

Science and its Imitators – *Harry Collins (Sociology), University of Cardiff (Great Britain)*

Studies of the so-called 'pseudo-sciences' show us that it is very hard to construct demarcation criteria. This is not surprising: after all when, say, Martin Fleischman and Stanley Pons were developing cold fusion they were not trying to give rise to a pseudo-science. The appellation pseudo-science could be applied only after a lot of scientific work had been done to create agreement that their claims were incorrect (if that is indeed the case). So pseudo-science of this sort looks exactly the same any other science. Contrary to the desires and beliefs of many 'sceptics,' the same applies to 'the sciences of things that aren't so,' as enterprises such as parapsychology were once called. Those who are convinced there are only four forces are sure that something unscientific must be happening at the heart of parapsychology but it's not: it is just that significant and reliable positive findings are hard to come by. Unfortunately, we cannot manage without demarcation criteria as the latest 'intelligent design' farrago demonstrates. I will offer some suggestions for how to go forward.