



## INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH SEMINAR



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# Politically Motivated Reasoning and Evidence Resistance.

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### Abstract

This paper looks into what best explains and how to best address the widely spread phenomenon of resistance to scientific evidence, and its dire consequences. I first examine a popular hypothesis in social psychology - the politically motivated reasoning hypothesis - and argue that it fails on both extensional adequacy and prior plausibility. I go on to develop an account of evidence resistance that does better on both fronts, in that it successfully distinguishes epistemically problematic evidence resistance from epistemically justified evidence rejection. Further on, I argue that this model helps us design adequate intervention strategies.