



2025

Teaching Creationism at University

Discussion about a paper of Thierry Ngosso

Chaire Hoover 2025

Louis-Léon Christians

1. Creationism / Creation ?



**comp. religious narrative
about Genesis**



**“creationism” = a
« religious » claim to be
scientific, without scientific
method**



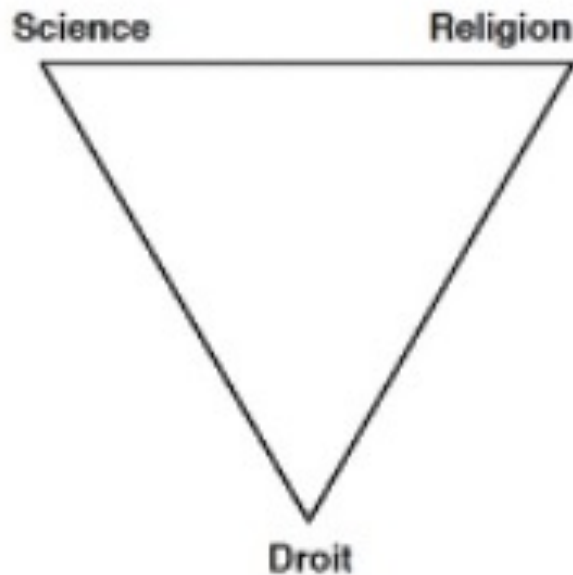
**comp. Science
Fundamentalism**

2. « Teaching » ? Various Epistemological Frameworks





2. Three Walls of Separation



Council of Europe / PACE Resolution 1580 (2010)

Creationism and 3 separation principles : "religion/science"

"Law / Religion" (≠ theocracy)

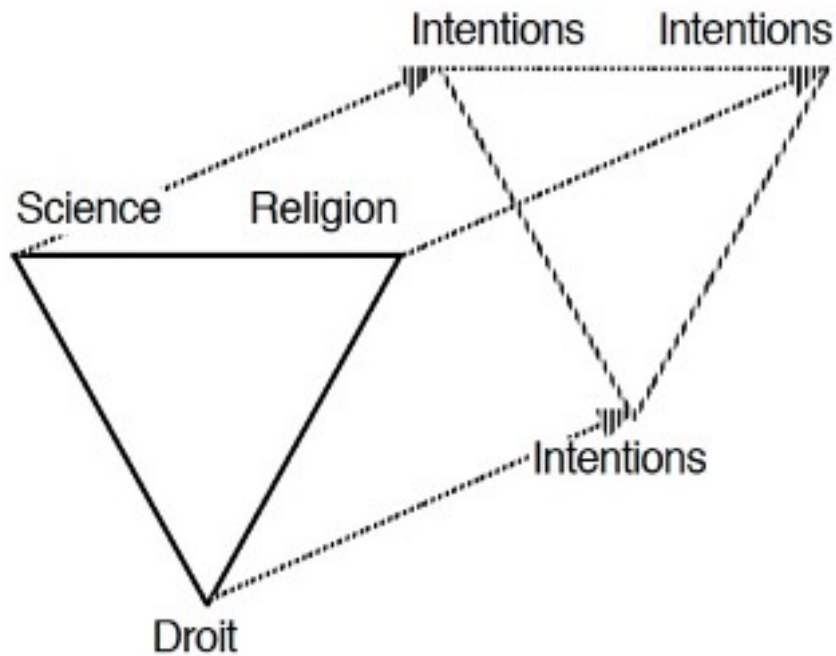
"Law / Science" (≠ epistocracy)

RES 1580

1. "The aim of this resolution is not to question or to fight a belief - the right to freedom of belief does not permit that. The aim is to warn against certain tendencies to pass off a belief as science. It is necessary to separate belief from science. It is not a matter of antagonism. Science and belief must be able to coexist.

It is not a matter of opposing belief and science, but it is necessary to prevent belief from opposing science".

3. Three Hidden Agendas ?



Council of Europe / PACE Resolution 1580 (2010)

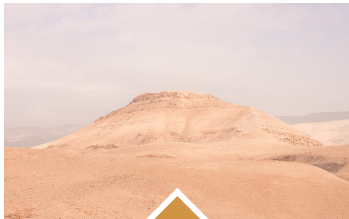
Creationism = political danger : not about truth but about intention and power

RES 1580

13 "The war on the theory of evolution and on its proponents most often originates in forms of religious extremism closely linked to extreme right-wing political movements. The creationist movements possess real political power. The fact of the matter, and this has been exposed on several occasions, is that some advocates of strict creationism are out to replace democracy by theocracy."

Religious Freedom = in a religious framework

Church (≠ University)



Churches

Critical Theology

Magisterial Theology

Faithfull fundamentalism

Council of Europe / PACE Resolution 1580 (2010)

Creationism = political danger : not about truth but about intention and power

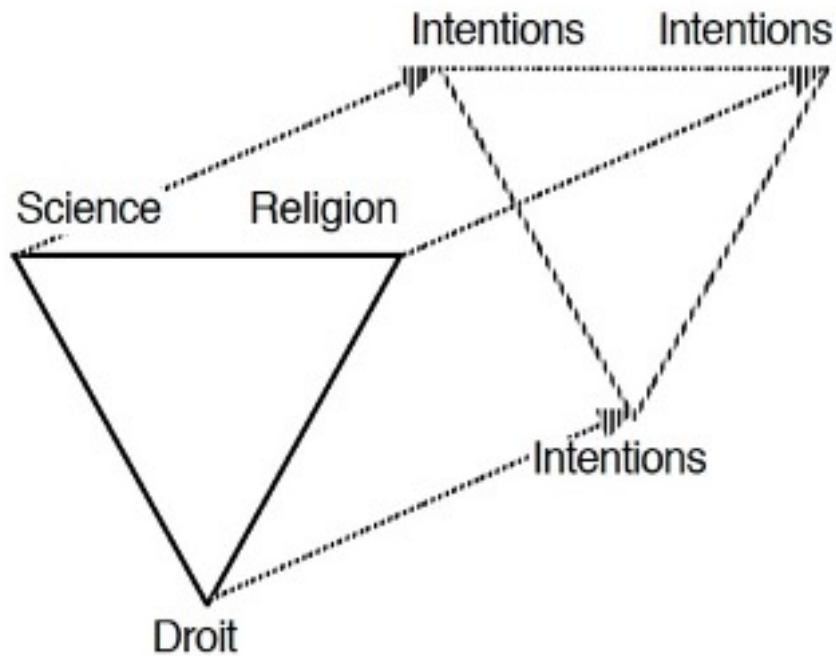
RES 1580

Resolution final recommendations :

19.1. defend and promote scientific knowledge; 19.2. strengthen the teaching of the foundations of science, its history, its epistemology and its methods alongside the teaching of objective scientific knowledge; 19.3. make science more comprehensible, more attractive and closer to the realities of the contemporary world; **19.4. firmly oppose the teaching of creationism as a scientific discipline on an equal footing with the theory of evolution and in general the presentation of creationist ideas in any discipline other than religion;** 19.5. promote the teaching of evolution as a fundamental scientific theory in the school curriculums.



What is missing with the Walls Theory ?



interdisciplinary / intersubjectivity ? = a challenge for University

Calling for a strengthening of science and for an end to the 'confusion' is important

but is this call enough to transform the experience of various actors and to overcome the difficulties that may arise when these difficulties are due to a lack of cooperation between the actors involved?