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You Are Being Judged Unfairly and you have no control over it

You too sometimes judge others unfairly, no matter how hard you try to be objective. The author argues that mutual evaluation among peers is, on balance, useful to both individuals and communities. However, the peer review process is also based on conjectures and assumptions, relies on surrogate measures of success, and may have elements of randomness. As a result, particular instances of peer review may be harmful. Another limitation of peer review is that it is unable to reckon with true novelty. Although peer review, in a broad sense, is critical to the success of communities, the meaning of peer review is often overly simplified and misunderstood, its results overvalued, and its outcomes misinterpreted – causing much turmoil and frustration.

This book is an exercise in evolutionary psychology, evolutionary biology, and theories of complexity. Written by a professional scientist, educator, and frequent peer reviewer, this is a book for scientists and non-scientists alike. It discusses how and why we humans constantly evaluate each other, in business, politics, and virtually any other aspect of life, with a chapter specifically devoted to peer review in science. The author offers an enlightening insight into the origin, necessity, advantages, weaknesses, and the very meaning of peer review. He shows that while there is no escape from peer evaluation and selection, understanding all the strengths and limitations of the process gives an individual an additional degree of freedom. This book will make the reader feel empowered and better equipped to deal with acceptance and rejection by peers. Equally importantly, it teaches compassion in judging others.

Peer Evaluation and Selection Systems is available for \$11.95 in most bookstores or by calling BioBitField at 443-472-6237. More information on <http://howtopeerreview.com>.

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Peer Evaluation and Selection Systems: Adaptation and Maladaptation of Individuals and Groups through Peer Review by Serge Lehky. 5½ × 8½, 108 pages, ISBN 978-0982956908. \$11.95

PEER EVALUATION AND SELECTION SYSTEMS

Adaptation and Maladaptation
of Individuals and Groups
through Peer Review

Serge Lehky