

Global Knowing: Epistemic Diversity in International Studies

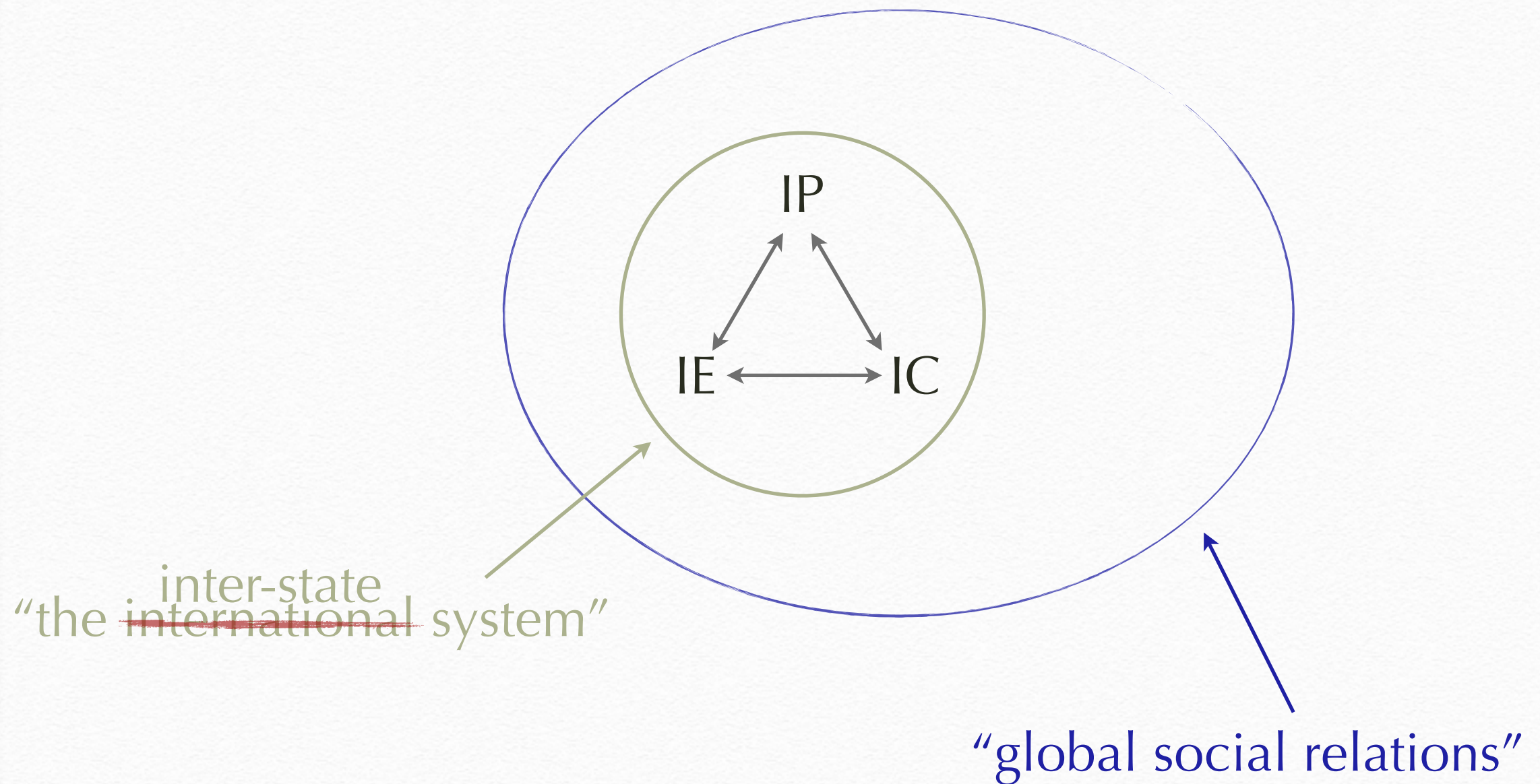
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International Studies

- the pursuit of knowledge of international phenomena
- international:
 - “encounter with difference across boundaries”
 - spills over borders
 - bigger than just (inter-state) politics

International Studies

“transactions among multiple worlds”



The Global Field

- Political Science is a discipline — like Economics or Sociology
- discipline: rough consensus on overall approach
- international studies encompasses many disciplines
- a field, not a discipline

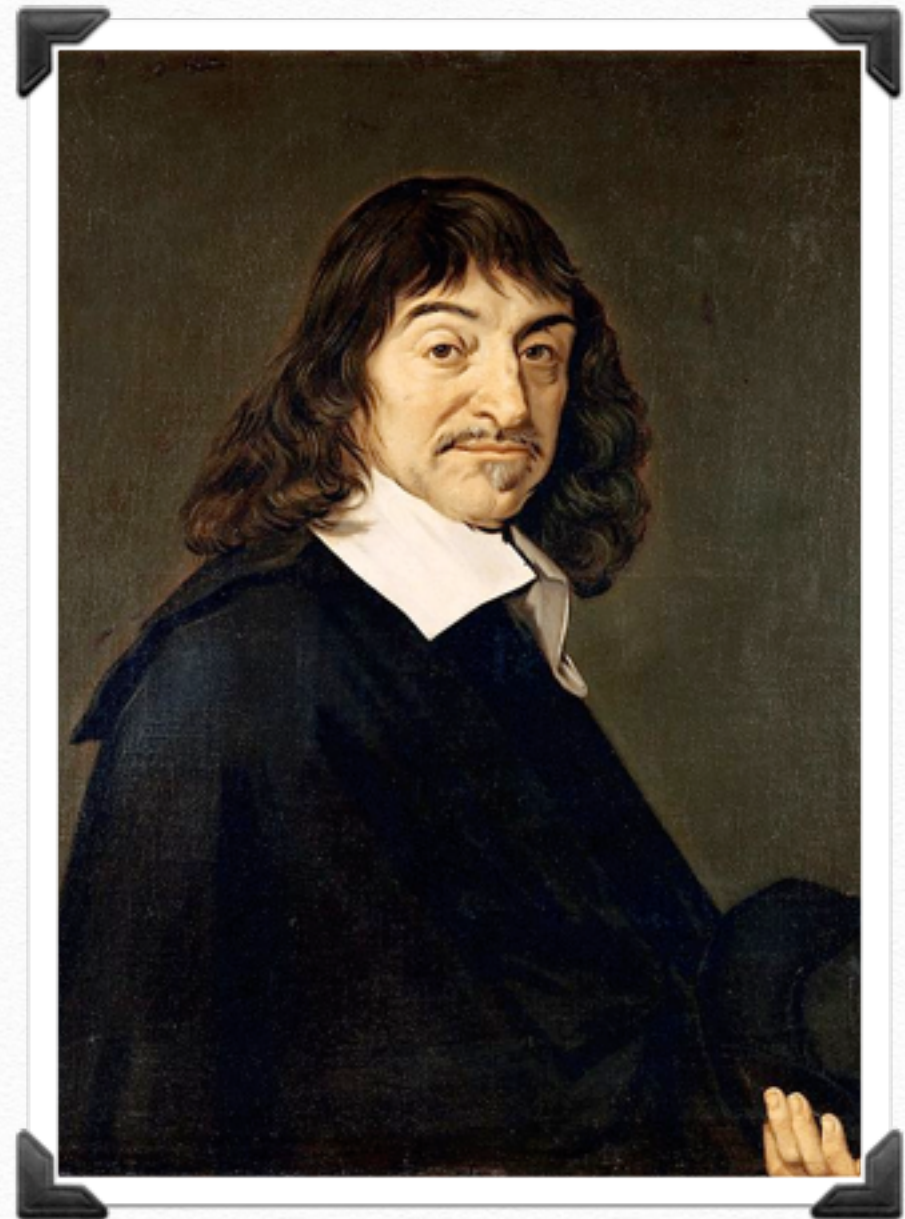


Epistemology

- reflections on knowledge
 - “what it means to say that we know something”
 - conditions of validity for factual claims
- wrapped up with questions of epistemic privilege
- ...and science

The Enlightenment Project

- “by Reason alone”
- searching for absolute certainty
- science as the guarantee of valid knowledge
- “Cartesian anxiety”



Philosophy of Science

- seeks to clarify the logic of scientific practice
- abstraction permits the reproduction of that logic in artificial purity
 - allows a clearer explication of the implications for empirical research
 - defuse indefensible claims about knowledge
 - end the mis-use of 'scientific' as a way to avoid concrete engagement with rival arguments

Science Is Pluralist

- no single unified logic of scientific inquiry
- a broad definition of science:
 - *systematic*, methodical links between premises and conclusions
 - subject to *public criticism and improvement*
 - focused on producing *worldly knowledge*
- lots of room for variation within this space

A Double Diversity

- *within* science: different kinds of systematic, public, worldly ways of making valid knowledge-claims
- *beyond* science: there are useful ways of knowing that are not “science” even in the broad sense
- a global international studies field has to incorporate *both* of these kinds of diversity

Diversity Within Science

- philosophical ontology: concerning the “hook-up” between the mind and the world
 - dualism / monism
 - phenomenal / transfactual
- *wagers*: provisional positions on likely unresolvable issues, with implications for concrete research
- wagers combine to support *methodologies*

Scientific Methodologies

	phenomenalism	transfactualism
dualism	neopositivism	critical realism
monism	analyticism	reflexivity

Scientific Methodologies

methodology	status of knowledge	evaluation procedure	causal explanation
neopositivism	unfalsified conjecture	hypothesis-testing	subsume under general law
critical realism	best approximation	laboratory*	INUS-complex
analyticism	useful account	analytical narrative	counterfactuals
reflexivity	focused perspective	theorizing social conditions of production	disclose unresolved tensions

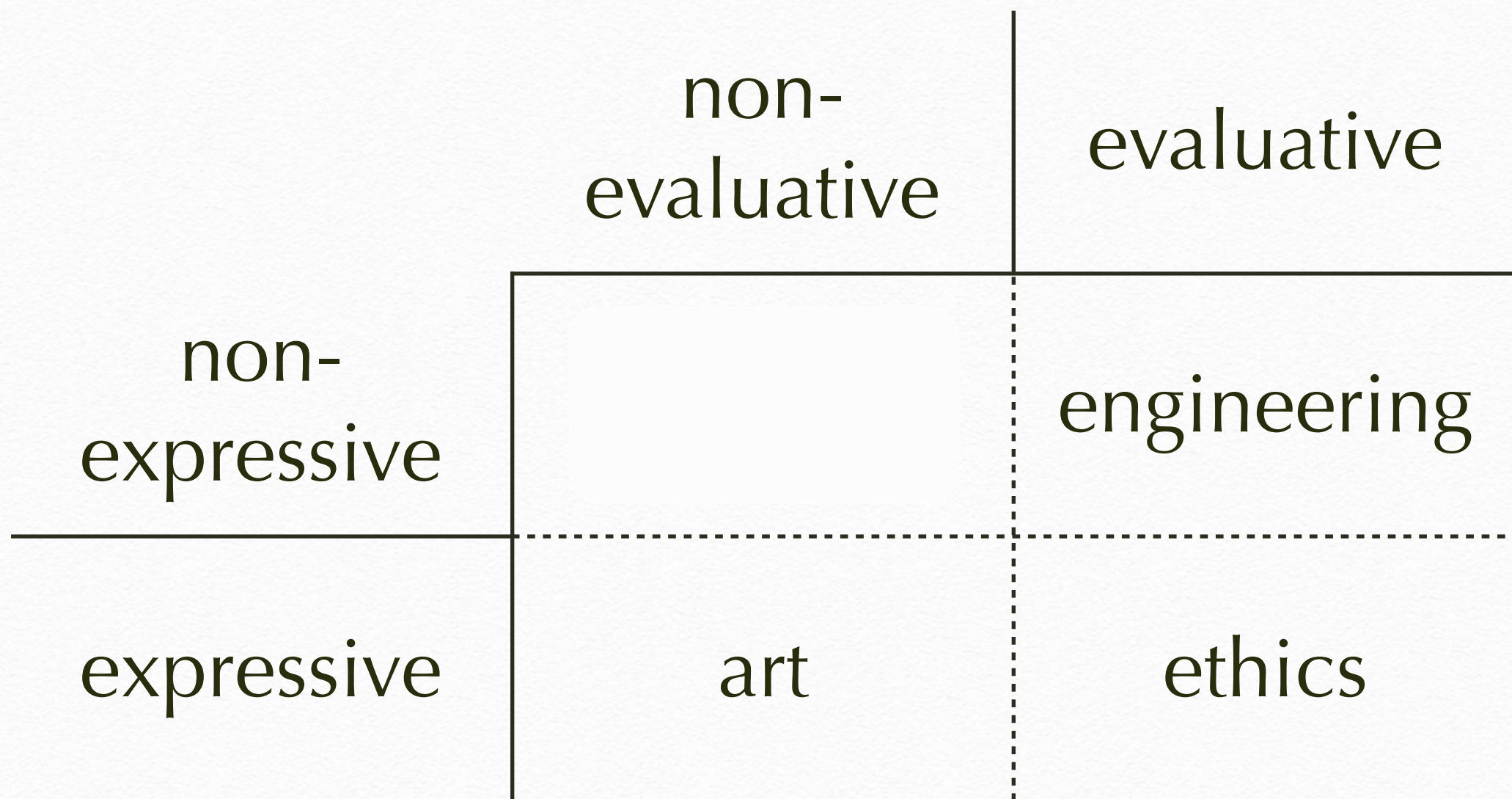
Boundaries of Science

- science and “knowing-that”
- at least two other kinds of knowing:
 - “know-how” (skills)
 - “knowing from within” (judgment)
- a grammatical analysis of how “science” is used

Boundaries of Science

- science vs. engineering: be more *methodical*
- science vs. art: make room for *progress*
- science vs. ethics: stick to the *world*
- overall: science = *impersonal, factual knowing*

Boundaries of Science



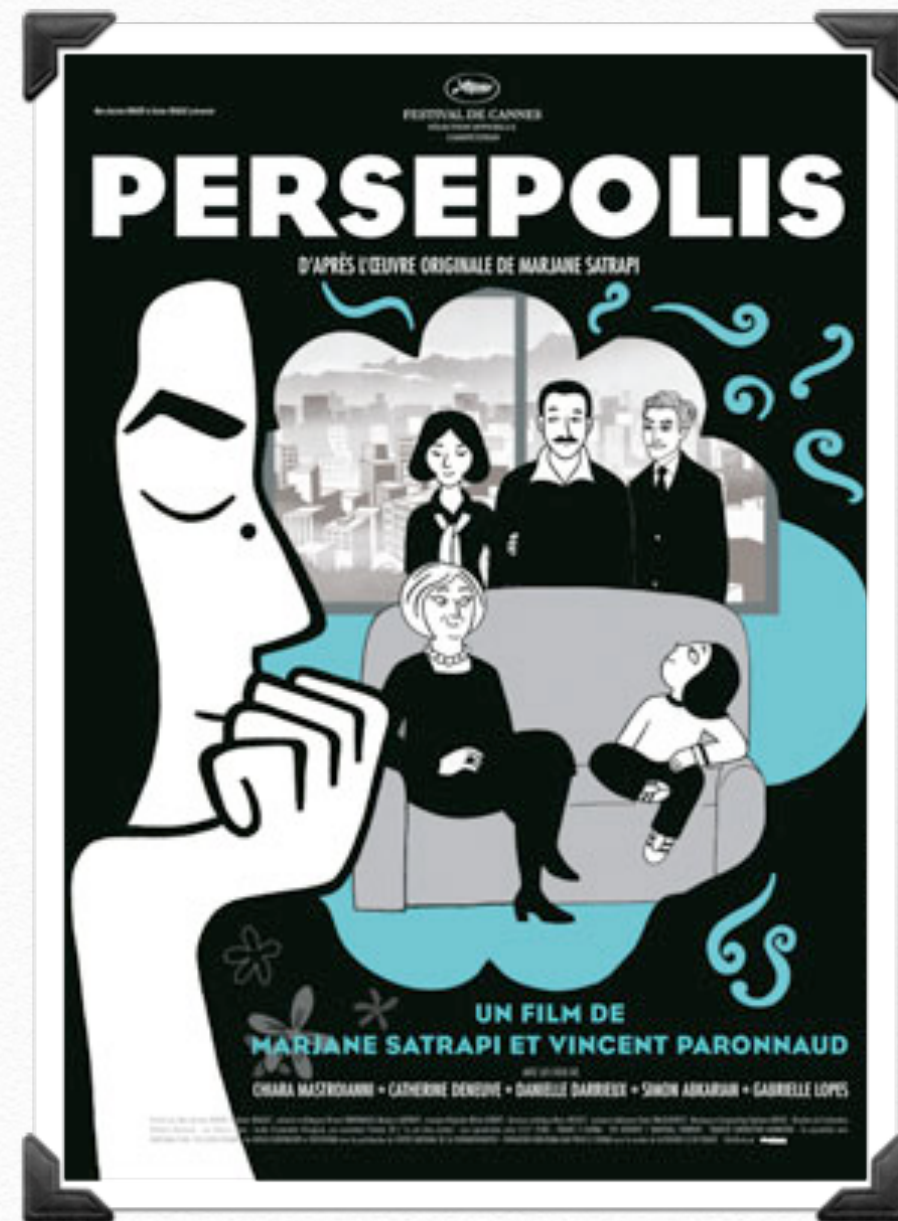
Engineering

- “getting things done”
- consistency matters less than results
- diplomacy
- local knowledges



Art

- “expressing a vision”
- hard to evaluate “progress”
- representations *of* politics...
- ...and political representations



Ethics

- “what should be”
- expresses a point of view
- evaluates what we actually have
- theology, and “secular theology”



Global Knowing

- different flavors of science
 - facts established differently
 - explanations generated differently
- more than just science
 - depends on what we want to know *for*