

## The Received Wisdom

## FACT SHEET FOR EDUCATORS

The Received Wisdom is a discussion and interview podcast about big questions at the intersection of science, technology, policy, and society.

[↓ Download full press kit](#)



WEBSITE

[thereceivedwisdom.org](http://thereceivedwisdom.org)



EMAIL

[thereceivedwisdom@gmail.com](mailto:thereceivedwisdom@gmail.com)

### Accessibility

The website features fully formatted transcripts of each episode (as Google Docs).

### Schedule

*The Received Wisdom* releases episodes on Tuesdays at 8am ET every 4-6 weeks.

### Download and subscribe

Listen to the show directly from the website, or subscribe and listen from most podcast platforms, such as Apple Podcasts, Pocket Casts and Spotify.



### Trailer and transcript

[Download](#) [↓](#) | [Watch on YouTube](#) [▶](#)

Trailer files are also in the full press kit.



**Follow our hosts on Twitter**  
[@ShobitaP](#) | [@JackStilgoe](#)

# About the show

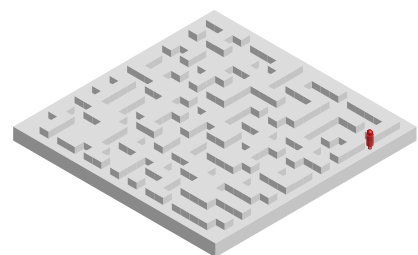
## Short summary

Are robots racist? Should we regulate gene editing? Have people stopped trusting experts? Does scientific research increase global inequality? The Received Wisdom is a discussion and interview podcast about how to realize the potential of science and technology by challenging the received wisdom. Join Professors Shobita Parthasarathy and Jack Stilgoe as they talk to thinkers and doers from around the world about governing science and technology to make the world a better place.

## Extended summary

As professors, Shobita Parthasarathy (University of Michigan) and Jack Stilgoe (University College London) have built their careers investigating the complex relationships between science, technology, policy, and society. They launched *The Received Wisdom* podcast to bring their insights to policymakers, technologists, and communities interested in building and governing science and technology to make the world a better place. In each episode, they leave the academic jargon behind as they give listeners insight into critical questions about the social, ethical, equity, and economic impacts of science and technology and how to address them. Through accessible discussions of current events and interviews with a diverse group of leading thinkers and doers, Shobita and Jack bring levity and clarity to topics like the regulation of gene editing, racial justice and machine learning, and the politics of science that will change the way listeners see the world.

*The Received Wisdom* is also a perfect learning tool for lifetime learners and teachers designing a curriculum around science, technology and society. Each episode comes with study questions and resources to encourage listeners to reflect on the concepts discussed by the hosts and guests and practice applying them to other topics and technologies. The diverse group of guests and focus on the big questions of the day have already made the show a favorite of students from high school through graduate programs.



## Team



CO-HOST AND PRODUCER

**Shobita  
Parthasarathy**

Twitter: @ShobitaP  
Email: shobita@umich.edu

Shobita is a professor of public policy and women's and gender studies, and director of the Science, Technology, and Public Policy program, at the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on the politics of innovation and innovation policy in the United States and around the world. The author of multiple articles and two books, she is frequently quoted in the media and has written for *The New York Times*, *Nature*, and *The Conversation*, among other outlets. She also regularly advises civil society groups and policymakers around the world about issues at the intersection of science, technology, and society; in 2021 she testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee about equity in energy and climate innovation.



CO-HOST

**Jack  
Stilgoe**

Twitter: @JackStilgoe  
Email: j.stilgoe@ucl.ac.uk

Jack is a senior lecturer in the Department of Science and Technology Studies at University College London. His research focuses on the governance of emerging technologies, including genetically modified crops, nanotechnologies, geoengineering, machine learning, and self-driving cars. He has also worked on science and technology policy issues at the thinktank Demos and the British Royal Society, is on the editorial board of the journal *Public Understanding of Science*, sits on the British government's Sciencewise steering group, and was a co-editor of *The Guardian* newspaper's "Political Science" blog. Previously, he hosted the UCL Science Policy Podcast.

EDITOR

### **Edward Waisanen**

In addition to his work on *The Received Wisdom* podcast, Ed is the platform and program manager for the Gala learning environment at the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability, which facilitates innovative case-based learning approaches, drawing on multimedia including visualization, video, and geospatial information. He led podcast production for this initiative until 2018 and has served as mentor, co-host, and editor for "It's Hot in Here," a weekly environmental news show on WCBN-FM, with a diverse group of students and staff.

# Praise for *The Received Wisdom*

## General praise

"Loving *The Received Wisdom* podcast by @JackStilgoe and @ShobitaP. Their interview with Dan Sarewitz might be the best introduction to the politics of science and technology out there."

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"I love this podcast because it really made me think." – **PODWorld (APRIL 2021)**

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"Two leading thinkers in STS find a new voice. Shobita and Jack are at the forefront of thinking on the relationships between, science, technology, and society. Each has a clear public voice on a wide range of topics, and a history of commitment to making academic concepts both intelligible and engaged with current debates shaping our societies. I'm excited to see how they bring their skills to bear through this podcast, and I can confidently say you will not be disappointed." – **APPLE PODCASTS REVIEW**

"One of the best discussions of human germline editing I've yet heard."

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"It has been just an absolute pleasure to experience your show. You are both so thoughtful and engaging in your conversation together and in your interviews, and you are tackling such key issues in STS. I keep referring students, colleagues, friends, and family members to various episodes."

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"Terrific discussion of the [AstraZeneca] vaccine science+politics"

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"Listen to the first episode of *The Received Wisdom* podcast with @ShobitaP and @JackStilgoe! It's unsurprisingly amazing."

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"We needed this!"

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"Very reflective and thought-provoking! These podcasts should have a very broad appeal."



... you will not be disappointed.

– **APPLE PODCASTS REVIEW**



# More praise for *The Received Wisdom*

## Praise from teachers using The Received Wisdom in class

"Graduate students in my course on expert advice are enjoying the *Received Wisdom* podcast with [Jack Stilgoe] and Shobita Parthasarathy. It's a really wonderful tool to expose students to a diversity of interaction between expertise and society. "

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"It's been an extremely long time since I read Wynne's *Misunderstood Misunderstanding*, but that's what we're doing this week in Intro STS! Paired with a *Received Wisdom* podcast episode and an Ed Yong piece on the pandemic, as an entry point into science + public policy... I do have two of your other episodes in my syllabus this term (the interview with Nick Carr is required for the compsci version of the STS course; the Virginia Eubanks episode is an elective reading)."

"Exciting! Such a promising addition to the resources associated with STS!"

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"Highly recommend *The Received Wisdom* podcast from @ShobitaP & @JackStilgoe for anyone teaching sci/tech/policy/politics or just about our world! Great additional resources for each episode too!"

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"I've been liberally sprinkling links to different eps into my teaching and pointing my students to it at any opportunity."

“**Highly recommend...** Great additional resources for each episode, too! ”

# Teaching with *The Received Wisdom*

Teachers and professors use *The Received Wisdom* to introduce students to the intersections between science, technology, policy, and society and to dig deeper into the topics covered in each episode.

Effortlessly weaving academic concepts together with important, timely, and globally relevant issues, the podcast is appropriate and engaging for students from high school through graduate school. Jack and Shobita bring their deep expertise in the field and their instincts from teaching in their own classrooms to interviews with a diverse group of leading thinkers from around the world.

Each episode includes a resource guide of the texts and articles mentioned in the show and a set of study questions for classrooms. Resources and classrooms are available on the show's website and in the show notes on most podcast players.

## Example study questions

### Episode 17: The next big science policy and the material realities of AI featuring Kate Crawford

1. What are the social and political implications of focusing on “competitiveness” as the main goal of science and technology policy? What does it value (and what doesn't it value)?
2. Why do so many AI analysts focus on it as a mathematical and abstract object, and how is Kate Crawford trying to analyze it differently?
3. What does a political economy analysis of AI reveal about the technology?
4. What explains the desire of many tech and AI leaders to go to space?

# Audience

People around the world, and on all major platforms, listen to *The Received Wisdom* podcast. The biggest audiences are in the United States (51%) and the U.K. (13%).

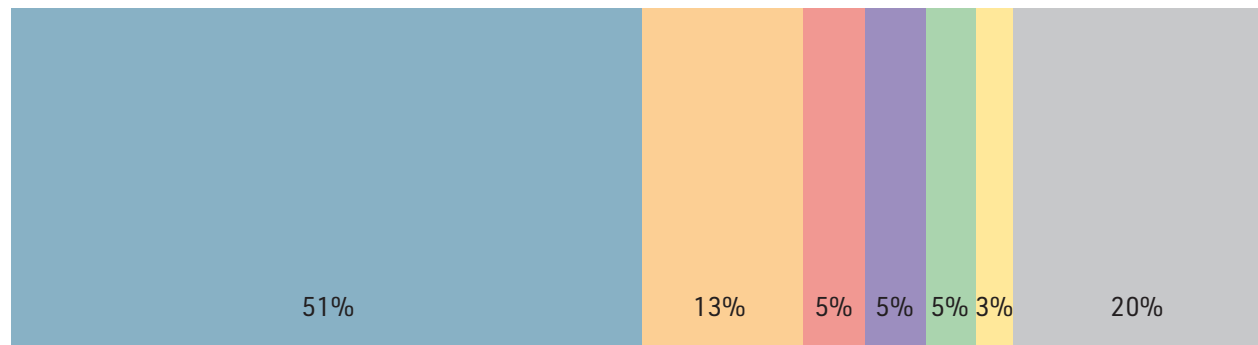
*Data retrieved in July 2020.*

APPLE PODCAST RATING: 4.7



**Our podcast is popular around the world,  
with sustained listeners in 85 countries.**

United States United Kingdom Germany Netherlands Canada Australia Other countries

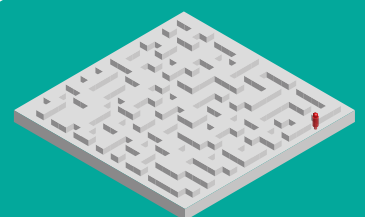


**19,000+** TOTAL DOWNLOADS OR STREAMS



**Download full press kit**

Support from the Center for Academic Innovation  
and Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy,  
University of Michigan.



**The Received  
Wisdom**