

PHILOSOPHY

ARE SCIENCE BLOGS DANGEROUS?

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[Amnesty International](#) reports that an Egyptian blogger is now facing up to 10 years in prison for criticizing Egypt's religious authorities. A [German blogger](#) writing about constructing buses in China even faced an invitation to a court in Beijing. And everybody knows of [Ellen Simonetti](#) becoming famous for being fired by Delta.

A major difference of blogs to accredited journalism is also the limited capacity to respond to any prosecution: I don't have any money for a lawyer while newspapers and journals can hire dozens.

Sure, science blogs are much less intrusive but there is always a risk that the empire will strike back; 99% of grant and paper reviews are anonymous.

BUT, there are good news – the blog community is large and always alert. As a science blooger writing on bad science you can now even get [nice prizes](#) – congratulations to Ben. Don't forget that all students arriving in your lab have read your weblog first.

Refraining from all activities also involves some risk, yea, yea.

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