

ESSAY TOPIC 3 IN PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Background: You're a celebrity in the computer world! You are barely in your forties, you are the owner of the stock market comet *Mind Hash*, a collaborative system for innovators. But you are also known in media for your razor-sharp analyses of science and pseudoscience in the world of computers and that is why *Time magazine* has asked you to comment on the commotion surrounding the company **Shalom Decrypt**.

Since a few months back the news has been alive with sensational allegations that Israeli computer nerd Gil Shalom has found a polynomial algorithm that solves NP-complete problems. Financial journalists warn that the current system of banking (authentication with certificates) will collapse and stock market collapse has already hit the financial sector. A new company, Shalom Decrypt, claiming ownership of the algorithm, is looking for venture capital in the billions to develop its product.

You have accepted the assignment with the secret motive of giving you the opportunity to give hundreds of thousands of readers insight into scientific theory and methodology . . .

1. The above background is given but the content of the paper is up to you. It should be at least one A4 and no more than four A4 long and it must be handed in no later than 14 January 2014.
The LADOK grade will be pass/fail, but I will grade the essay A-E and your final grade in the course will be the mean of essay and exam grades.
2. Your essay must contain at least two epistemological comments and at least two comments on methodology. You may go beyond the course book content.
3. The epistemological comments must be relevant to the source of the commotion.
4. The methodology comments should naturally address the implementation of a scientific investigation of the site.
5. An image or a diagram always illustrates a news article in the Times.
6. For a higher grade, a readable, exciting and original essay is required. For a passing grade the essay must be your own work. Have fun creating it!