

## DR. PAULI (AND FACHEP) VIEWS ON TRUTH, ACTIVISM AND SCIENCE.

“Flint Fights Back.” (compiled from [here](#)) and other public statements as linked below.

*“In January 2016, as Flint activists shifted their focus from convincing the world of the harm being done by the water to fighting for accountability, remediation, and reparations, I decided I could no longer watch from the sidelines....**I was an activist but also a <FACHEP> researcher, a comrade in struggle....**”*

Although the concept of “whole” and impartial truth was espoused as a journalistic ideal and used to ground certain demands for political accountability, in reality *those who sought to contest official narratives of the crisis answered back not with an exhaustive compendium of “facts,” but with counter-narratives ...it is not the same as impartially pursuing the “whole” truth....* Of course, *there are important differences between narrators who strive to be inclusive and honest and those who are deliberately partial and duplicitous.*

Naturally, if our objective is to construct an accurate account of what happened in Flint, weighing the relative veracity of different narratives of the crisis matters. When one approaches narratives from the vantage point of social and political struggle, however, *asking how true they are is often less meaningful than asking how useful they are to specific actors. And the utility of a particular narrative is sometimes inversely related to its accuracy and objectives... We would be foolish to expect those engaged in a struggle for their lives and livelihoods to make impartiality an absolute value.*

*This does not mean we should expect to find activists embracing outright deceit. What is more common is the idea that “we” who struggle have “our” truth—a truth rooted in our experience, a truth that may serve as an antidote to falsehoods perpetrated by others, but a truth with a small “t,” tacitly tailored to our needs and objectives.”*

The above excerpts about “truth are perfectly consistent with earlier statements from [Dr. Pauli’s presentation March 14, 2017](#) (watch at @ 3:54):

*“At the end of the day, what my <FACHEP> project is focused on, it’s less the truth of the crisis with a capital “T”, and more the struggle around the crisis.....and sometimes when you are engaged in a process of struggle, truth is your ally, and sometimes it isn’t.”*

We also provide Pauli’s fascinating statements from a September 11, 2018 presentation (watch 1 minute excerpt [here](#) or full video [here](#)):

*“...as somebody who has a background as an activist but is also an academic, although I’m a social scientist, so whether or not that’s a real scientist we could probably debate.....I think that what Marc <Edwards> ultimately decided is that activists..., don’t really care about the truth at the end of the day, that they turned*

to science when it's useful to them, but when it starts to conflict with their agenda they abandon it and they pursue their political motives even if that means engaging in dishonesty and unscrupulous behavior.....*I mean we all know that that when you're engaging in activism sometimes the most important thing is simply that you get people's attention and simply that you're heard and activists have a variety of ways of trying to get people's attention and I don't think that that agenda is at all inherently incompatible with the scientific enterprise..”*