

The Trouble with Water Science

It's not easy being a water scientist, especially if you are working outside the narrow "safe zone" of mainstream water research. The trouble with studying water is that it is burdened by several millennia of origin mythologies and is awash in mystical lore, creating a fog of mysticism that has continually deterred scientific exploration into water's unusual properties. Tracing the history of water science from proto-Egyptian times, through colloidal chemistry, the polywater incident and the Benveniste debacle to the present day reveals a deep-seated fear in the scientific community of being contaminated by mysticism—a fear inflamed by passionate Skeptics organizations. This has resulted in mainstream water scientists confining research to a small but safe domain, effectively shutting out science and scientists from outside the safe zone. Broadening the scope of accepted water research is an enormous challenge, which requires a concerted effort by scientists, both inside and outside the safe zone, to clearly and distinctly differentiate between mysticism and science, and to do so in the face of a significant percentage of the world's population which *wants* water to be mystical.

Sheilla Jones, Science Writer

www.sheillajones.com