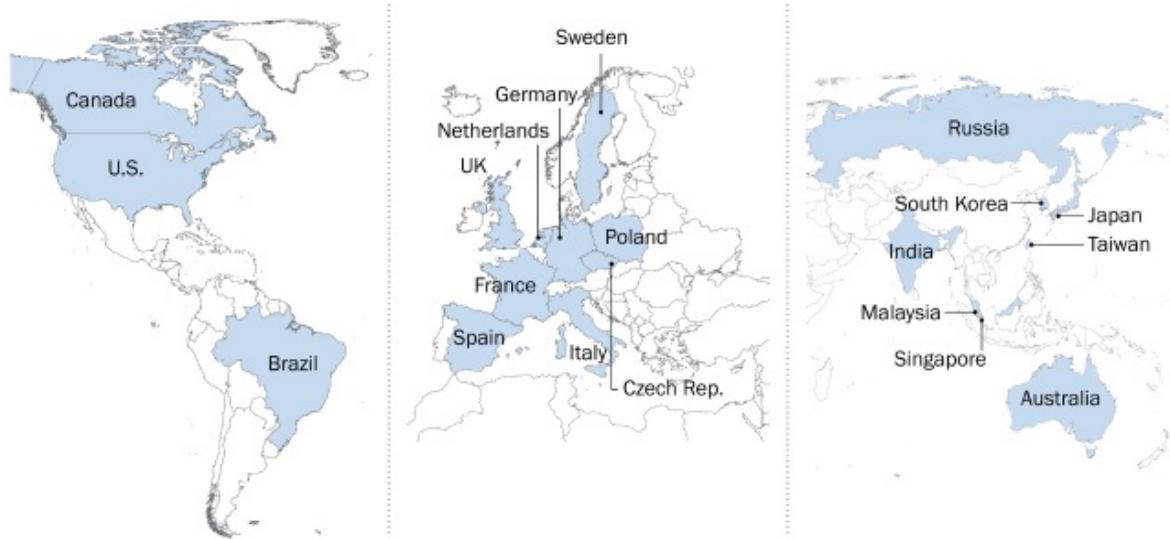
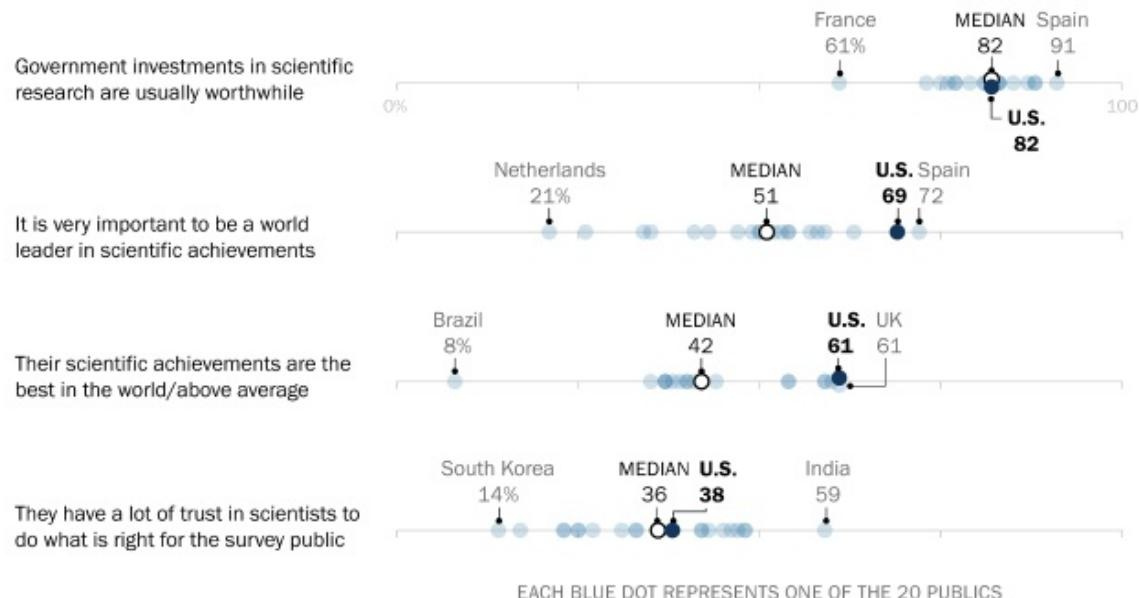
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Americans place high priority on being a world leader in scientific achievement and see positive returns from government investments in scientific research, according to a Pew Research Center survey of 20 publics conducted between October 2019 and March 2020.

The survey of adults in 20 countries or other publics with sizable or growing investments in scientific and technological development finds nearly seven-in-ten Americans (69%) think it is *very important* for the United States to be a world leader in scientific achievements. The U.S. stands out, along with Spain, for the high share of its citizens to hold this view. In many other publics, half or fewer place high importance on being a world leader in science.

Nearly seven-in-ten Americans prioritize being a world leader in science

% who say ...



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: International Science Survey 2019-2020, Q2d, Q4a, Q7, Q9a.

"Science and Scientists Held in High Esteem Across Global Publics"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

To learn how people around the world see the place of science in society, we surveyed 20 publics across Europe, Russia, the Americas and the Asia-Pacific region from October 2019 to March 2020. The surveys were conducted by face-to-face interviews in Russia, Poland, the Czech Republic, India and Brazil. In all

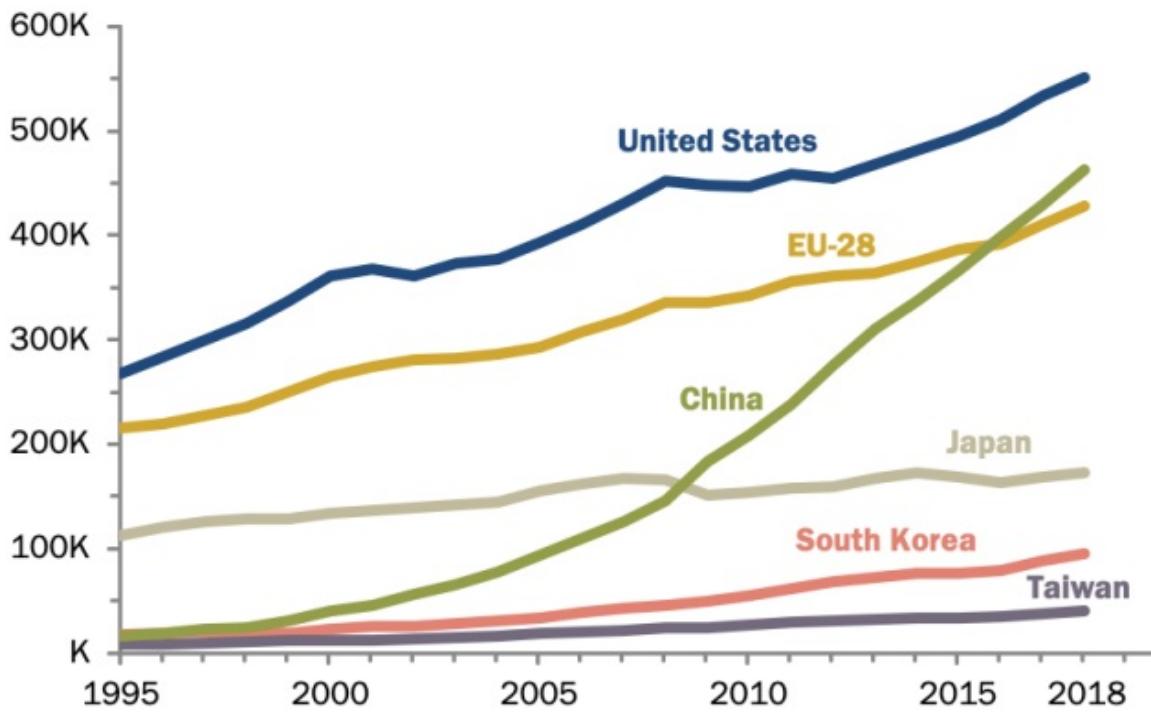
other places, the surveys were conducted by telephone. All surveys were conducted with representative samples of adults ages 18 and older in each survey public. Here is the full survey report.

Here are the questions used for this report, along with responses, and its methodology.

The U.S. has a rich history of scientific innovation and leadership, and a majority of Americans view the country's current scientific achievements in a positive light: 61% say the country's achievements in science are above average or the best in the world. Americans are more likely than people in most other publics surveyed to rate their scientific prowess highly. That compares with a 20-public median of 42% saying their scientific achievements are above average or the best in the world. Still, there are several places where comparable shares of people to the U.S. rate their scientific achievements as above average or better, including the United Kingdom (61%), India (60%), Australia (59%) and Japan (59%).

Rising global competition over R&D investment

Gross domestic spending on research and development, in millions of constant 2010 U.S. dollars adjusted for purchasing power parity



Note: China refers to the People's Republic of China and Taiwan refers to Chinese Taipei.

Source: OECD (2020), Gross domestic spending on R&D.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The new international survey in publics across Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, and in the U.S., Canada, Brazil and Russia comes as the global landscape for scientific research and innovation has shifted. In the past, the U.S. has had the largest share of spending globally on research and development. Sweden, Germany and Japan have also made sizable investments in research and development over time. But recent years have seen increased investments by Taiwan, South Korea and mainland China.

China is expected to equal or exceed the U.S. in global research and development investments in the coming years, according to data collected by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Americans' support for investment in scientific research, while high, is similar to levels seen in many other places. A large majority of U.S. adults (82%) say government investments in scientific research are usually worthwhile over time – the same share as the 20-public median – while just 15% of U.S. adults say such spending is not worth the investment.

Americans hold scientists as a group in high regard. About three-quarters of U.S. adults (77%) have at least some trust in scientists to do what's right for the country, including 38% who have *a lot* of trust. Trust in scientists is widely held across the global publics surveyed, and views in the U.S. are very similar to the median opinion on this question.

Americans' level of trust in scientists varies by partisan identification and political ideology, however. Two-thirds of liberal Democrats (67%, including those who lean to the party) have *a lot* of trust in scientists to do what is right for the country. By contrast, just 17% of conservative Republicans, including those who lean to the GOP, say the same (though a majority have at least *some* trust in them). Left-right ideological divides over trust in scientists are particularly strong in the U.S., but there also are significant divides in other places, including Canada, Australia, the UK, Germany and Italy.

Republicans and Democrats are aligned over the value of being a world leader in science and the state of U.S. scientific achievements. Nearly identical majorities of Republicans and Democrats, including those who lean to each party, say it is very important for the U.S. to be a world leader in scientific achievements (71% and 70%, respectively). Comparable majorities of both groups also view the country's scientific achievements as above average or the best in the world.

And while there is broad agreement that the U.S. should be a leader in science, Americans see room for improvement when it comes to the current state of science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in the country. About half (52%) say STEM education at the college and university level is above average or better; nearly as many (46%) say it is average or below average. Ratings are particularly low for STEM education at the primary and secondary school level: Just 31% of Americans rate instruction at this level as above average or the best in the world. Republicans and Democrats are generally aligned in their assessments of STEM education in the country.

Note: Here are the questions used for this report, along with responses, and its

methodology.

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Science and Scientists Held in High Esteem Across Global Publics

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This report examines cross-national perceptions of science and its place in society along with attitudes on a number of science-related issues.

Data in this report come from a survey conducted across 20 publics from October 2019 to March 2020 across Europe, Russia, the Americas and the Asia-Pacific region. The surveys were conducted by face-to-face interviews in Russia, Poland, the Czech Republic, India and Brazil. In all other places, the surveys were conducted by telephone. All surveys were conducted with representative samples of adults ages 18 and older in each survey public.

Here are the questions used for the report, along with responses, and the survey methodology.

As publics around the world look to scientists and the research and development process to bring new treatments and preventive strategies for the novel

coronavirus, a new international survey finds scientists and their research are widely viewed in a positive light across global publics, and large majorities believe government investments in scientific research yield benefits for society.

Most value government investment in scientific research, being a world leader in science

% who say ...



EACH BLUE DOT REPRESENTS ONE OF THE 20 PUBLICS

Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: International Science Survey 2019-2020. Q2d, Q4a, Q7, Q9a.

“Science and Scientists Held in High Esteem Across Global Publics”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Still, the wide-ranging survey, conducted before the COVID-19 outbreak reached pandemic proportions, reveals ambivalence about certain scientific developments – in areas such as artificial intelligence and genetically modified foods – often exists alongside high trust for scientists generally and positive

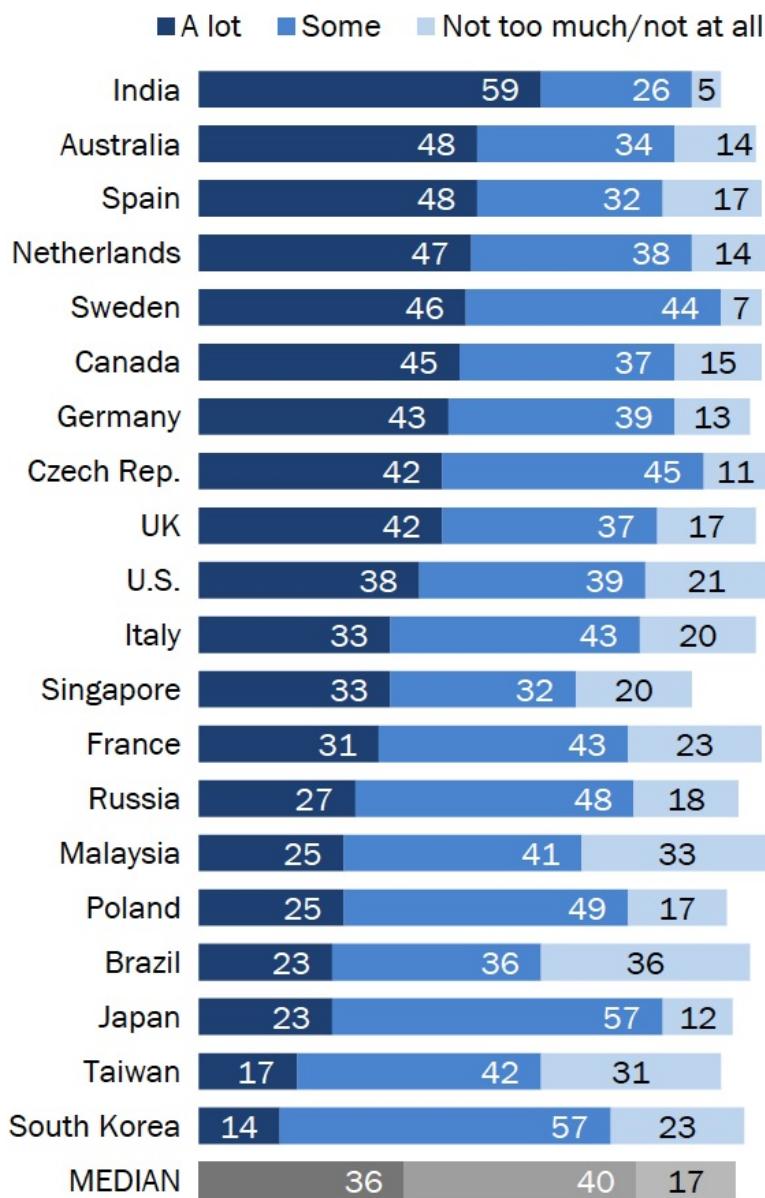
views in other areas such as space exploration.

Public concerns around climate change and environmental degradation remain widespread. In most publics, majorities view climate change as a very serious problem, say their government is not doing enough to address it and point to a host of environmental concerns at home, including air and water quality and pollution.

With renewed attention to the importance of public acceptance of vaccines, the new survey finds majorities in most publics tend to view childhood vaccines, such as those for measles, mumps and rubella, as relatively safe and effective. Yet sizable minorities across global publics hold doubts about this keystone tool of modern medicine.

Majorities have at least some trust in scientists to do what is right

% who say they have ___ trust in scientists to do what is right for (survey public)



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: International Science Survey 2019-2020, Q2d.

"Science and Scientists Held in High Esteem Across Global Publics"

The international survey, fielded in publics across Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, and in the United States, Canada, Brazil and Russia finds broad agreement about the value of scientific research. A median of 82% consider government investment in scientific research worthwhile, and majorities across places view it as important to be a leader in scientific achievements.

The Center survey sheds light on how publics see the place of science in society amid the changing global landscape for scientific research and innovation. The U.S. had the largest share of global spending on research and development in the past, but recent years have seen greater investments by Taiwan, South Korea and mainland China. China is expected to equal or exceed the U.S. in global R&D investments in the coming years, according to data collected by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Scientists as a group are highly regarded, compared with other prominent groups and institutions in society. In all publics, majorities have at least some trust in scientists to do what is right. A median of 36% have “a lot” of trust in scientists, the same share who say this about the military, and much higher than the shares who say this about business leaders, the national government and the news media.

Still, an appreciation for practical experience, more so than expertise, in general, runs deep across publics. A median of 66% say it’s better to rely on people with practical experience to solve pressing problems, while a median of 28% say it’s better to rely on people who are considered experts about the problems, even if they don’t have much practical experience.

The publics’ assessments of their own achievements in science do not always measure up to their aspirations: A median of 42% say their scientific achievements are above average or the best in the world. However, the shares holding this view ranges from 8% in Brazil to 61% each in the U.S. and United Kingdom.

And in many places, the public sees room for improvement when it comes to education at the university or primary and secondary school levels in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). A median of 42% rate university STEM education in their survey public as above average or the best in the world, and a smaller median of 30% give high marks to their science,

technology, engineering and math education at the primary and secondary school level.

These are among the chief findings from the survey conducted among 20 publics with sizable or growing investments in scientific and technological development from across Europe (the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom), the Asia-Pacific region (Australia, India, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan) as well as Russia, the United States, Canada and Brazil.

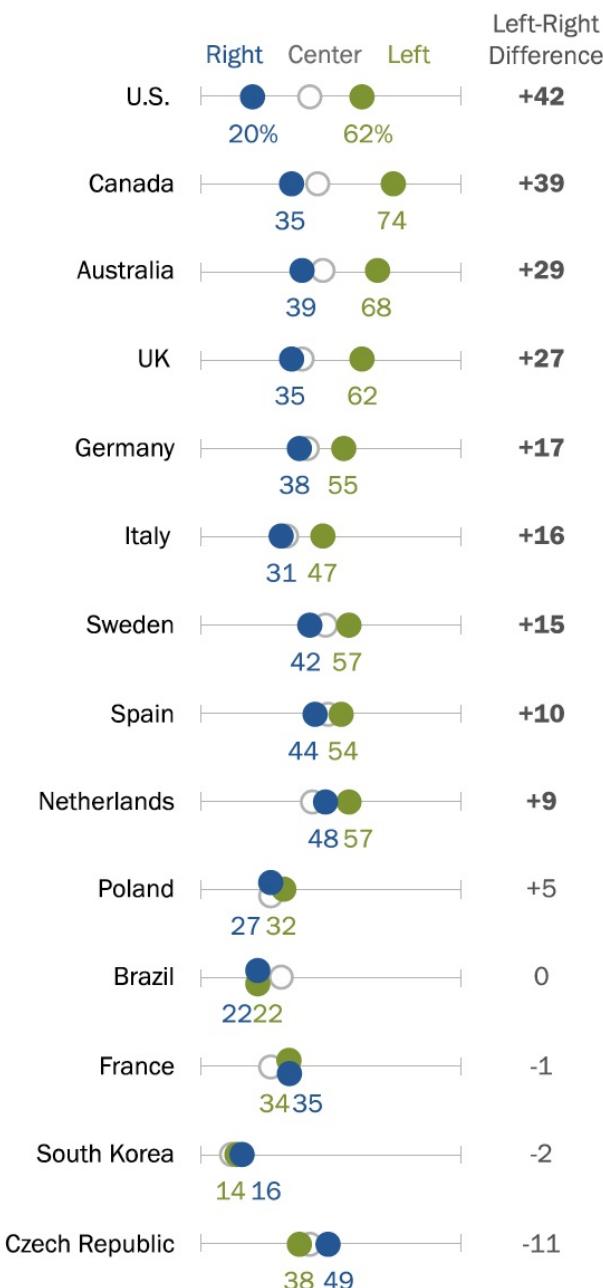
Public trust in scientists is often higher for those on the left than the right of the political spectrum

While there is generally a positive tilt toward public trust in scientists, trust often varies with ideology. In general, those on the left express more trust in scientists than those on the right.

Such differences are especially pronounced in the U.S., where fully 62% of those on the left have a lot of trust in scientists, compared with two-in-ten of those on the right. (The gap is similar factoring in party identification; 67% of liberal Democrats in the U.S. say they have a lot of trust in scientists, compared with 17% of conservative Republicans.)

Those on the political right often less trusting of scientists than those on left

% who trust scientists **a lot** to do what is right for
(survey public)



Note: Statistically significant differences in bold. Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: International Science Survey 2019-2020, Q2d.

“Science and Scientists Held in High Esteem Across Global Publics”

Left-right divides are also present in a number of other places. In Canada, for instance, 74% of those who place themselves on the left say they have a lot of trust in scientists to do what is right, compared with 35% of Canadians with right-leaning political views.

In the UK, there's a 27 percentage point difference between the shares of those on the left and right who have a lot of trust in scientists. Germany (by 17 points), Sweden (15 points) and Spain (10 points) are among the other places where those on the left are more trusting of scientists than those on the right.

Consistent with this ideological pattern, those with favorable views of right-wing populist parties in Europe tend to express lower levels of trust in scientists than those with unfavorable views of these parties.

However, differences by political ideology do not strongly extend to other views of scientists or experts. For instance, there are generally modest or no left-right differences in views of whether scientists tend to make judgments based solely on the facts or are just as likely to be biased as other people. And in most places, there's general agreement across the political spectrum that, when it comes to solving pressing problems, it is better to rely on people with practical experience than on people with expertise. A median of two-thirds say it is better to rely on people with practical experience, while a median of 28% say it is better to rely on people with expertise, even if they don't have practical experience.

Amid rising concern about global climate change, most see at least some impact from climate change where they live and say their government is doing too little to address it

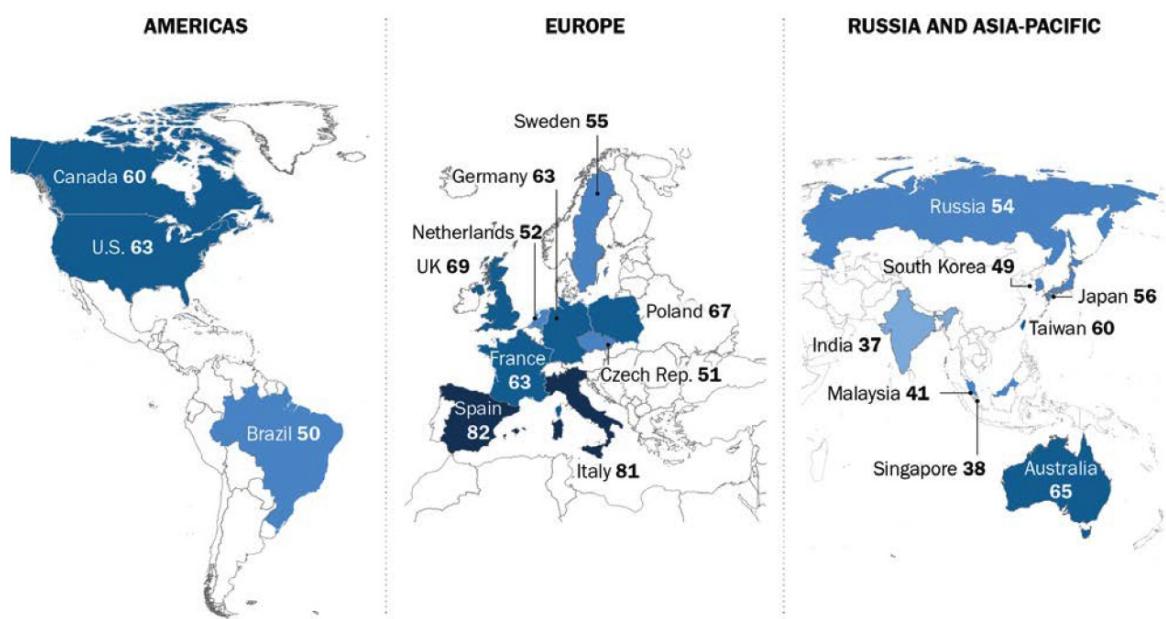
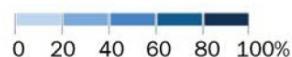
International concern about climate change has increased over the past several years, with growing shares viewing climate change as a major threat. In addition, large majorities in the current survey express worry over climate change and describe it as a serious problem.

A median of seven-in-ten across the set of 20 publics say climate change is having at least some effect on their local community. And in some places – Italy, Spain and Brazil – about half or more see a *great deal* of impact from climate change in their community. Government action on climate change is widely seen as lacking: Majorities across most of surveyed publics believe their government

is doing too little to address climate change (20-public median of 58%).

In most publics surveyed, half or more say there is a need for more government action on climate

% who say their government is doing too little to reduce the effects of global climate change



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: International Science Survey 2019-2020, Q30.

"Science and Scientists Held in High Esteem Across Global Publics"

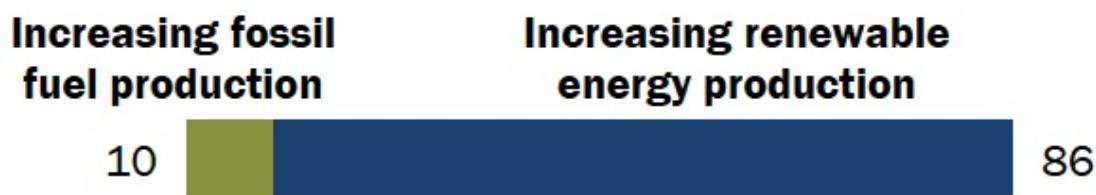
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Most prioritize environmental protection, increasing renewable energy

Median % who say ____ should be given priority



Median % who say ____ should be the more important priority for addressing (survey public's) energy supply



Note: Percentages are medians based on 20 publics. Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: International Science Survey 2019-2020, Q25, Q27.

“Science and Scientists Held in High Esteem Across Global Publics”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Across the 20 publics surveyed, environmental concerns extend beyond the issue of climate change: Large majorities rate a host of environmental issues as big problems, including air and water pollution, overburdened landfills, deforestation and the loss of plant and animal species. In general terms, environmental concerns trump economic considerations: When asked to choose, a median of 71% said environmental protection should be the greater priority even if it caused slower economic growth and loss of jobs; a much smaller

median of 25% said creating jobs should be the priority (the survey was conducted before the coronavirus pandemic and resultant economic strains took hold in many of these publics).

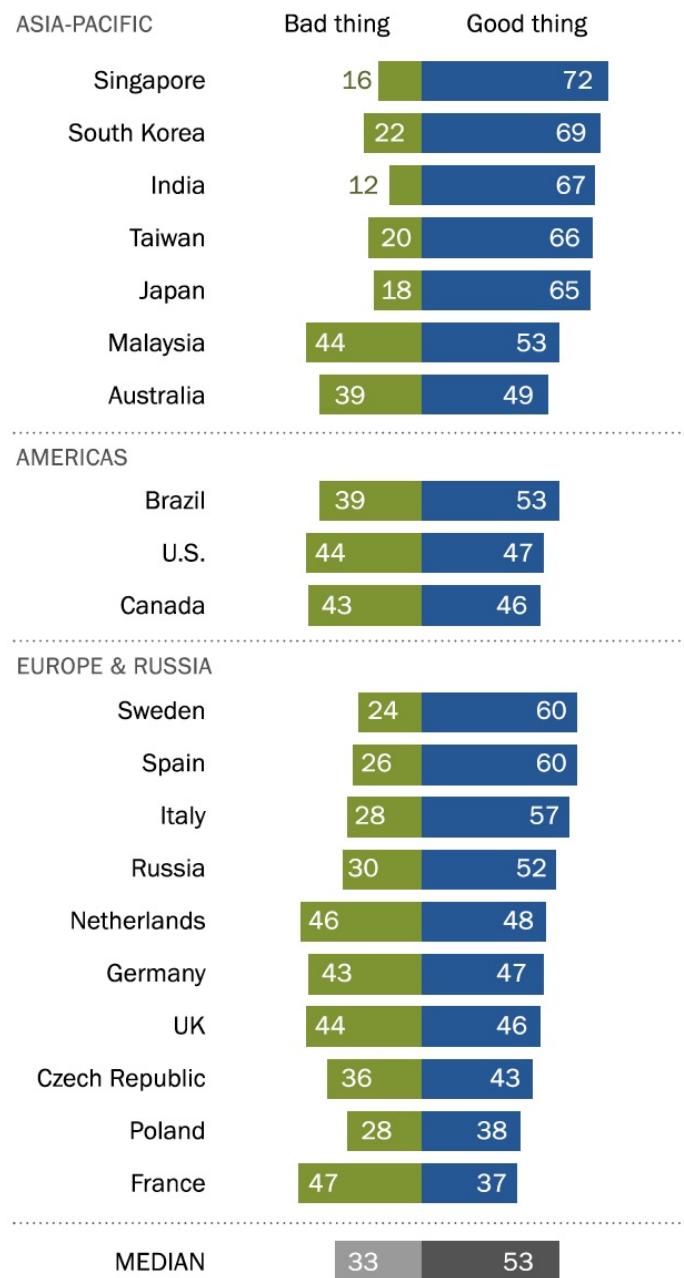
Consistent with environmental worries, majorities across all 20 publics say the more important energy priority should be increasing production of renewable energy such as wind and solar sources over increasing production of oil, natural gas and coal (median of 86% to 10%). Views about specific energy sources underscore this pattern with strong majorities in favor of expanding the use of wind, solar and hydropower sources and much less support, by comparison, for energy sources such as oil or coal. Views on expanding natural gas fall somewhere in between.

Public views about climate, environment and energy issues are strongly linked with political ideology. For example, those who place themselves on the political left are more inclined to see climate change as a serious problem and to think their government is doing too little to address it than those on the right; these differences are particularly wide in the U.S., Australia, Sweden, Canada, the UK and the Netherlands.

There is little consensus across regions in views of artificial intelligence, automation in the workplace

Public views of AI's impact on society are often mixed

% who say the development of artificial intelligence has mostly been a ___ for society



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: International Science Survey 2019-2020. Q11b.

"Science and Scientists Held in High Esteem Across Global Publics"

Public views of artificial intelligence, described for survey respondents as computer systems designed to imitate human behaviors, are generally viewed positively by publics in the Asia-Pacific region. A median of two-thirds in the Asia-Pacific say that AI has been a good thing for society, while a median of 20% say it has been a bad thing. Elsewhere public views are mixed. In Europe a median of 47% say the development of AI has been good for society. Roughly half view AI positively in Brazil (53%), Russia (52%), the U.S. (47%) and Canada (46%).

Opinions about the impact of robotics to automate jobs also are mixed. A median of 48% say such automation has mostly been a good thing, while 42% say it has been a bad thing. As with views of AI, assessments of job automation are generally more positive in the Asia-Pacific region (median of 61% say it's been a good thing). Fewer in Europe (a median of 48%) share this positive view. Those in France (35%), Spain (37%) and Brazil (29%) are among the least likely to say robots and automation in the workplace has been a good thing for society. In the U.S., slightly more say this type of automation has been bad than good for the country (50% vs. 41%).

Across places surveyed, those with higher levels of education and who have taken more science courses in their schooling are especially likely to consider AI and workplace automation as a positive development for society. Views tend to be less positive among those with lower levels of education.

Many publics give positive marks for handling the coronavirus outbreak

The coronavirus pandemic altered the lives of people around the world. Governments applied a myriad of approaches in response to the outbreak, and the scope of the health crisis varied widely.

A separate Pew Research Center survey conducted June to August of 2020 in 14 countries found a median of 73% think their country has done a good job handling the novel coronavirus. Strong majorities in Denmark, Germany, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands and South Korea hold this view as do at least seven-in-ten in Italy and Sweden. In Japan 55% give their country positive marks. In the UK, U.S. and Spain, ratings are more divided, with wide differences of opinion across political or ideological groups about their country's handling of the outbreak.

More think their country has done a bad job handling the outbreak in places with higher counts of coronavirus-related fatalities. Similarly, the share who say their country is more divided than before the outbreak is strongly related to the number of cases and deaths from the disease. The U.S. stands out on this measure with 77% of Americans saying the outbreak has further divided the nation.

Among the reports' other major findings:

- **Many see childhood vaccines as bringing high preventive health benefits but some doubts about safety and effectiveness remain.** A majority of adults in 17 of the 20 publics rate the preventive health benefits from childhood vaccines – such as the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine – to be high. But there are only a handful of publics – Sweden, Spain and Australia – where about eight-in-ten or more are convinced of the high preventive health benefits. Smaller majorities take this view in other places, including Italy, the Netherlands and Singapore. And while most places consider the risk of side effects from childhood vaccines to be low, half or more in Japan, Malaysia, Russia, South Korea, France and Singapore consider the risk to be medium or high. Those who identify on the political right, or who have a favorable view of a right-wing populist party in Europe, are less likely to see the preventive health benefits of such vaccines as high or the risk of side effects to be low or none. These differences are particularly large in the Netherlands, UK and France.
- **There are widespread concerns about the safety of genetically modified foods in many of these publics.** Larger shares believe foods with genetically modified (GM) ingredients are *unsafe* to eat than say they are safe (20-public median of 48% vs. 13%). Though familiarity with GM foods is not always high: A median of 37% say they don't know enough about such foods to say. Health risks also are seen in produce grown with pesticides and food and drinks with artificial preservatives. Women are more likely than men to express safety concerns about all three food groups.
- **Many give science news coverage positive marks but cite lack of public understanding as a problem for science coverage.** Overall, a median of 68% say the news media do a very or somewhat good job covering science; 28% say they generally do a bad job. Publics generally agree about one issue with the news, however: Majorities across 18 of the 20 publics say that limited public understanding is a problem for coverage of scientific

research. Far fewer consider media oversimplifying findings or researchers overstating their findings to be a problem for coverage of research.

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The CUT | What It's Like Being a Relationship Anarchist

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Relationship anarchy (RA), a term coined by Andie Nordgren, is a relationship philosophy which draws its tenets from political anarchy, the main one being that all relationships (romantic and otherwise) shouldn't be bound by any rules not agreed upon by the involved parties. What those relationships might look like may vary greatly from pair to pair, but there are several core values shared by most relationship anarchists: being non-hierarchical (i.e., they don't rank their romantic partner[s] as necessarily more important than their friends); anti-prescriptionist (i.e., there are no built-in prescriptions about what a partnership must look like); and often, nonmonogamous. (Some relationship anarchists are polyamorous, and some poly people practice relationship hierarchy, but the two are more like overlapping circles than synonyms.)

Like many minority populations, relationship anarchists are no strangers to in-group fighting, and what does and does not “count” as relationship anarchy is a subject of spirited social-media debate among the thousands of members of RA Facebook groups — Nordgren’s term (and its subsequent adherents) appears to be little more than a decade old. To learn more about what relationship anarchy is like, the Cut spoke to two people who define their partnership (and their other partnerships) by these terms. Kelli is a 34-year-old trans nonbinary person who uses they/them pronouns, and Aviva is a 35-year-old queer, genderqueer lesbian who uses she/her pronouns.

I don't know if this is the right way to ask this, but how long have you two been together?

A: Kelli and I have been dating ... I would say dating, right? We're dating.

K: We *were* dating.

A: We were dating, now we mostly are couching. [They both laugh.] We don't really go out that much. But it'll be four years in December.

K: I wonder if a good way to ask that would be, “How long have you been doing intimacy together?”

A: Yeah, I like that.

K: I like that, too. Because when we first met we weren't really trying to build intimacy, and then there was a friend intimacy a little bit.

A: We were not friends.

K: Okay, great. Good chat.

A: We were acquaintances, and we did karaoke together, too.

K: And there was a point at which we started building some kind of intimacy that quickly, quickly turned into super romantic, sexual intimacy, then that transformed into emotional intimacy as well as romance and sex, and social intimacy.

A: And now practical intimacy.

K: Our anniversary is in December, and it'll be four years.

What does that date mark?

A: It's kind of complicated. We performed in a show together, and then we started hanging out with a mutual friend, and then we kissed for the first time on that mutual friend's birthday.

K: That was November 13.

A: Yeah, and the first time we said "I love you" was Christmas Eve. So those seemed like really bad dates to pick for our anniversary, so December 3 and 4 are exactly in between. So that's our anniversary.

That's very mathematical of you.

K: Well, the actual date doesn't really matter.

A: Kelli and I had an "unniversary" party, which was to celebrate how awesome our relationship is regardless of how long we're together. We're not promising to be together forever, because maybe we won't. Neither of us believes that longevity is the marker of a successful relationship. It's about whether or not the people in the relationship are happy, and we're really happy, so we were like "Let's throw a party!"

K: It's different from a commitment ceremony and different than a wedding. But my parents had no idea how important it was, because it wasn't called a wedding, so they casually were like, "We're not going to show up tomorrow," and I had this whole dramatic thing over it, and had to explain to them that actually it was really important that they be there.

**How do you define your relationship when you describe it to other people?
And how do you define your relationship(s) to your other partners?**

K: Aviva and I refer to [our relationship] as an anchor partnership. That essentially means that we are each other's significant support. It's a grounding, home-type relationship.

A: An anchor partnership isn't necessarily the person you've been with the longest, it's not your primary partner, it's not your spouse. For me, the word

“anchor” is somebody who I have emotional intimacy with, who is an emotional support for me, like: who might I call when I go to the hospital, or who might I call if I’m having a rough day? That’s what anchor partnership is to me. That’s not to the exclusion of other anchor partnerships. I have more than one anchor partner. Kelli is one of them.

Forgive me for making comparisons, but is it sort of like the way we use “best friend” now — as Mindy Kaling says, as a tier, rather than a single person?

A: I think what’s so tricky about having these comparison conversations is that the idea of relationship anarchy is decoupling those prescriptive labels — like “this person is most important to me in the world, and everyone else is after that,” it’s the opposite of that. So when we say things like “best friend,” we’re saying this friend is more important than our other friends. That’s like the opposite of relationship anarchy, which is where this gets really confusing. [My anchor partners are] somebody who’s like a stable person in my life, who gives lots of emotional support, we might do vacations or hobbies together.

And what’s the difference between your anchor partners and your other partners? Can you tell me a little bit about the other relationships you both have?

K: Considering I don’t have any other partners, this is the perfect opportunity for you to go first.

A: You don’t have any other partners *right now*.

I have three other partners, one of which is another anchor partner. But also, the labels don’t really matter in that they’re all like family to me. We do holidays and things together, and we all support each other. I think that terminology is always in flux. All relationships ebb and flow, and sometimes you reach a certain level of intimacy where you might want to change what you call each other, and sometimes relationships change — you might say, okay, maybe we don’t have this romantic aspect anymore, or we don’t have a sexual aspect anymore, and we might want to change a label, but maybe not. The idea is that we’re using words that describe *what* we’re doing, rather than words that prescribe how we *have* to do it.

So how do you describe the other relationships?

A: I just call them partners. I don't use any gender based labels for partnerships. Boyfriend/girlfriend isn't really a thing that works, especially not in the queer community, where lots of people are genderqueer, or their gender identities might be in flux, or they're non-binary or trans. Even if they're not, girlfriend and boyfriend and spouse all have very specific connotations. When you say "So and so is my girlfriend," automatically you're like, "Oh, are you going to invite them to family dinner? Should I ask your girlfriend if it's cool if you come out with us to the movies? Should I let your girlfriend know you're going to be home late?" It implies all these ideas about how this person is included in your life, and what role they have in decision-making about your life and your body and how you spend your time, and the way I live my life is really antithetical to that, so I try not to use words that imply those things possessiveness, or degree of enmeshment.

Is a “partner” always romantic and/or sexual? Or can it be platonic?

A: It can be all of those things. My relationship with Kelli is romantic and sexual. I've got another partner that is a very romantic and sexual relationship. My other anchor partner, we're deeply emotionally intimate, and I would describe our connection as sometimes more of a romantic friendship. And I have another partner who is definitely family, sometimes romantic, sometimes sexual.

There are some relationships where romance and sex are a big part of the identity of the relationship — that's the first way you connect with that person. And then there are other relationships where it's like, even if we never have sex again, I would still be super in love with you, or even if I wasn't in love with you anymore, I'd still want you to be my family.

For comparison, let's take a heterosexual couple that's been married for 20 years. Do they still have a sexual relationship? A lot of people do, but maybe once every six months, or once a month. Would you say that they're sexual partners, or would you just say they're family? Relationship anarchy dissociates all those things from being one person, and says, you can explore all these kinds of connections in whatever combination with whoever, as long as you both agree to that and it feels good to you.

Kelli, what is it like for you to be in a relationship with Aviva while she has other partners and you don't?

K: It's definitely constantly communicating about everything, which is a relationship thing in general, really, or at least it should be. I like hearing about what's going on with Aviva and her relationships. It's certainly not a rule, but it does help me to feel safer since Aviva and I are in each other's lives in such a big way. Fortunately Aviva's really, really, really good at that.

A: Thank you.

K: She tells me every single step of the way, and it's partly because she wants to give me a heads-up, and partially because she wants to share that part of her life with me, and partially because she knows I want to hear about it.

A: I think the other piece of it, Kel — and I'm gonna start this for you, and you can finish it yourself, because I don't want to speak for you, but my other partners are part of your life, too.

K: Yes. I personally like to do either kitchen table polyamory, which I hope is what it sounds like: essentially, I like to have everyone at the table — as much as everyone wants to be — but I really like getting to know my metas.

Your what now?

K: My metamours [partner's other partners]. I said "metas" I guess, which is shortened. I kind of look at them like in-laws, but not in a bad way. They're family, and my partner loves them, and I'm sure I'll love them too. And then I have my own boundaries around that. I get overstimulated really easily, so I can't hang out forever.

How is relationship anarchy connected to polyamory?

A: Relationship anarchy isn't just a political act against hierarchy, but also against any rules and restrictions, which include monogamy and legal agreements, but which can also include polyamorous relationships that have rules and restrictions in place. There's a lot of confusion about relationship anarchy and how it fits in with polyamory.

I think a lot of folks think relationship anarchy is the same thing as egalitarian or non-hierarchical polyamory, which is, "I don't have a primary partner, I treat all of my loves the same." But they're not the same thing. Relationship anarchy is deconstructing all the pieces of your relationships — companionship, living

together, romance, sex — so that those don't all have to be in the same person. You don't necessarily have to have any or all of those things in your relationship. You don't necessarily have to prioritize your sexual relationship over your other relationships. You really focus on finding the way you connect with somebody, and nurturing the part that works for you, and disregarding society's expectations of what you should do.

For example, why can't you have a romantic friendship, or a sexual friend that you're not involved with any other way? Why can't you have a companion partner that you're not romantic with or sexual with? The terms monogamy and polyamory really talk a lot about sex and romance, when there are aromantic and asexual people, and those folks have relationships too. So how are they supposed to be represented in our language?

K: You can be polyamorous and relationship anarchist, but polyamory is not a subset of relationship anarchy, and vice versa.

But you can't really be monogamous and a relationship anarchist, can you?

A: That is up for debate. It's a constant debate that comes up on the RA Facebook group, all the time. My personal belief is no, because RA is inherently political, and fights against coercive or closed relationships, whether you're monogamous, or you're polyamorous but you control what your partner does with other people. Those are all fixed relationships with rules. There are lots of people who say, "Ooh, I really like relationship anarchy but I'm not comfortable with the political piece," and it's like, anarchy *is* political. If you're not comfortable with politics, maybe that's not exactly what you're going for.

I'm not saying I'm personally going out to dismantle monogamy. I don't have the time or energy for that.

K: Monogamous is a personal identity, and you don't get to put that on somebody else. Just because you're monogamous doesn't mean your partner has to be monogamous. Sexuality is fluid, romance is fluid. For example, I sometimes like to have sex with penises. I don't fall in love with them, but all these things are really fluid, and nothing is fixed, and you can't say you're one way forever.

The system of toxic monogamy puts you in the place of committing to it when you didn't even get a choice in the first place. You don't get to opt out. You

don't get to tell your partner you're having feelings for another person without blowing up your whole life. There's no room for that [kind of monogamy] in relationship anarchy. But I think there's definitely room for people who just don't feel drawn to having more than one partner. They might also say they don't have room for more than one best friend.

I assume neither of you wants to get married. Marriage doesn't seem very relationship anarchist.

A: No.

K: That is true. The system of marriage is based on trading women for property, so it's inherently not an anarchist establishment.

A: It's literally monitored by the state.

K: That too. Now, since marriage does provide protection for people of all genders, especially with children, there's privilege in being able to not be married.

A: Yeah, it's complicated. Marriage is a forced power imbalance. Anything that is recognized by the state in that way, that is sanctioned by the state, and you get benefits from that, that's a forced power imbalance. On the other hand, there are people who can't afford to get married because they'll lose their disability benefits. So that's another area where your privilege really comes into play. Can you financially live by yourself? Are you physically able to live by yourself? What's your immigration status? There are so many reasons why you might not be able to not do those things. With relationship anarchy, it's more about finding the connections that are in between what we call a partner and a friend, or family and a boyfriend, or whatever it is. The anarchist piece is about examining oppressive systems and power imbalances.

Are you out to your biological families?

K & A: Yeah.

How did they respond to your coming out as being a relationship anarchist vs. coming out as queer?

A: For me, I think it was kind of the same. I don't think it was shocking. I'm

really lucky that my family is very open and loving, and just like my mom said, “Oh, I’ll just get used to you bringing home a girlfriend instead of a boyfriend,” she was like, “Oh, I guess I’ll just get used to you bringing home *two* girlfriends!” She just rolled with it. She was awesome. I recently had an experience where I was in a hospital, and a bunch of partners came to visit me, and my mom was there the whole time, and it was awesome. I felt really supported.

K: It was really awesome. I had a super happy poly moment over it.

So for me, when I came out as gay, it was kind of awkward, but not the worst experience in the world. Both my parents kind of had a hard time with it, but tried really hard to be okay with it, and it was uncomfortable for a few years, and then it was mostly fine. Partially that had to do with partner selection, too — when you’re in your 20s, you suck at picking partners. That’s just how it is.

Then I came out as poly, and my parents were like “What? I don’t get it, but okay.” Fortunately by then I was better at picking partners, so it was a little easier to be like “See? You like this person, it’s fine.” And then, coming out as trans/non-binary has been super, super awkward, and I don’t know that my dad will ever be able to reconcile that I’m not his daughter anymore. So being polyamorous and being not straight was kind of awkward, but mostly good. The worst thing was the gender.

Do you guys ever feel like you get the rules confused, or mess something up? Or fail to be properly RA in some way?

A: Totally. One of the things that comes up a lot online in the discussion groups I’m in is people asking “Am I bad at relationship anarchy, because I’m doing this?” I think it’s the difference between descriptive and prescriptive labels. We’re trying to use words to explain to people who we are, which is so powerful and important for understanding more about ourselves and our self-discovery. But also, sometimes when we use the labels, they’re confining, too. We know these things to be so much more complicated. I have that experience. I like to check in with myself to see if I’m acting in alignment with my values, and a lot of times, when something feels weird, sometimes it’s monogamy hangover stuff.

Monogamy hangover?

A: I think “monogamy hangover” was coined by Mel ... ?

K: I think so, it's hard to say.

A: Mel Mariposa has this monogamy hangover workshop, and it's basically learning how to distinguish between your social conditioning versus what you really want. If you've been with somebody for two years, and you're like "Oh, they didn't propose to me!" Do you really want to get married, or do you just think you should, because you've been together for two years? Because that's the automatic next step? Things like that.

K: It's a lot of unpacking, always. We conflate sex and romance all the time in society. I have to go, "Do I just want to have sex with this person because I think that I should, because I'm romantically attracted to them? Or do I want to have sex with them because I want to?" It's about breaking down or throwing out rules, norms and structures, and building back up from a place of what works and doesn't work.

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