**PHILOSOPHY** 

## ARE SCIENCE BLOGS DANGEROUS?

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<u>Amnesty International</u> reports that an Egyptian blogger is now facing up to 10 years in prison for criticizing Egypt's religious authorities. A <u>German blogger</u> writing about constructing buses in China even faced an invitation to a court in Bejing. And everybody knows of <u>Ellen Simonetti</u> 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 <u>nice prizes</u> – gratulations 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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