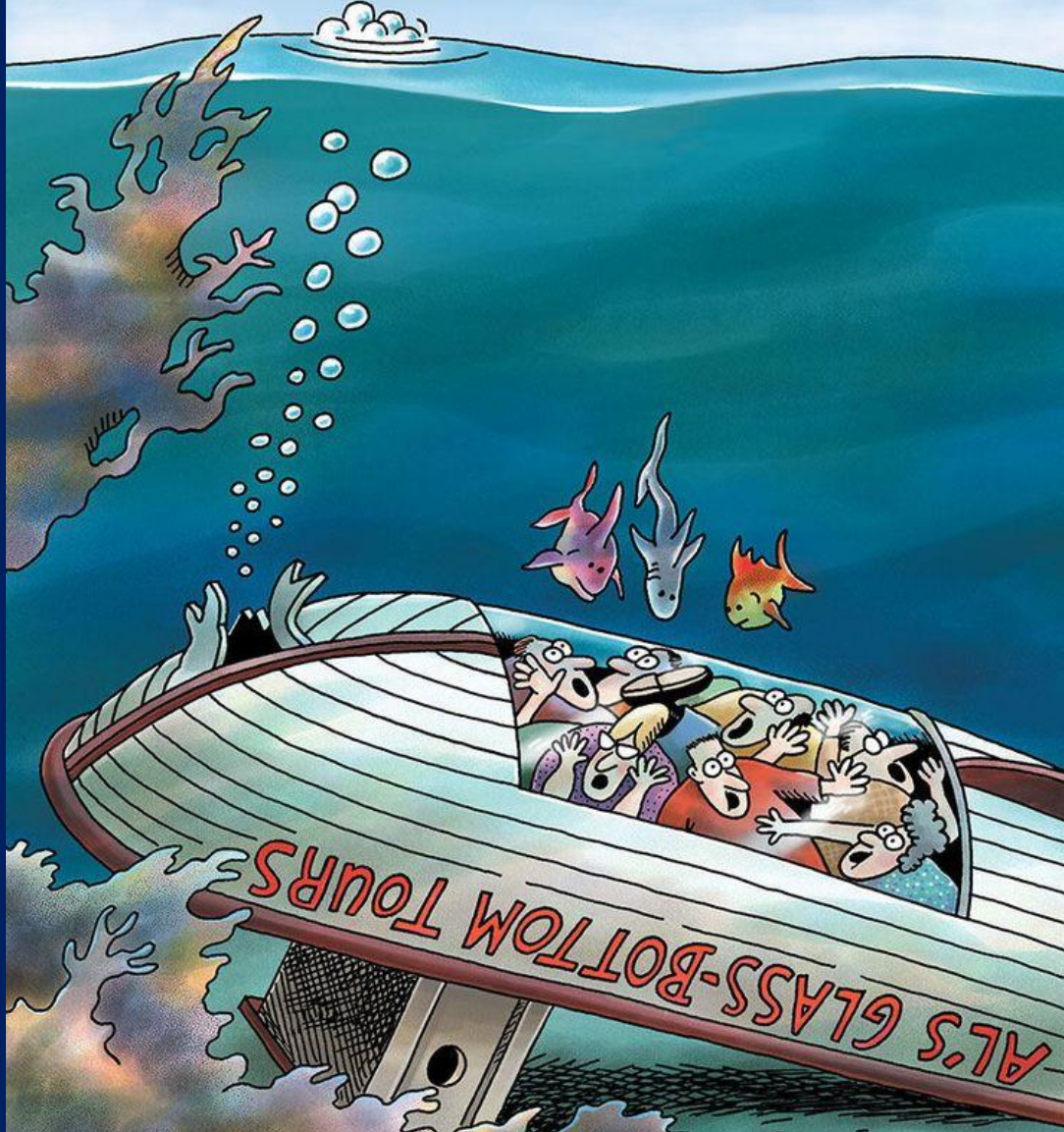


Larson

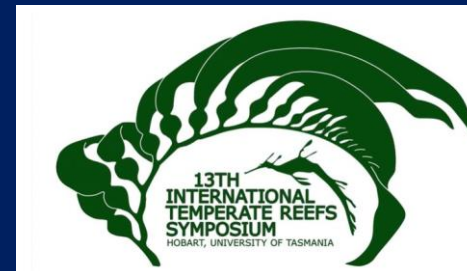


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## *Still crazy after all those years: a post-Covid, post-postmodernism journey of ITRS*

Abstract: Where are we? How did we get here? Or, if you prefer, Why are we here? Pseudo-answers may or may not be revealed

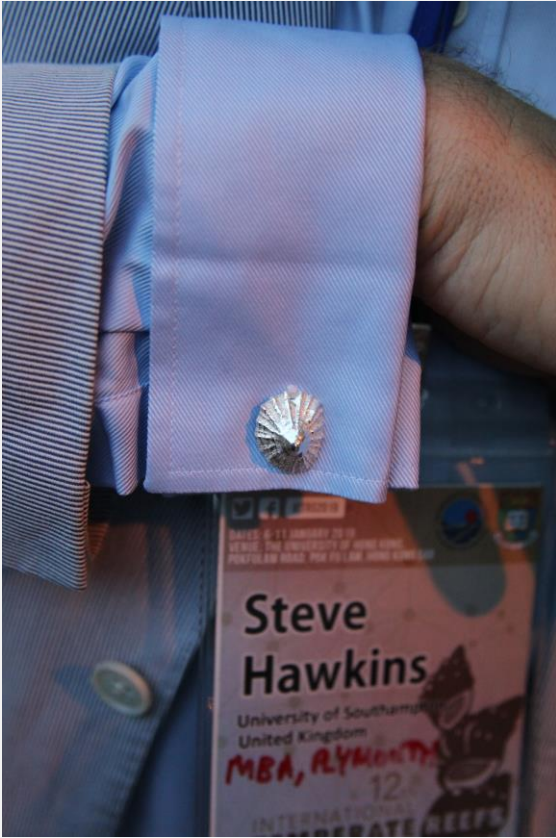
David R Schiel  
University of Canterbury  
Occasional Talk, 10 January 2023  
13 ITRS, Hobart



*Thanks to Craig and his team!*



# *And apologies to my long-time foil*



# My mandate

**From:** Lisandro Benedetti Cecchi  
[lbenedetti@biologia.unipi.it]

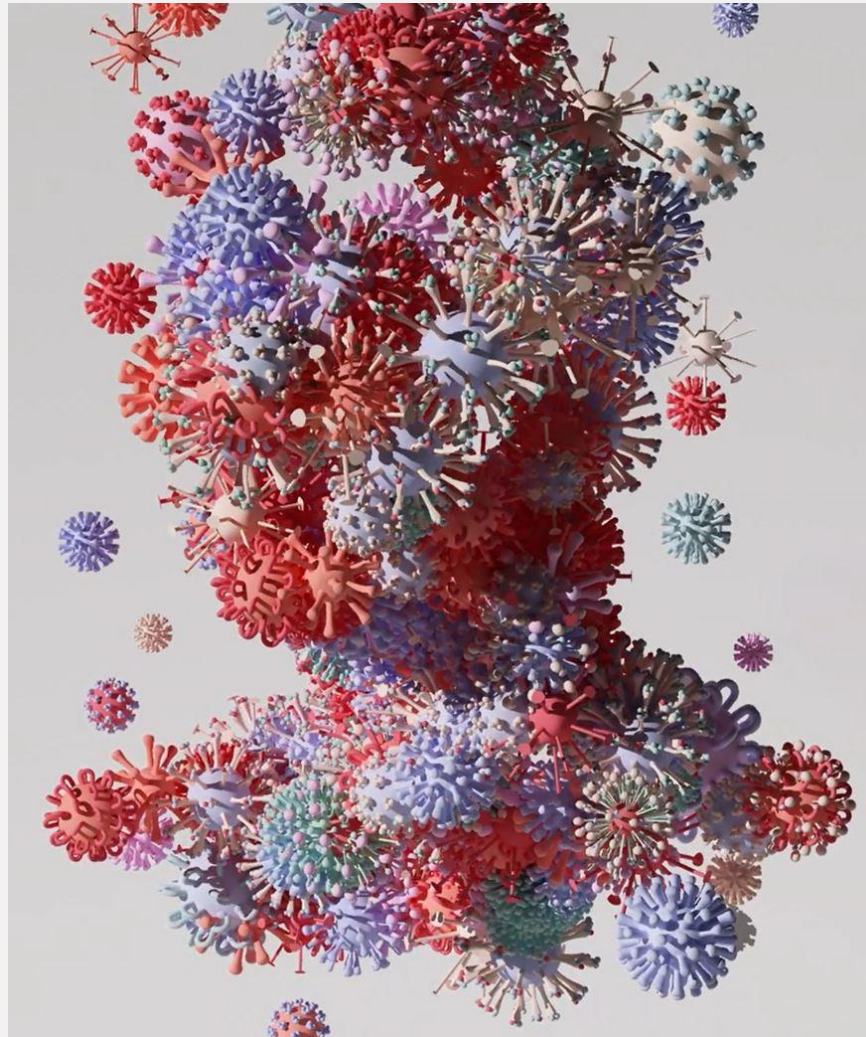
Hi David,  
Your talk will be the last of  
the dinner. It is not by ch  
are there, **so, please, ent**

Being half-pissed BEFORE  
will help finding the way!  
Cheers,  
Lisandro



What could possibly go wrong?

*Post-covid??  
(I hope so!)*



# *Sorry about the title!*



Modernism – Claude Monet

**Postmodernism: Heterogeneity Replaces Homogeneity As The Basic Principle; Rejected The Idea Of An Objectively Comprehensible Reality**



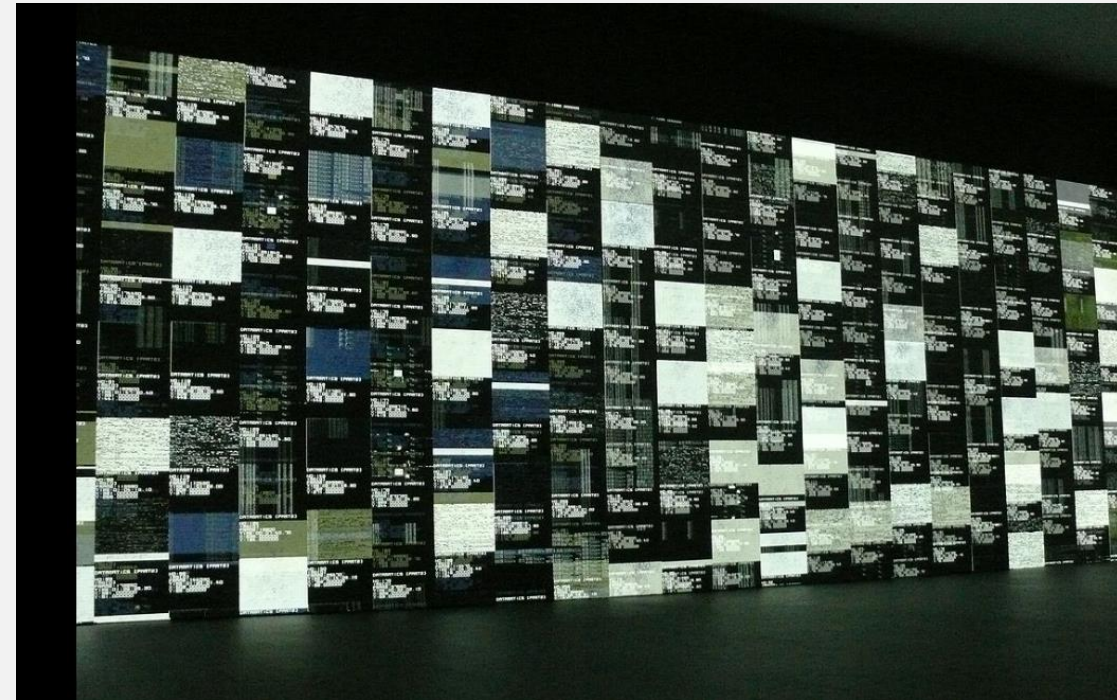
[Marilyn Diptych by Andy Warhol, 1962, via Tate, London](#)

# *Post-post-modernism: we're here (or there)*

**Death of Postmodernism And Beyond.** postmodernism is dead and buried. In its place comes a new paradigm of authority and knowledge **formed under the pressure of new technologies and contemporary social forces.**

drawing upon some paradigms of **hyperhybrid** and **heterolinal** literatures, including **postacademia**, **postnationalism** and **polyliterature**, **polyvocalism** and **plurilingualism**, self-publishing, social media and **multimediality** as well as **transtextuality** and fanfiction

Royal Society London motto:  
*Nullius in verba (!)*

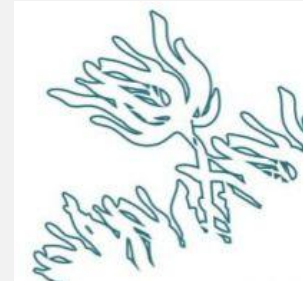
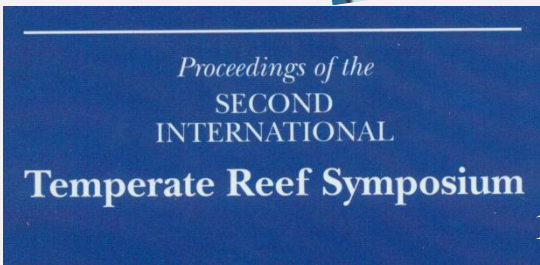


Data.Tron [8K Enhanced Version] by [Ryoji Ikeda](#)

# Keeping the tally

ITRS	Date	
1	July 1989	Melbourne
✓ 2	January 1992	Auckland
✓ 3	February 1995	Sydney
4	July 1997	Santiago
✓ 5	February 2001	Cape Town
✓ 6	January 2003	Christchurch
✓ 7	June 2006	Santa Barbara
✓ 8	January 2008	Adelaide
✓ 9	June 2011	Plymouth
✓ 10	January 2014	Perth
✓ 11	June 2016	Pisa
✓ 12	Jan 2018	Hong Kong
✓ 13	Jan 2023	Hobart

# A tradition: My career has overlapped almost entirely with ITRS years



# *By their shirts shall you know them*



Capetown 5 ITRS 2000

Christchurch 6 ITRS 2003

Santa Barbara 7 ITRS 2006

Plymouth 9 ITRS 2011

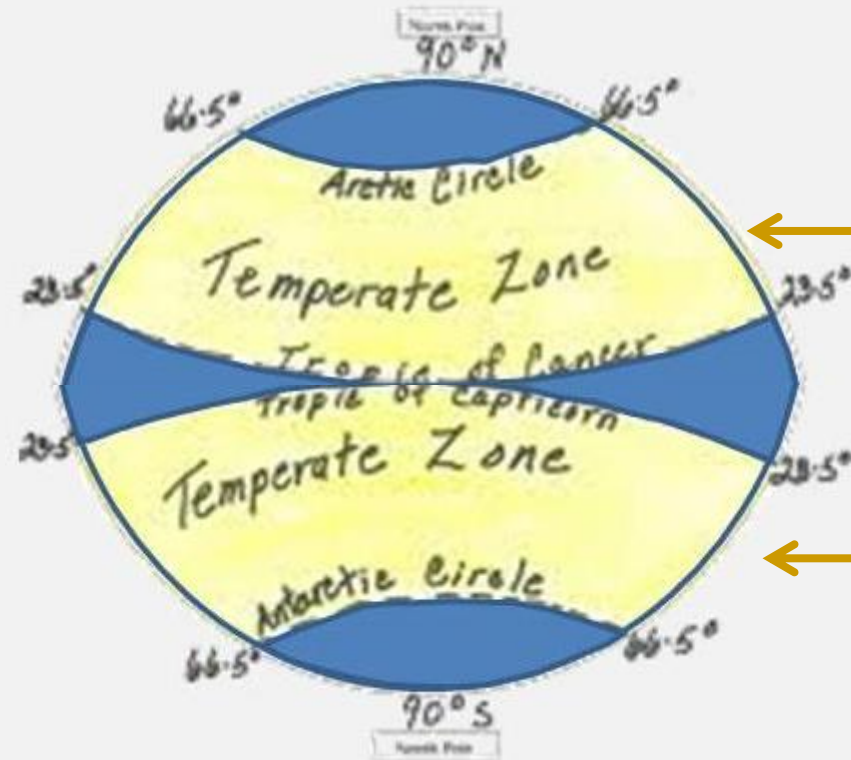
# A BRIEF HISTORY OF (ITRS) TIME



ITRS ECOLOGISTS

# MIDDLE EARTH

Habitable  
Only Zone Capable of  
allowing civilisation to  
flourish



Just right!  
**The Temperate Zone**

Just right!

climate classification zones by Aristotle

# *What about Hong Kong?*

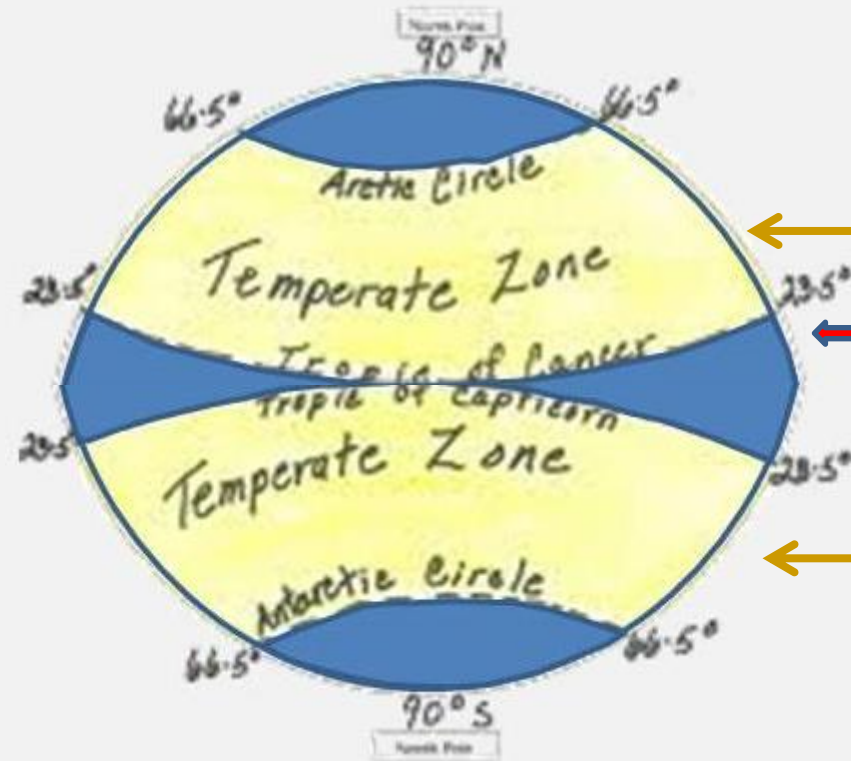


Sure, Gray, I get it.  
AND we just held  
Temperate Reefs here

..So you'd have to agree, Dan,  
that this is about as Temperate  
as it gets!

# MIDDLE EARTH

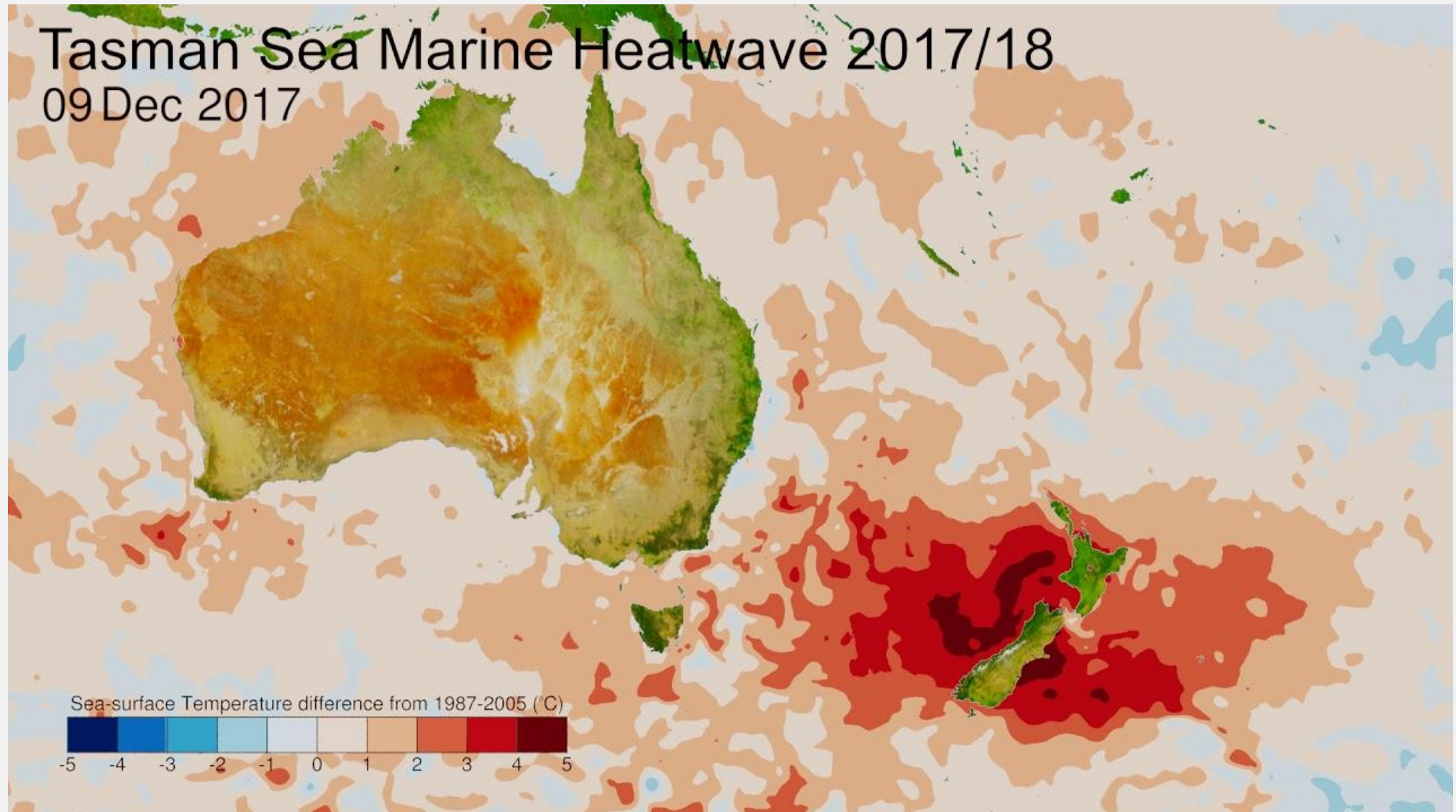
Habitable  
Only Zone Capable of  
allowing civilisation to  
flourish



← Just right!  
← 22.3193° N, 114.1694° E  
**The Temperate Zone**  
← Just right!

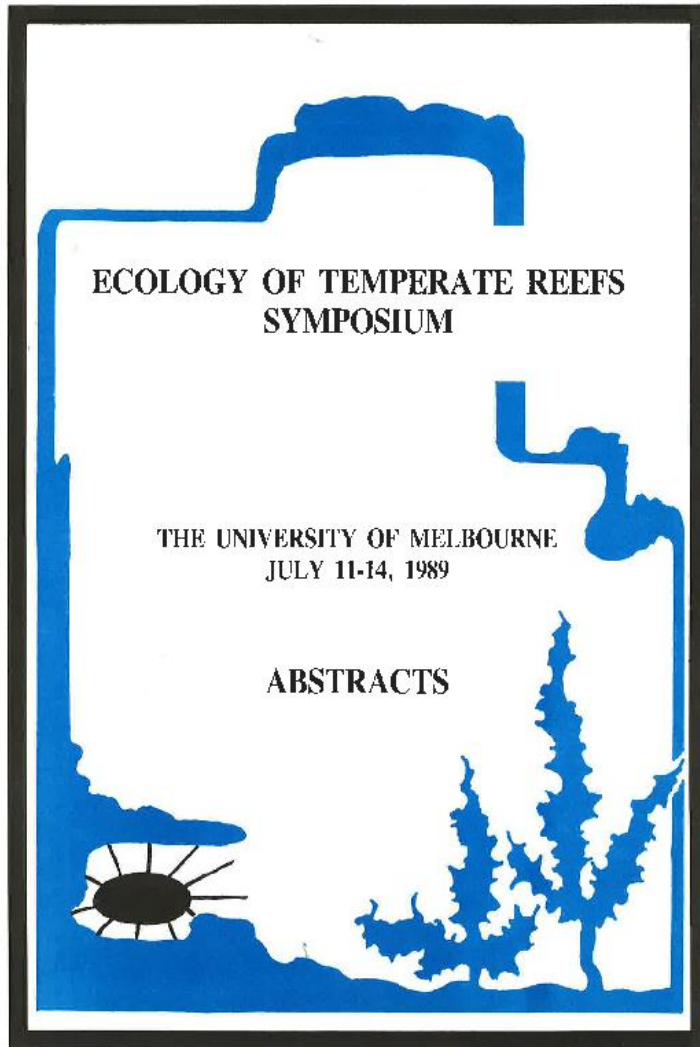
climate classification zones by Aristotle

# *Any maybe we're converging*



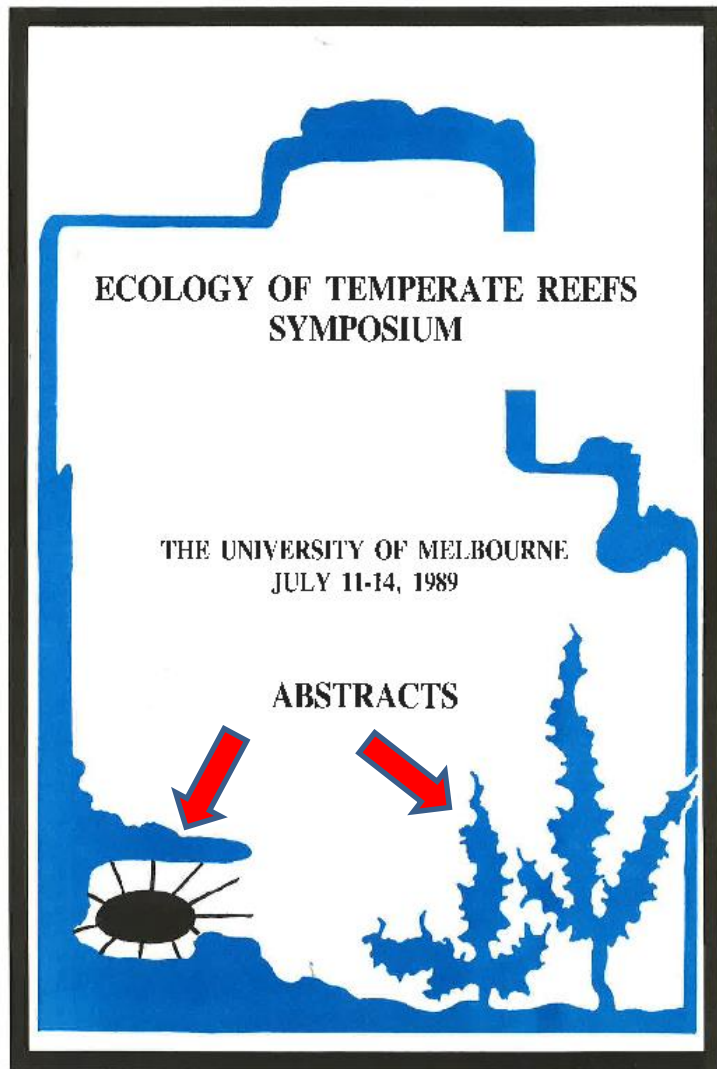
# *The purpose (1989)*

From Gerry Quinn & Mick Keough



the original idea for the symposium came from a group of temperate marine ecologists being **slightly envious of the regular coral reef symposia** that our tropical colleagues had access to. I can only assume this discussion involving Mick and I and some colleagues involved appropriate amounts of beer and red wine and at some stage during the discussions, the idea of a Temperate Reefs Symposium came up.

# The purpose



suffice to say it arose out of even more \$ being poured into the research stations on the GBR with an **egregious press release that said something about all “reefs” now being really well studied** – so it was an **anti-tropical backlash** to point out that there were lots of reefs (both rocky and biogenic) in temperate climes. And really it was a great excuse for some mates to get together, invite some others from overseas, and have a little conference – **envisaged as a once-off, I believe.**

# 12 Interesting publications

Keough, M.J., Quinn, G.P. and King, A., 1990. The ecology of temperate reefs. *Australian journal of ecology*, 15(4), pp.361-363.

Underwood, A.J., 1990. **Experiments in ecology** and management: their logics, functions and interpretations.

Kingsford, M.J., 1990. Linear **oceanographic features: a focus for research on recruitment processes**.

AYRE, D.J., 1990. **Population subdivision** in Australian temperate marine invertebrates: **larval connections versus historical factors**.

YOUNG, C.M., 1990. **Larval predation** by epifauna on temperate reefs: scale, power and the scarcity of measurable effects.

RAIMONDI, P.T. and KEOUGH, M.J., 1990. **Behavioural variability in marine larvae**.

CLAYTON, M.N., 1990. The **adaptive significance of life history characters** in selected orders of marine brown macroalgae.

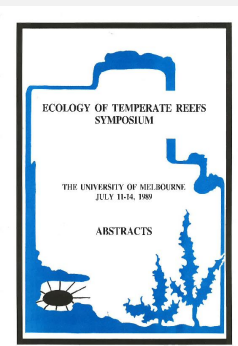
FAIRWEATHER, P.G., 1990. **Is predation capable of interacting** with other community processes on rocky reefs?.

McGUINNESS, K.A., 1990. Physical variability, **diversity gradients** and the ecology of temperate and tropical reefs.

HOLBROOK, S.J., SCHMITT, R.J. and AMBROSE, R.F., 1990. **Biogenic habitat structure** and characteristics of temperate **reef fish assemblages**

Jones, G.P. and Andrew, N.L., 1990. **Herbivory and patch dynamics** on rocky reefs in temperate Australasia: the roles of fish and sea urchins.

Butler, A.J. and Chesson, P.L., 1990. Ecology of sessile animals on sublittoral hard substrata: **the need to measure variation**.



# A 'symposium'



Richard & Tas debating who gets the dinner plate  
(George has given up)

We chose the word "symposium" rather than "conference" deliberately as one definition of symposium is **"A convivial meeting for drinking, music, and intellectual discussion (among the ancient Greeks)"** which seemed appropriate

# The evidence?

2 ITRS 1992



# *The evidence?*



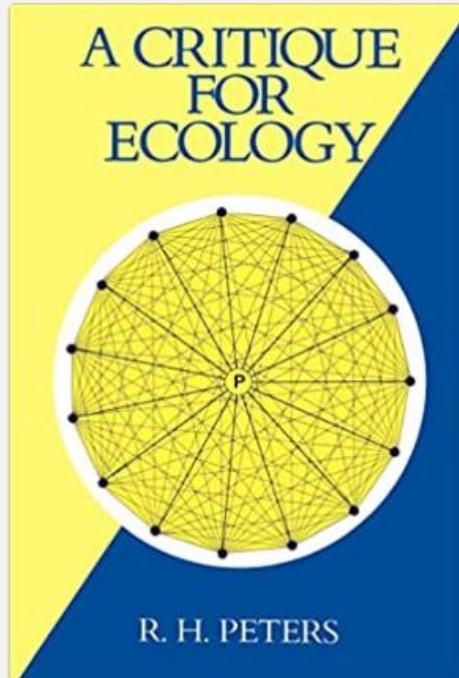
# *“This is my home conference”*

*--T Wernberg, Bayden Russell, Louise Firth et alia)*





## 2<sup>nd</sup> ITRS: a time of criticism



Cambridge Press 1991



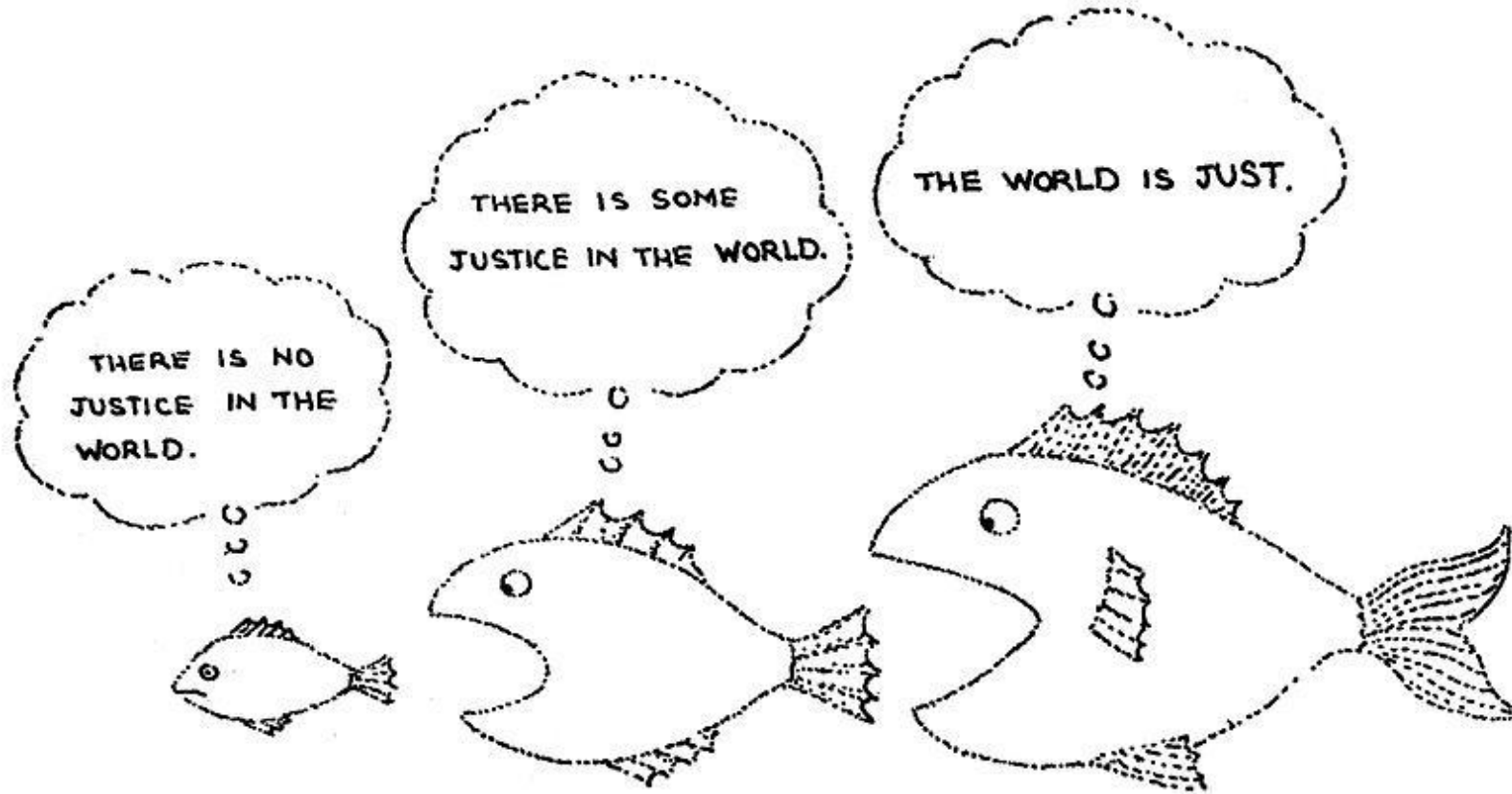
Canadian [ecologist](#) and [limnologist](#) that championed a predictive approach to science in order to make [quantitative models](#) relevant to public needs.

Much of ecological science is muddled and weak. – and not very predictive in any useful sense.

Ecology is the most important and all-embracing of the sciences. To answer the most pressing questions of the time, one necessary step is critical evaluation of contemporary ecology so that future work can be more effective.

I think he would be generally pleased with the progress that has been made.

# *Perspective depends on...*



MANKOFF

# Honouring distinguished colleagues

ITRS Award Recipients  
(taken at 7 ITRS, Santa Barbara, 2006)



David Schiel (10 ITRS)

George Branch (7 ITRS)

Joe Connell (2 & 7 ITRS)

Tony Underwood (7 ITRS)

Steve Hawkins (9 ITRS)

Mike Foster (6 ITRS)

Gee Chapman (11 ITRS)

Dan Reed (11 ITRS) Lisandro (12 ITRS)

Christopher  
McQuaid (12 ITRS)

# *Mistaken Identities*



## **Local Man receives International Science Award**

... presented to him by  
the famed English  
physicist and  
cosmologist Stephen  
Hawking....



Dr Octopus on Deviant Art



**DAVID SCHEEL, PH.D.**  
**Professor of Marine Biology**

**Divorced marine biologist has a pet octopus that lives in his home - and the inquisitive creature swims up to watch TV every night.**

- Professor David Scheel, from Alaska, studies octopuses.
- Invites Heidi, a day octopus, also known as a cuttlefish.
- Octopus loves watching TV and comes close to the screen.



**Octopus in My House: meet the scientist behind an extraordinary experiment**



Octopus he raised in his living room. Photo courtesy Passion Planet Ltd/Ernie

# *Meeting god*



Communication is the key!



# *The Red Wig- whence it came*



# Communication is the key!

**Be visually memorable**



Prime Minister's prize = \$\$\$\$ , New  
Zealander of the Year 2021

# Use hand gestures & Don't be afraid to dance



*Communication is the key!*

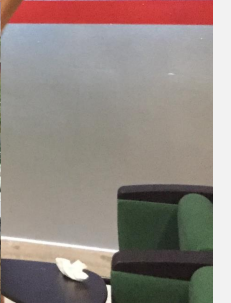


*And of course everyone's favourite*



*Lisandro (as always) shows the way.*





# *Another tradition? The pyramid (ask Christopher)*



# ***Student Awards***

***“A monetary award between 10 and a million Euros!”***



# *Exotic Food!*



OOH. A surprise in every can!

# *Exotic drink! – Gray's aviation fuel*



What've we  
got to lose?

I guess we'll  
find out!



Lose? This is Win-Win!





Who  
needs a  
glass?



## *Scintillating conversation*



# *Singing songs*

I've been Keystoned  
I've been bottom-upped  
I've been top-downed  
And I'm all shook up  
I'm feeling jaded  
My hopes have faded  
My web of life has just cascaded  
I can truly say that I've been...  
**SCREWED** up by the process  
called peer review.



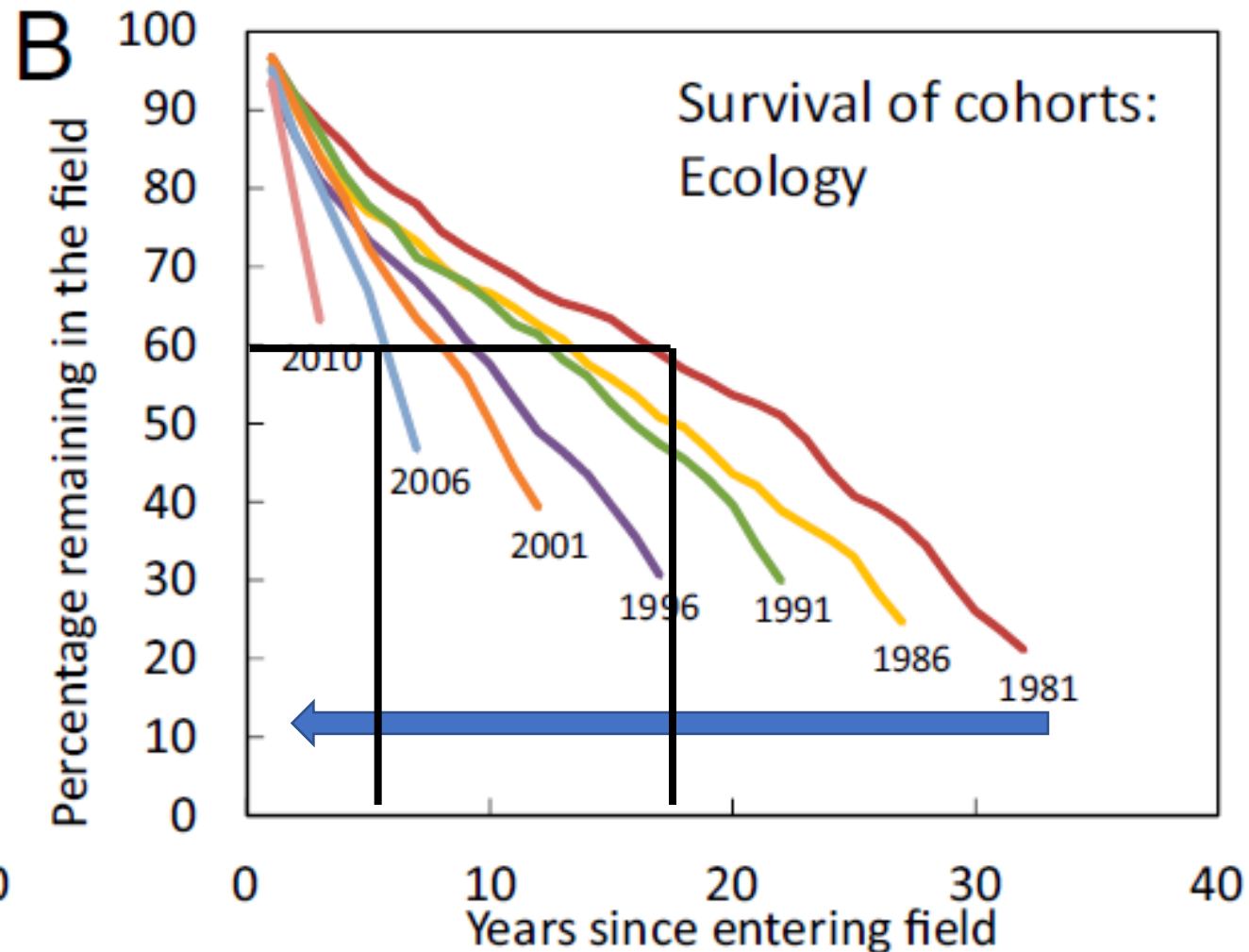
# *Outstanding social events*

*The 'Hogwart's' conference dinner, 6 ITRS Christchurch, 2003*

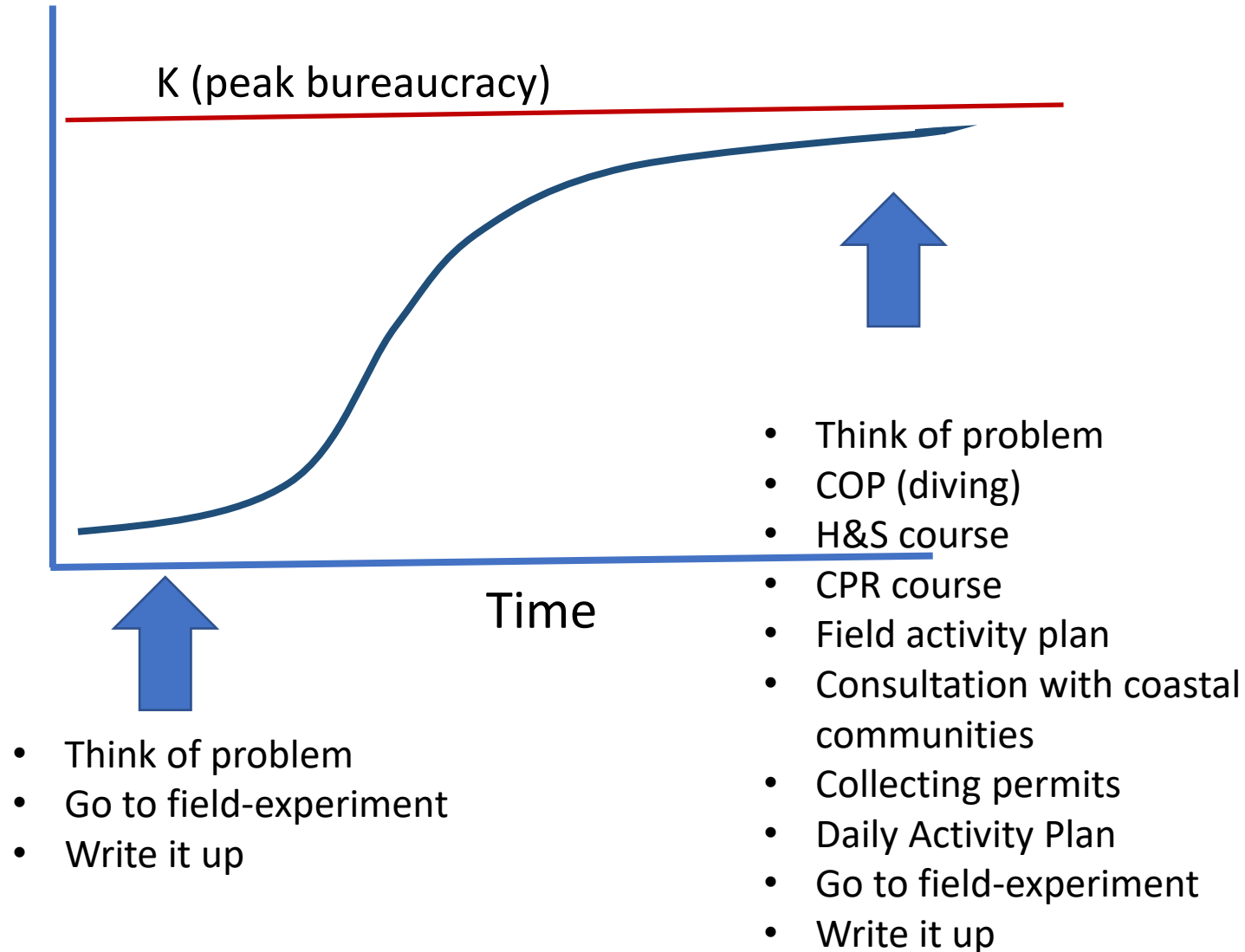


# *The Future: demographics*

Changing demographics of scientific careers—PNAS 2018 (thanks to Steve Dudgeon)

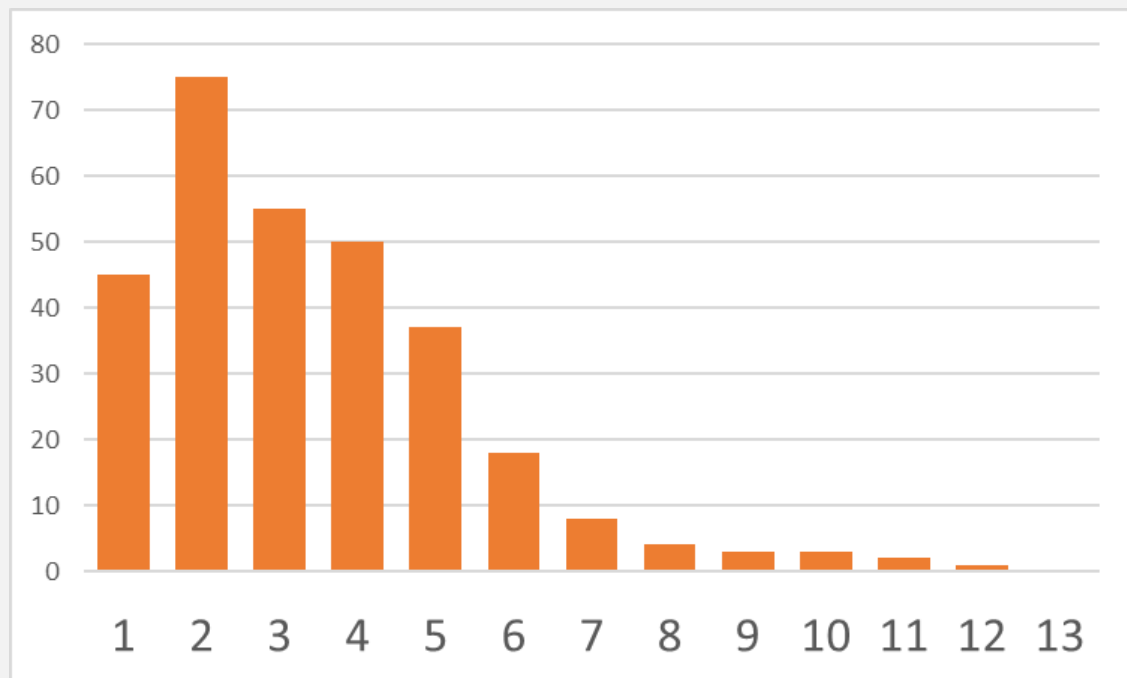


# Lessons: Persevere!



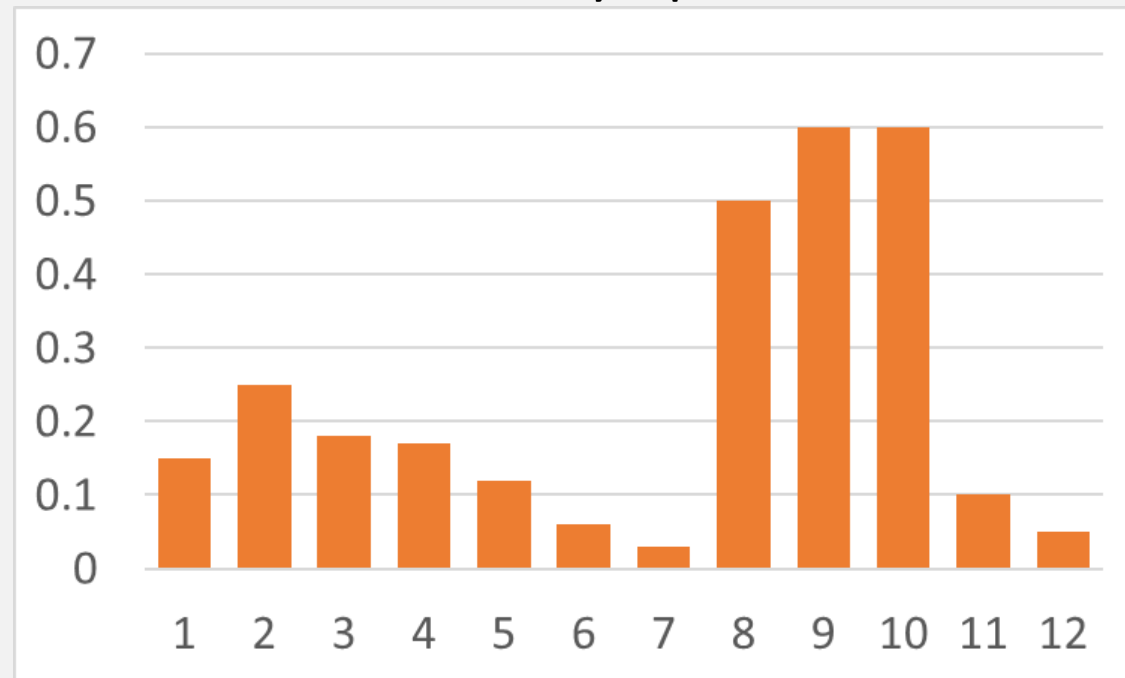
# *ITRS Attendance (keep coming!)*

Number ITRS attended



Number of ITRS Symposia

Probability of attending future ITRS Symposia



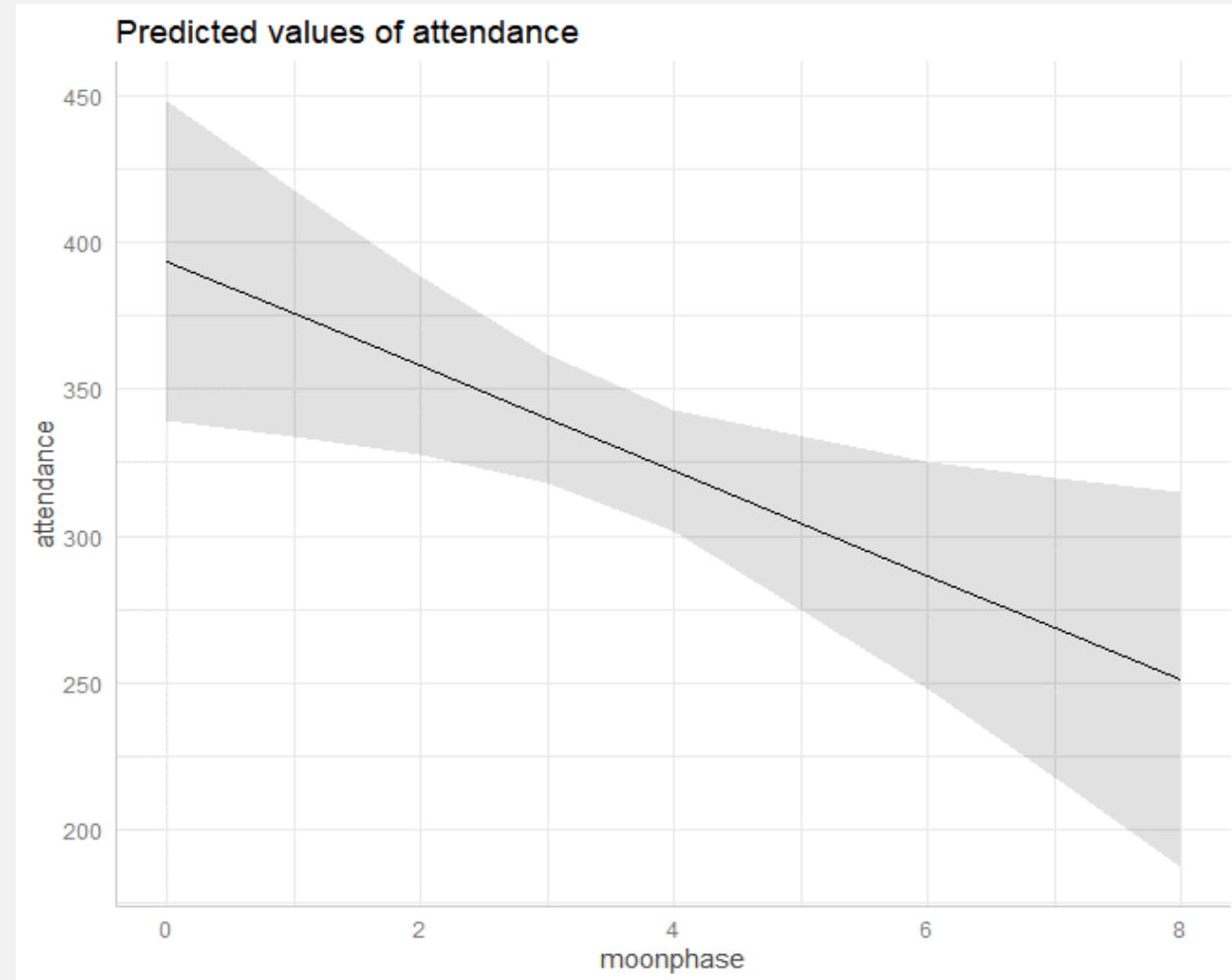
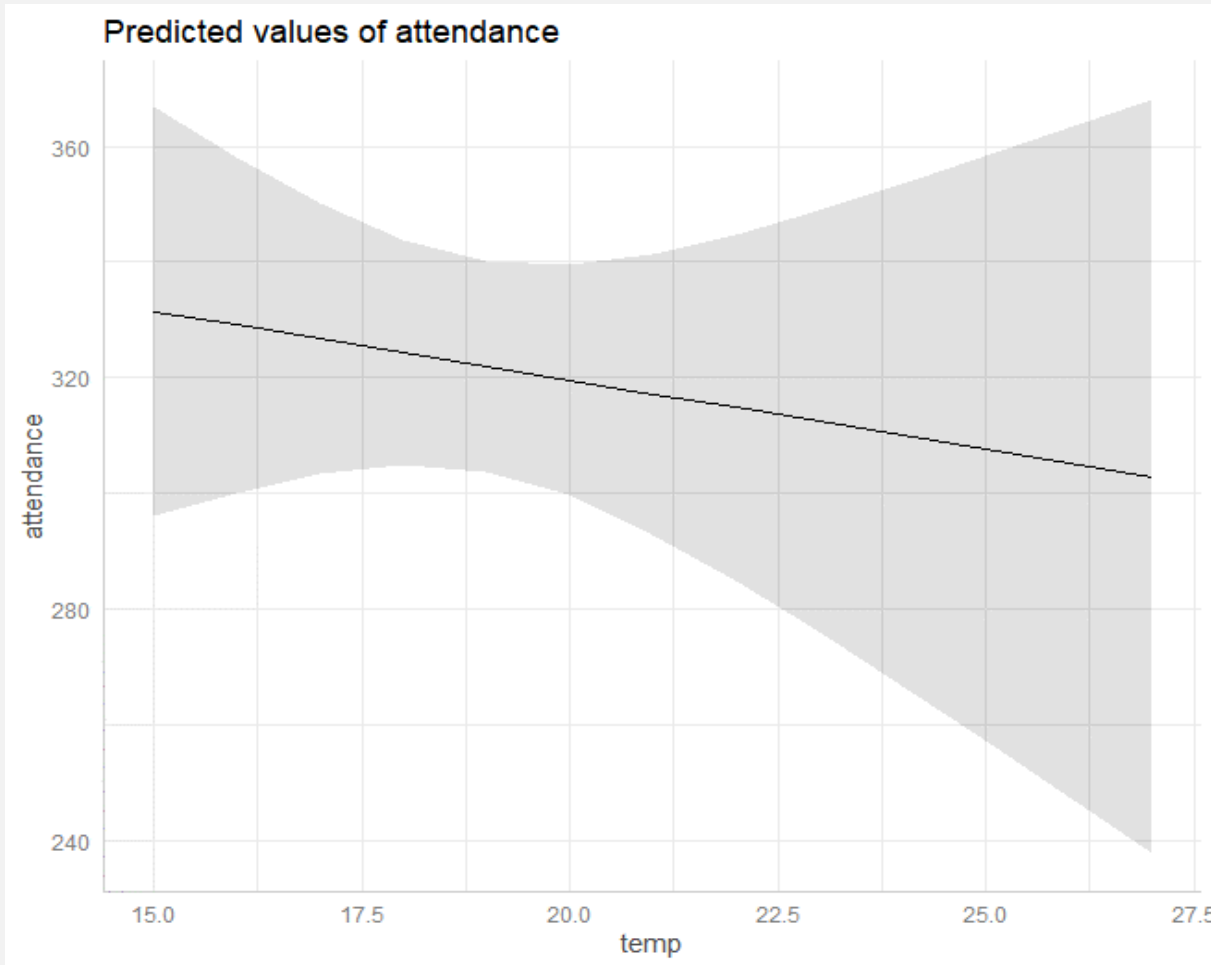
Number of ITRS Symposia attended

# Predictors of Attendance

(with thanks to Spencer and AI)

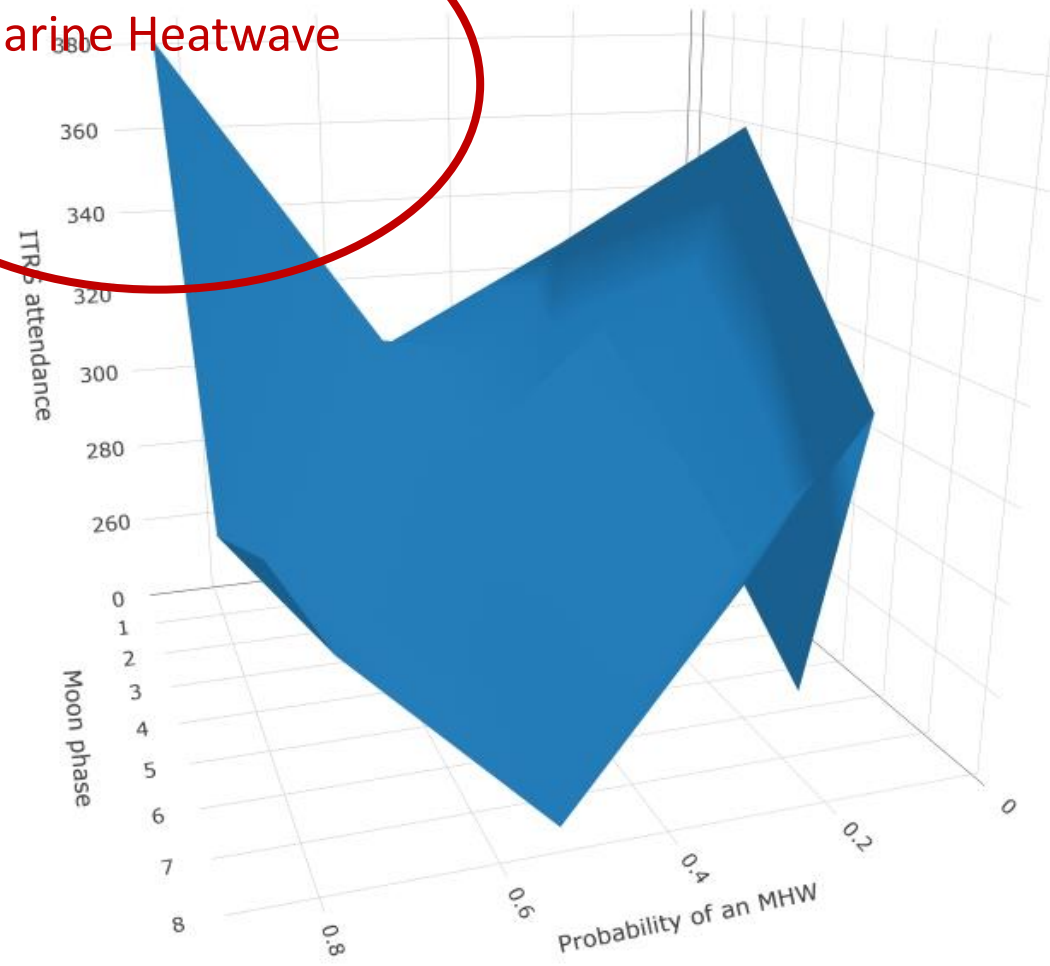
Marine heat wave in previous year

Moon Phase (Full moon at left)

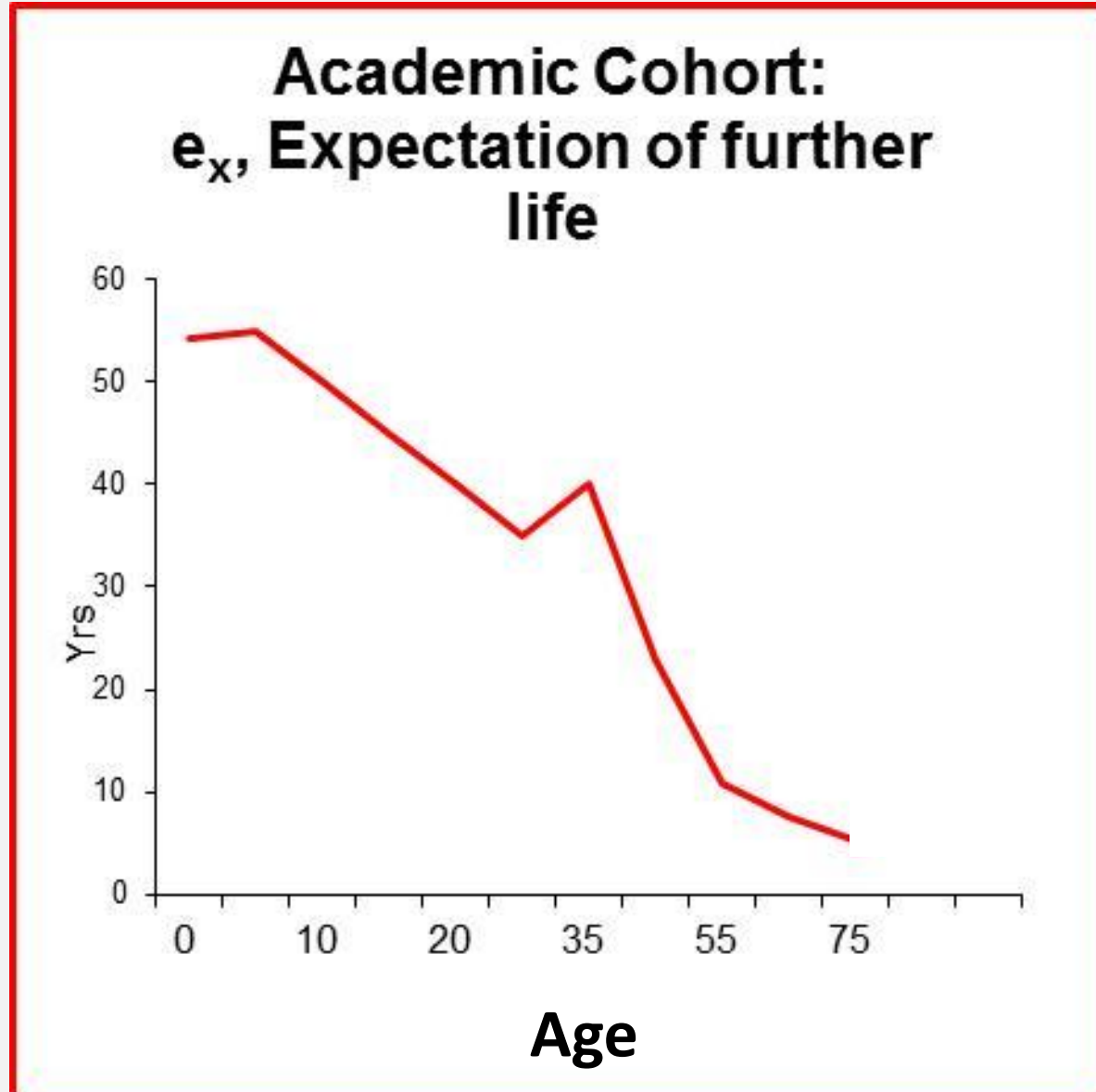


# *Future ITRS Timing is everything!*

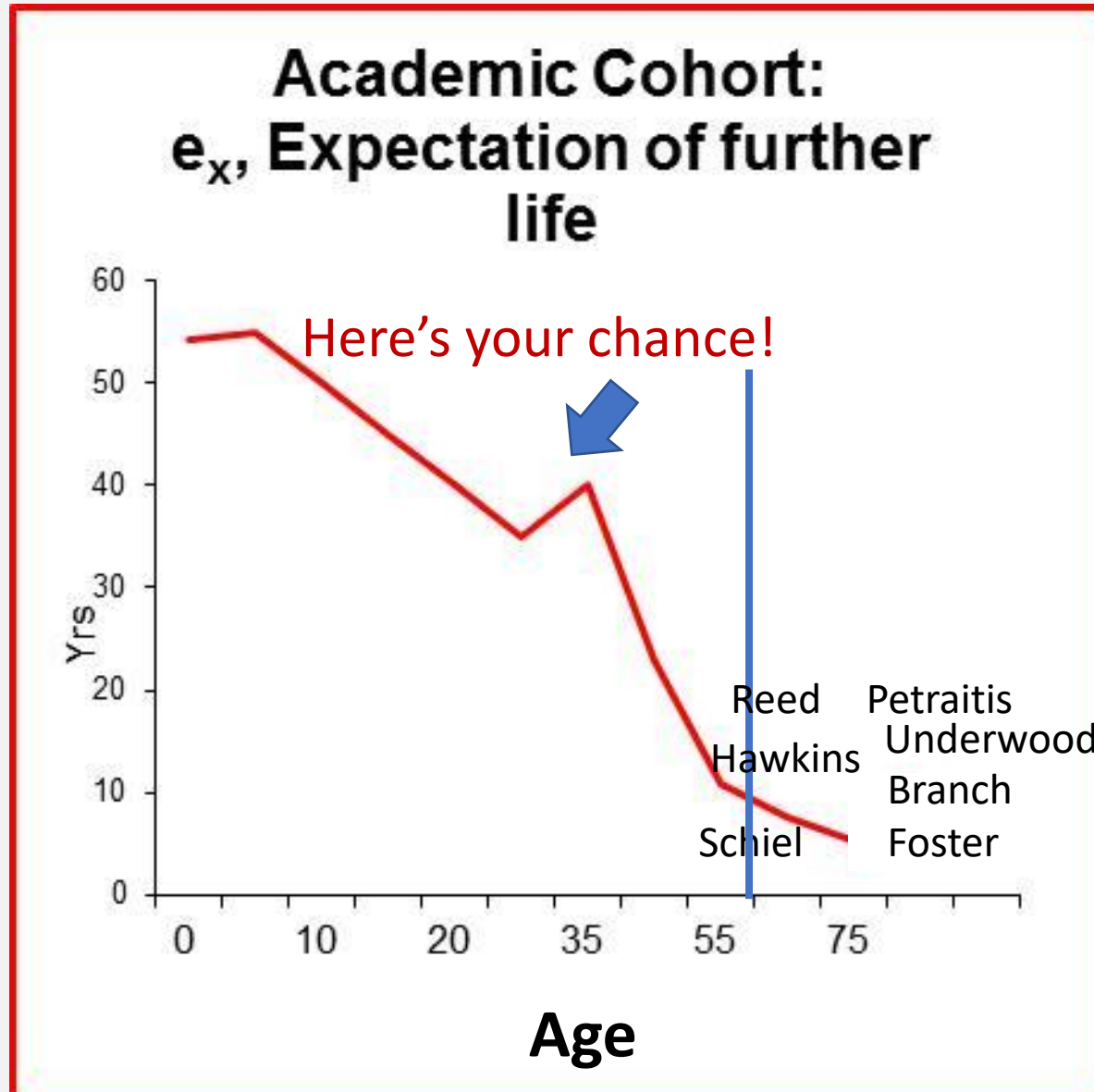
Full Moon and  
Marine Heatwave



*But the 'elders' are falling off the perch*



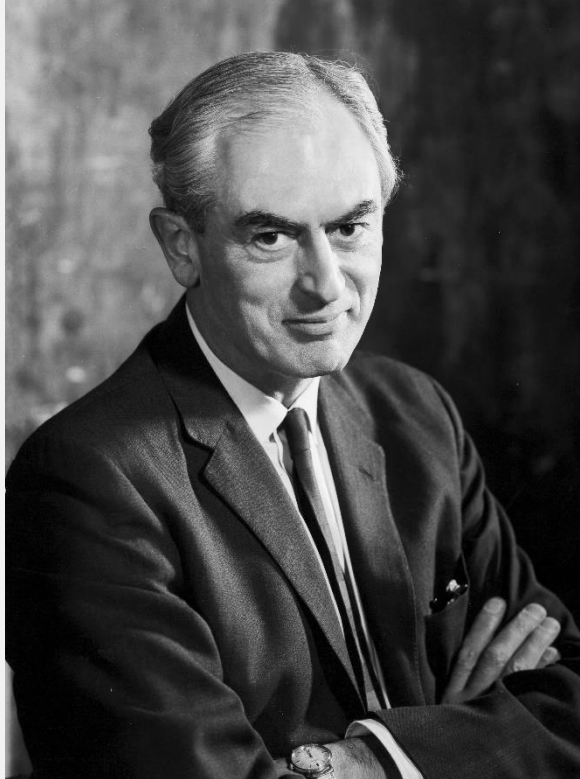
*But the 'elders' are falling off the perch*



*Welcome home!*



# Treasure those 'Eureka' moments



Sir Peter Medawar

“I should prefer to remember not the giants upon whose shoulders we stood, but the friends with whom we stood arm-in-arm”

*Nobel Prize acceptance speech, 1960*

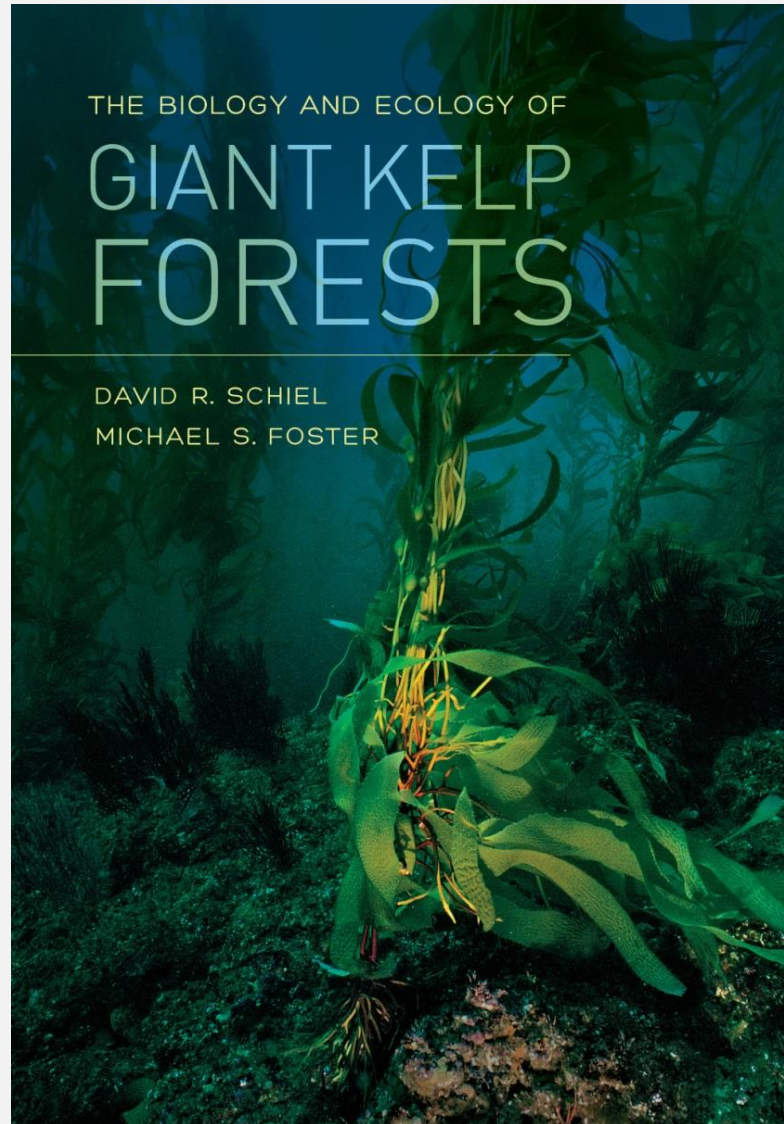
“Things will work out OK ..... Probably”





Still available!

**Be in quick!!**



University of California Press  
Available on Amazon

