

metric data, and the applications claimed for them, are not the escape from the real world of interests, values, and competition that Chubin and Hackett imply. With their use new actors, with new skills and new interests, climb on the stage, and authority is redistributed.

The book ends very reasonably, with some modest proposals for improving the way peer review typically works (for example, the right of rejoinder before decisions are made) as well as for continuing analysis of the way the system works. The sociologist of science, showing that the discipline has a useful contribution to make, pleads for the right to continue to make it. Though it is unlikely to have a major impact on the social-studies-of-science community, this analysis of what lies behind current dispute over the merits and demerits of peer review is a worthwhile and readable piece of work.

STUART S. BLUME

*Department of Science Dynamics,
University of Amsterdam,
1018 WV Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

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