Are they Unreasonable? Political Liberalism and Science Denialism

Abstract: The article focuses on Rawls’s idea of political liberalism and attempts to understand how science denialists should be considered from the point of view of public reason. Since Rawls’s framework is open to scientific evidence and reasoning insofar as they are commonly accepted and uncontroversial, the conclusion is that Rawls’s ideal seems attractive only in democratic societies in which there is no polarization concerning scientific findings that are relevant for public decisions.

Keywords: Political liberalism, John Rawls, Science, Public reason, Science denialism.