

Scientists, politics, government, public sector and non-technical management: part 1



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“FEC”: 

Very sorta “FISA Court”  Toetsingscommissie
Inzet Bevoegdheden 



Sorta CIA, MI5/MI6



POWERDNS 

TU Delft



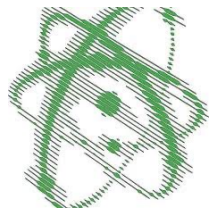
FOX-IT
FOR A MORE SECURE SOCIETY

POWERDNS 

POWERDNS 

“Reverse Engineering the source code of the BioNTech/Pfizer SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine”

TU Delft



[nature](#) > [scientific data](#) > [data descriptors](#) > [article](#)

Data Descriptor | [Open Access](#) | [Published: 22 March 2022](#)

SkewDB, a comprehensive database of GC and 10 other skews for over 30,000 chromosomes and plasmids

[Bert Hubert](#)

[Scientific Data](#) **9**, Article number: 92 (2022) | [Cite this article](#)

687 Accesses | **5** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Abstract

GC skew denotes the relative excess of G nucleotides over C nucleotides on the leading versus the lagging replication strand of eubacteria. While the effect is small, typically around 2.5%, it is robust and pervasive. GC skew and the analogous TA skew are a localized deviation from Chargaff's second parity rule, which states that G and C, and T and A occur with (mostly) equal frequency even within a strand. Different bacterial phyla show different kinds of skew, and differing relations between TA and GC skew. This article introduces an open access database (<https://skewdb.org>) of GC and 10 other skews for over 30,000 chromosomes and plasmids. Further details like codon bias, strand bias, strand lengths and taxonomic data are also included. The SkewDB can be used to generate or verify hypotheses. Since the origins of both the second parity rule and GC skew itself are not yet satisfactorily

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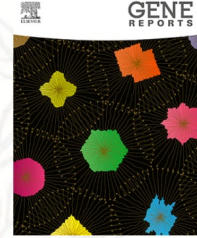
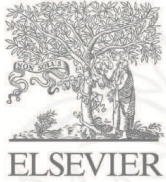
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Gene Reports

Certificate of Reviewing

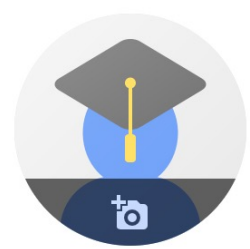
Awarded for 1 review in July 2023
presented to

BERT HUBERT

in recognition of the review contributed to the journal

The Editors of Gene Reports





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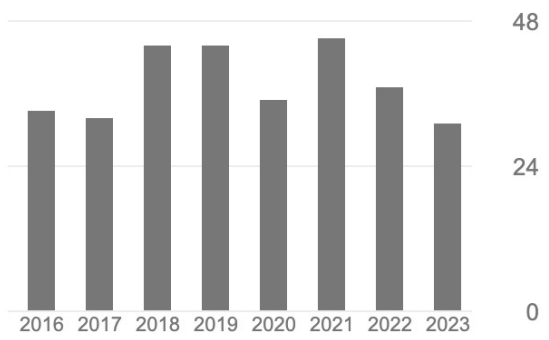
physics biology climate

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de Volkskrant

Bert Hubert probeert de kloof tussen techneuten en niet-techneuten te dichten. Zo ziet hij met lede ogen aan dat ict-nerds zelden willen werken bij de overheid, en als ze het doen, dan houden ze het vaak niet lang uit. Zijn oplossing: de nerdfluisteraar.

Kustaw Bessems 3 juni 2022, 14:51





Toetsingscommissie Inzet Bevoegdheden

PowerDNS: 1999 - 2020

T Mobile™



LIBERTY GLOBAL

verizon✓



Telefonica

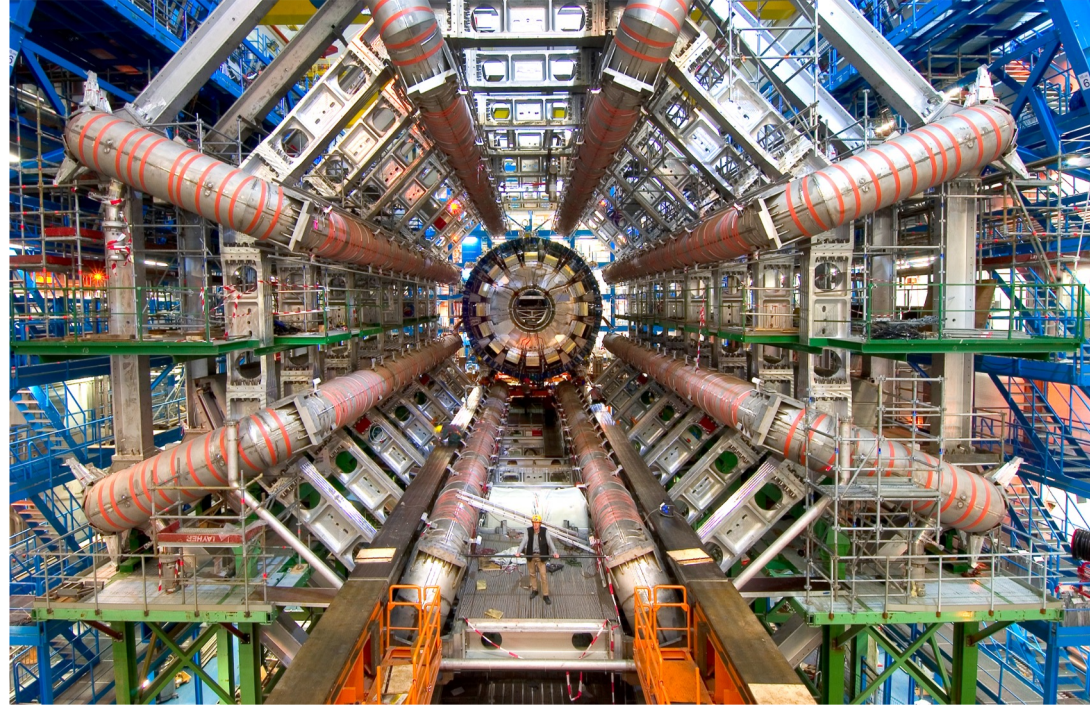
Government work / advisor / consultant

- AIVD / MIVD / intelligence agency regulator
- Ministry of Infrastructure
- Ministry of Economic Affairs
- Ministry of Justice
- Europol
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Ministry of General Affairs (“prime minister department”)
- **UK department of culture, media and sport (???)**
- European Union / European Commission
- Horizon Europe / EU Agency for the Space Programme (Galileo)
- German federal agency for disruptive innovation (www.sprind.org)
- Dutch electoral board

Scope: not just (Dutch) public sector but also
more

The specialist & the generalist

What they did in school / What you learned





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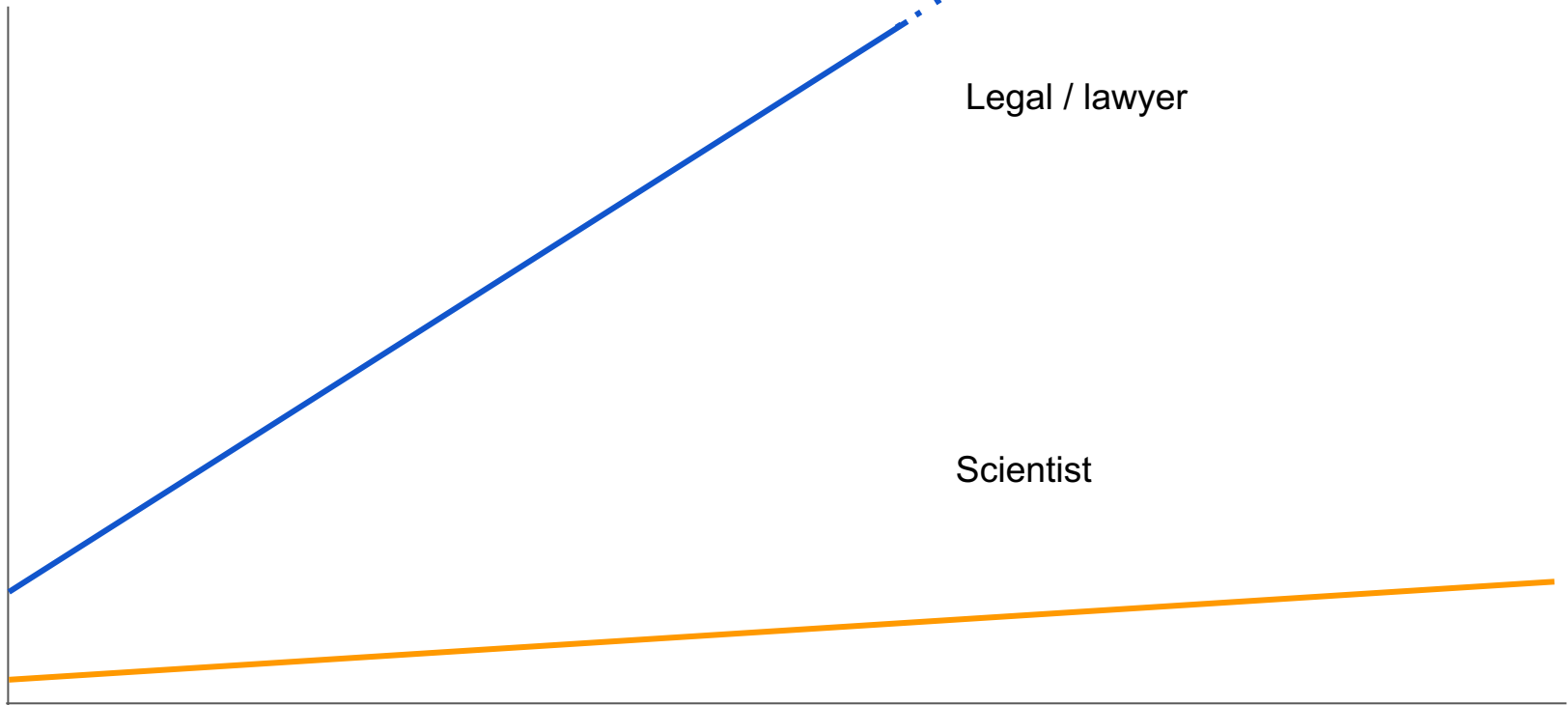
500

150

Legal / lawyer

Scientist

Experience



Money is not everything, not even most things, but clearly this is wrong

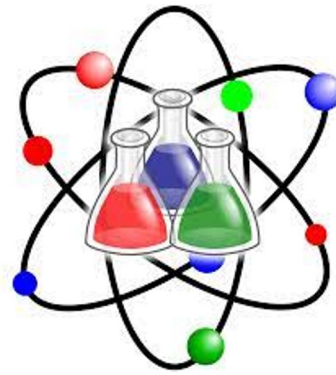
THE VALUE OF SCIENCE – RICHARD FEYNMAN (1955)



Our poets do not write about it; our artists do not try to portray this remarkable thing. I don't know why. **Is nobody inspired by our present picture of the universe?** The value of science remains unsung by singers, so you are reduced to hearing -- not a song or a poem, **but an evening lecture about it.** This is not yet a scientific age.



The Two Cultures (1959) C.P. Snow



vs



A good many times I have been present at gatherings of people who, by the standards of the traditional culture, are thought **highly educated** and who have with considerable gusto been expressing their incredulity at the illiteracy of scientists. **Once or twice I have been provoked and have asked the company how many of them could describe the [Second Law of Thermodynamics](#). The response was cold: it was also negative.** Yet I was asking something which is about the scientific equivalent of: 'Have you read a work of [Shakespeare](#)'s?'

I now believe that if I had asked an even simpler question – such as, What do you mean by [mass](#), or [acceleration](#), which is the scientific equivalent of saying, 'Can you read?' – not more than one in ten of the highly educated would have felt that I was speaking the same language. **So the great edifice of modern physics goes up, and the majority of the cleverest people in the western world have about as much insight into it as their [Neolithic](#) ancestors would have had.**

Carl Sagan, The Demon-Haunted World (1995)



“I have a foreboding of an America in my children's or grandchildren's time -- when the United States is a service and information economy; when nearly all the manufacturing industries have slipped away to other countries; when awesome technological powers are in the hands of a very few, and no one representing the public interest can even grasp the issues; when the people have lost the ability to set their own agendas or knowledgeably question those in authority; when, clutching our crystals and nervously consulting our horoscopes, our critical faculties in decline, unable to distinguish between what feels good and what's true, we slide, almost without noticing, back

into superstition and darkness...

DOMINANT

- ✔ Makes decisions quickly
- ✔ Isn't afraid of risks or conflicts
- ✔ Likes a competitive atmosphere
- ✔ Sets their own rules

INFLUENCING

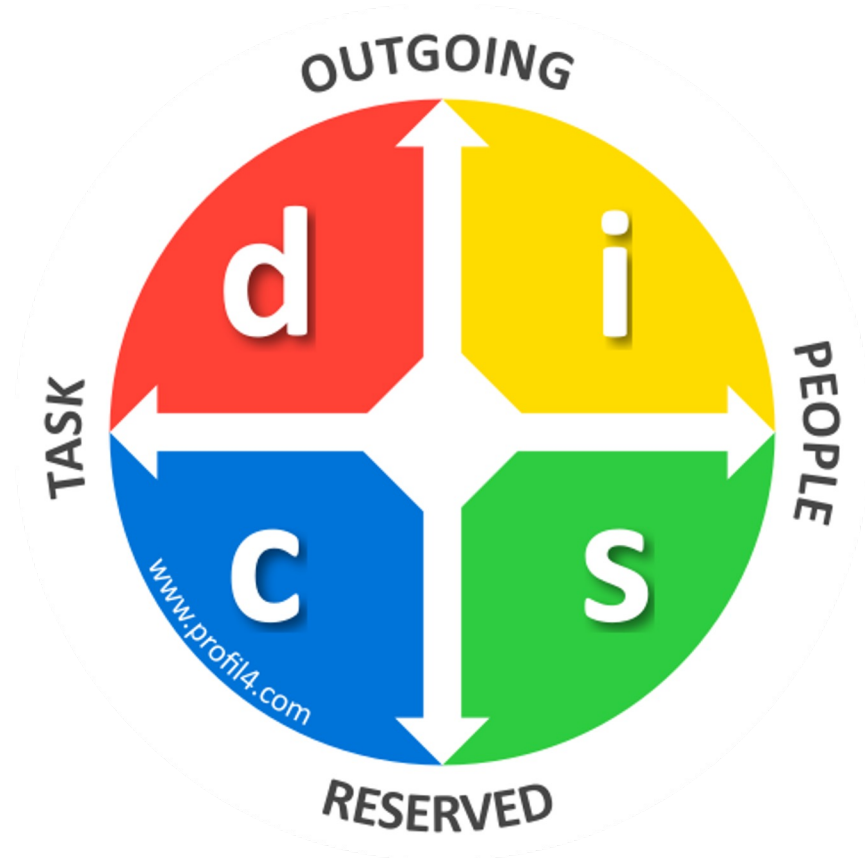
- ✔ Establishes connections with others quickly
- ✔ Finds it easy to express feelings
- ✔ Forms connections between people
- ✔ Enjoys the spotlight

CAUTIOUS

- ✔ Completes tasks accurately
- ✔ Plans things carefully
- ✔ Expects a lot of themselves
- ✔ Has an analytical mindset

STEADY

- ✔ Likes familiar processes
- ✔ Listens carefully and shows understanding
- ✔ Wants to be supportive
- ✔ Wants to maintain peace



“In summary, the four-colour model is based on a theory that has no scientific basis, has been subject to no rigorous testing and gives confusing and contradictory results. It is, quite simply, pseudoscience.”

Things have not improved

The “Two Cultures” are alive and well, and
communicating less and less

Different values

Clarity at all costs.
Precision.

Ambiguity allows for
flexibility and even
deniability.

Different values

Substance over form

If it looks too good, it
is probably fake

Form over substance

(for example,
complaints about
different font colors)

“Make it look good”

Different values

Facts are the most important thing: “Do you know that or do you think that” is a legitimate question

“Do you know that or do you think that” is a highly insulting question.

Different values

Meetings interrupt my
work

Meetings are my work

Different values

If I have to read between the lines, you should write better lines. If you say they enjoyed the presentation, I'll believe you.

Communicating indirectly reduces tension and is polite. If I say they “enjoyed the presentation”, you should understand that they didn't.

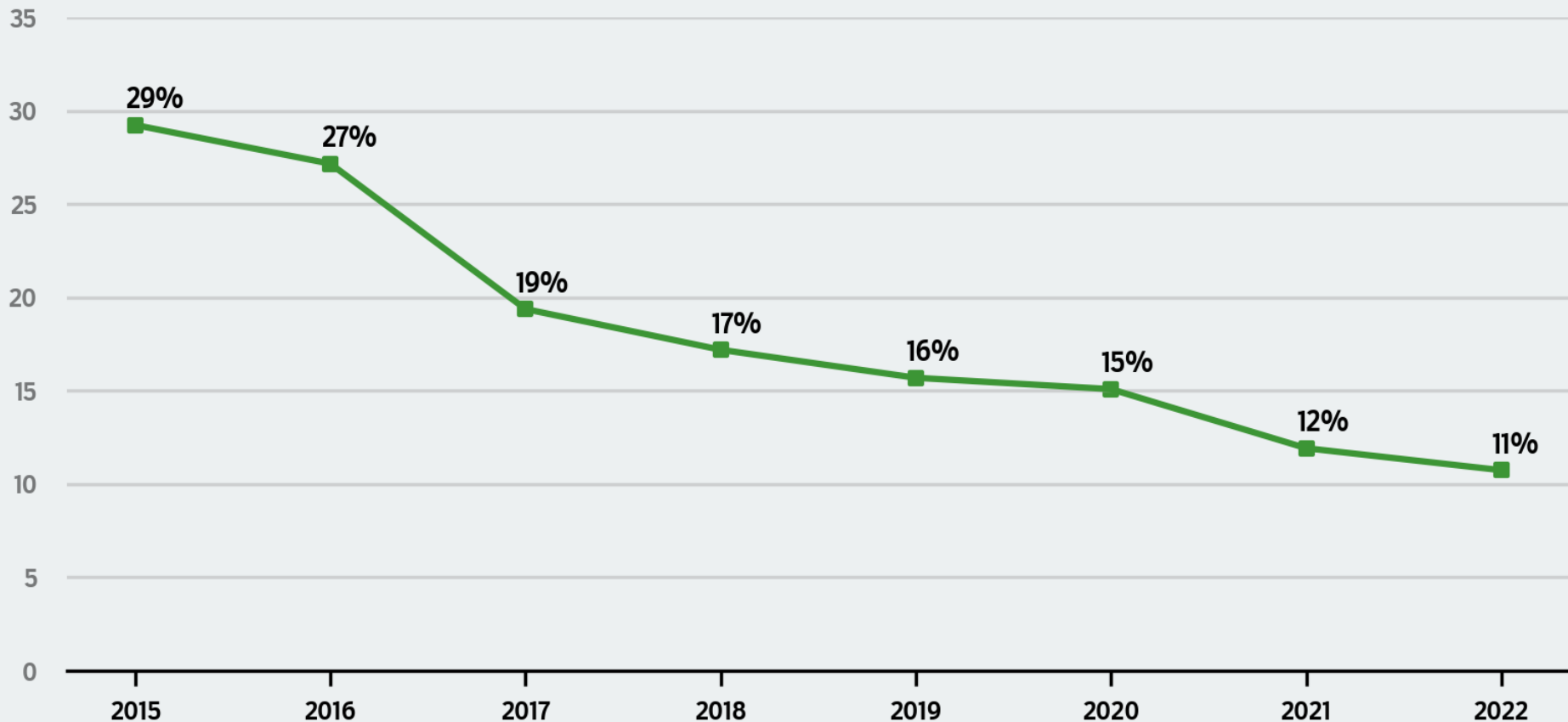
Different values

It is the content that matters. Focus on the information, disregard anything else.

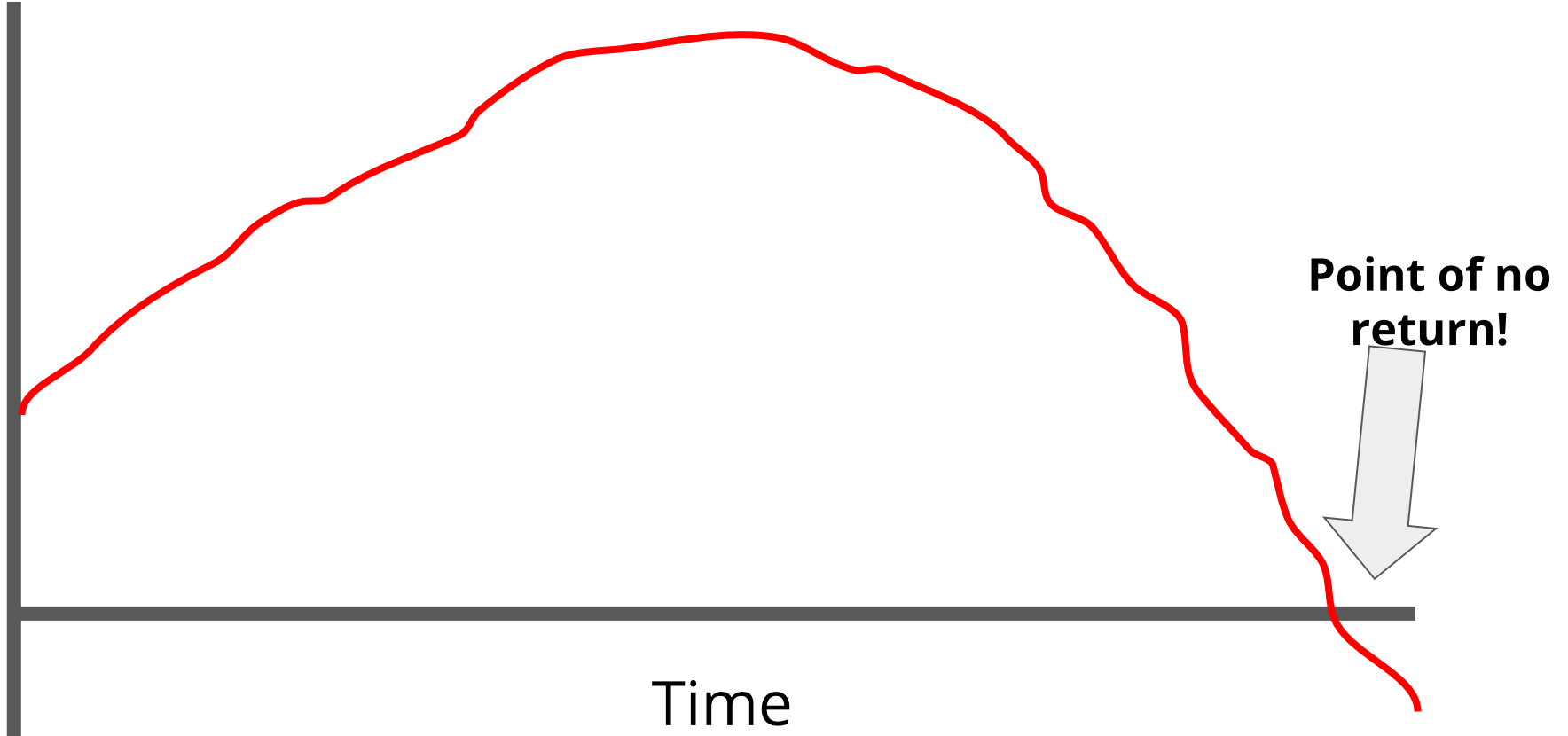
I can tell from your face that you think I'm dumb.

Steeds minder specialistische beleidsfuncties

Percentage beleidsvacatures met minstens één inhoudelijke eis, exclusief juristen



Actual knowledge



Governments, public
sector, large
company boards
operate almost
entirely on “feelings”

Second degree
helplessness: no
longer knowing
which questions to
ask of consultants

How might you come into contact?

- Working group on a subject you care about
- Need to get permission for stuff
- Need to form a consortium
- **Get interviewed by a consulting agency**
 - **Or work for one**
- Might want to go work there (please!)
- Informal meeting at conference, gathering
- “Internet consultation”
- **Actually get asked for input**

Our help is.. Painful and confusing

Need a good model of how these
people function (true in general)

Their values: I need to get this done

Our values: I want to be **correct** and
answer all your questions as best as I
can, within scientific limits

We may struggle to understand them

But they also don't work on
understanding us

There's a risk we think they are like us and
they think we are into politics as well

What are their incentives / risks?
What will make them successful / harm
their careers?
Why are they asking for help?

What are OUR incentives / risks?

What will make US successful / succeed in
our work?

Why are we offering help?

Further reading / watching

- [Escape from the data center](#) (slides & video)
- [How tech loses out at companies and continents](#) (text, video, slides)
- [5G: The outsourced elephant in the room](#)
- [De Nerdfluisteraar](#)

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