

CORRECTION

## Correction: Citizen Science Terminology Matters: Exploring Key Terms

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**Keywords:** crowdsourcing; community-based participatory research; epistemology; public participation in science and research; ontology; participatory action research

### Correction

Soon after publication the authors were made aware of an error within **Table 3** of the original publication. The example given as the ‘Scientist’ term ‘Citizen scientist, Scientist-citizen, public scientist, community scientist’ previously read: “Citizen scientists investigated anecdotal evidence to construct hypotheses regarding

developmental disorders that members of the public claimed were triggered by a MMR vaccine.”

This should have read: “Citizen scientists investigated anecdotal evidence to construct hypotheses regarding developmental disorders that members of the public claimed were triggered by chemical pollution.”

The corrected **Table 3** is presented here.

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**Table 3:** Terms describing scientists who work with citizens in ‘citizen science.’

‘Scientist’ term	Definition	Example	Caveat
Citizen scientist, Scientist-citizen, public scientist, community scientist	Individual with formal science training who is actively engaged in the civic sphere and wants their work to both serve the greater good and do so transparently (Stilgoe 2009)	Citizen scientists investigated anecdotal evidence to construct hypotheses regarding developmental disorders that members of the public claimed were triggered by chemical pollution (Stilgoe 2009). Members of Union of Concerned Scientists’ Science Network ( <a href="http://www.ucsusa.org/science-network">http://www.ucsusa.org/science-network</a> )	‘Citizen Scientist’ is easily confused with more common meaning of public involvement in science
Civic educators	Individual who provides information and/or creates educational opportunities for others with the purpose of building a path for greater civic engagement	Researchers, teachers, scientists, issue advocates, journalists, reporters and political campaigners (Ceccaroni et al. 2016)	Closely associated with democratic values, inherently politically laden
Commercial	Individual trained in science with the goal of creating products for profit	Commercial fisher, Commercial scientist	Incentivized by financial profit, rather than ‘knowledge for the sake of knowledge’
Credentialed, Trained, Educated	Individual with formal scientific degrees and training	Faculty member at a university	Reinforces the value of formal scientific education
Elite	Individual with experience and/or privilege not shared by the general public	Only elite scientists may serve in some peer-review processes or are considered for tenure or funding	Typically excludes the general public, early-career scientists, and minorities; many scientists strive not to be elitist
Institutional, Academic, Laboratory	Individual employed by or affiliated with an academic institution, agency, company, or non-governmental organization	Tenured professor, Government scientist, Laboratory technician, Student	Scientists may not be affiliated with an institution or may not work in a laboratory
Professional, Paid, Employed	Individual working in a scientific occupation, profession, or holding a position for which they are paid	White collar professional, Professor, Employee	Some scientists may conduct participatory projects outside paid time
Researcher	Individual investigating a specific and identified scientific question	Research scientist, Research ecologist	Researchers are often interpreted strictly as academics
Scientist-activist	Individual with formal science training who applies their expertise to political agendas	Internationally, thousands of scientists participated in a “March for Science” on April 22, 2017 to show support for evidence-based policies in government	Can be perceived as having shed the ‘objectivity’ of science
Volunteer Scientist	An individual who is not paid for their participation in scientific pursuits	Graduate students	Implies that scientist is inexperienced or not worth formally hiring

### Competing Interests

The authors have no competing interests to declare.

### References

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