

SRM governance introduction

Brazilian Academy of Sciences June 2019

Andy Parker

Project Director – SRMGI Research Fellow – Bristol University

1



Moral hazard response?



Will knowledge about SRM create an disproportionate reduction in efforts to decarbonise?



Slippery slope?

Will SRM research lead uncritically to deployment?



3



Weaponisation?



Some are concerned that SRM will be weaponised



Risks of ignorance?



5



Politics





Governance

- Governance is more than regulation
- Processes, mechanisms and driving forces that prevent undesired outcomes and promote desired ones
- Governance of deployment
 - Who decides? On what inputs?
 - What review and control procedures?
- Governance of research includes:
 - International agreements
 - Ethics boards
 - Regulations on release of chemicals in the environment
 - Research funding allocation processes

7

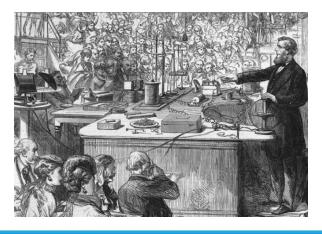


Governance of research

- Research governance is the immediate challenge
- Achieving any possible social objective requires governance:
 - Banning research
 - Pushing all research to proceed as quickly as possible
 - Allowing some research to proceed under certain conditions
 - International oversight



There is no widespread opposition to "indoors" research



q



Outdoors research is more controversial





What forms of outdoors research?

Low environmental risk research

- Light effects on ecosystems
- Impacts on ozone chemistry
- Exploring the effects of volcanic eruptions
- Effects of chemical deposition

Larger experiments with potential risks / international impacts

- Large scale tests of cloud brightening
- Experimenting on stratospheric aerosols at a global scale

11



Three governance considerations

- 1. What is low risk research? Who decides?
- 2. How to define what is SRM research?
- 3. Governance before research?



Thank you!