Comments on A1: SCIENCE AND COMMONSENSE (*Jon Ogborn*)

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Jon Ogborn's contribution is a very solid article giving definitions of the two concepts that the author is treating. I find the analysis very clear and the implications for the school situation very well explained. There are four main themes, as listed on page 1 of the paper:

- The nature of scientific knowledge and reasoning.
- The importance of science and of its role in the development of reality.
- The nature of commonsense knowledge and reasoning.
- Differences and similarities between science and commonsense.

The themes are well carried through and their roles in the relations between teacher and student well developed.

The paper gives good advice to the teacher in his task to mediate scientific knowledge and points out some of the pitfalls which have to be avoided. He also manages to give new ideas regarding what science teaching is all about, like his saying that "the building blocks of the curriculum – of what goes on in the classroom - ought to be SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATIONS". A warning is also issued concerning the fear of having commonsense play a role which is too dominant: coming from commonsense one can find out that sometimes there are huge imaginative leaps involved in learning science. It is also formulated in a different perspective, that "science makes a special kind of link between what we can imagine and what we take to be real". One learns that the link must not be adopted too lightly but carefully evaluated in the process of learning.

Many examples are given of the different conclusions that the author arrives at. These are taken not only from physics, but also from biology, chemistry and astrophysics.

In summary this clear and well written paper can be recommended to science teachers in general and is worth wide distribution in the school world. It would also serve as an important ingredient in the teacher training curriculum.