

My name is Rico Brouwer. I provide unpaid technical services to Michaéla Schippers' initiative called 'Follow the Science' <https://followthescience.nl>. I film, edit and assist with technical hosting of content. As journalist I also sometimes engage in conversation with Michaéla on camera.

Michaéla told me about the lack of scientific freedom conference in Copenhagen Oct. 24/25 2022, and asked if I'd be available and interested to join her there as filmmaker for follow the science, with the intent to film a report of the event. I said I did, after which she asked the event organiser (Peter Gøtzsche) if my filming at the event for her podcast would be possible and allowed.

Michaéla in Email asked Oct 4th: *Would it be possible to make s (short) film for my "Follow the Science" podcast? In that case, my film maker, Ric Brouwer would also come with me. Is that OK?*

To which Peter in Email responded Oct 5th: *Great and yes, you can film. Please register now, as the date is close*

Michaéla then asked Peter if her filmmaker (me) could be invited as guest, in return she promised we'd share whatever we'd film there, to which Peter responded: *That is OK, I shall order an extra catering during the two days ...*

This Email exchange early October confirmed we'd be able to film without restrictions. I would be given access to the venue as filmmaker, and even lunch was provided.

I arranged for flight (Easyjet, Vueling) and two night lodging (Cabinn Scandinavia) on Oct. 10th. We'd later crowdfund those expenses. I arrived Sunday Oct 23rd late afternoon and departed Tuesday evening.

I had no plan as to who to interview or what to film. My first recording Sunday evening on the rooftop of Michaéla's hotel of a conversation between her and me could just as well have been an interview with one of the speakers or organisers, if they'd been available at that time.

The venue day 1 appeared shabby from the outside; definitely not a university setting, also no signs with directions. I ended up in the wrong building at first. Upon my arrival at the right place Monday morning around 8.25 AM Michaéla was already there, so were half of the guests and Peter. At that point I learned there would be more people filming; another camera was already set up.

I observed there were no papers/posters up on the walls anywhere imposing limitations on what could be photographed or filmed. I observed no remarks on photography or filming were in the colour printed program-booklet that was provided for guests on all the seats.

Michaéla introduced me to Peter, I asked if I could film, to which he agreed. He introduced me to the other film crew and said there'd be more filming. I asked with the other film crew if I could film? They agreed.

I set up my camera's and mic and filmed the event from the start where Peter remarked from stage to those present: *'there will be some filming and photo's here. I'm sure you'll all accept that because in contrast to many people in healthcare I'm convinced those who are here have nothing to hide'*.

There was only one room where all presentations would be given, with a coffee counter in the room. All there present would have clearly seen me setting up cameras and subsequent filming.

It was during breaks when everyone was chatting, walking around, drinking coffee or eating sandwiches that were brought in for lunch, that Michaéla found Harald Walach available for an interview. Another speaker on that first day was Nicolas Vermeulen, whom we'd interview the next day.

Walach had just presented about the lack of scientific freedom he'd encountered. I opted we'd film Michaéla talking to him outside, out of the noise. The interview ran a little longer than the remainder of the lunchbreak allowed. We made it back into the presentation room where the next session had already started. With my carrying in the cameras and tripod, it was abundantly clear I was there and resumed filming.

I had not anticipated beforehand we'd be filming the entire event and ran into storage issues on my camera's because of that. My filming between 15.00 and 16.00 PM, including the segment of Nicolas Vermeulen, was not optimal as a result. The presentations given by remote speakers on day one were hard to hear and all but impossible to film properly. The technical quality of those sessions was so that I would later in editing decide I would not be able to use clips from them.

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Day two was on a different location. Again a somewhat shabby location from the outside, but a slightly better room inside and far better quality of the remote sessions. I arrived there around 08.15AM asked the other film crew where I could set up? I could do what I wanted. The other film crew were already there and had chosen the left wall side for their camera. So I chose the right hand side. Again, clear for all to see. All present knew I was filming there, all presenters present there again clearly would have seen my two camera's and microphone's set up.

At some point during a break on the second day Peter approached Michaéla and me with a question on what we intended to do with our filming? Peter asked the other filmmaker there too. What was said was heard by four, as I recall (Peter, Michaéla, Janus, Rico). It was a brief conversation where Peter said we could not put everything online as people had paid for the event. I explained we intended to edit down what we had filmed and use it in a report, with interviews we made. We confirmed at Peters request we would not put any session online in whole. Peter also said he'd want to come to a formal (written) arrangement after the event. I then volunteered to put in writing (Email) what was agreed upon verbally there, so Peter could then respond to that if he felt the need to formalise further.

It was my understanding from that conversation that Peter intended to put his recorded content up behind a paywall. Us putting it up for free on Follow the Science, could hinder his ability to ask money for views? So no problem, we volunteered to not put everything online integral and we offered to put up hyperlinks on our report to his paywall. I was not restricted in filming during that talk, my filming continued for the remainder of the event.

During the lunch break Michaéla and me recorded a second talk between us two (which was later used as part 5 of the report. outside, next to the rollerblade track).

After the event has finished around 14.00PM we conducted interviews with some of the speakers downstairs the meeting room, in the lobby. Michaéla had asked Kim Witczak, however Kim was also scheduled to attend a closed faculty meeting with Peter and some of the other presenters. Both Kim and Michaéla regretted they only had a few minutes to talk before Kim had to leave, so she'd not be late for that. This is why the talk with Kim was fairly short.

After recording Kim there was more time for me to set up equipment for the next interview properly, with Nicolas Vermeulen. You'll notice better light and the use of lapel microphone's, as compared to the handheld used in the talk with Kim. Also the conversation with Nicolas went longer because we were no longer time constraint.

After recording those I headed back to the airport. Michaéla decided to stay as John Ioannidis was expected to appear later (he was delayed due to a mix-up of his flights). She'd wanted to meet with him in person to discuss a paper they were working on, also Michaéla's flight was scheduled the next day.

I sent the promised Email the next day Oct 26th to Michaéla for approval, to verify this is what we had agreed on with Peter. She agreed and subsequently Emailed it to Peter with me in cc. Peter responded to that Email taking the other filmmaker in cc. This was odd and unexpected as our agreement was with Peter. Peter asked if Janus had comments to the formalisation of what was said the 25th. Janus did not reply.

You may find this Email exchange on the 26th in the addendum to this report.

Peter after the event in Email asked if he could get a preview of our report before we publish? I agreed to that, however I did not then or later agree to submit to any form of moderation, as this was not part of our earlier agreement. If he had needed me to submit to mandatory moderation, or any other restriction on my filming, that would have needed to be agreed upon before the event, not after.

I never received a (draft) contract of sorts to formalise further, as Peter had hinted on he wanted the 25th. I never received comments from Peter on my edits, other than a new -what appeared to be intended as a mandatory- restriction of only 5 minutes of content to be used, which Peter came up with after the event. I never agreed to a restriction in duration of footage used, other than not publish sessions in whole.

I volunteered a draft edit of the rooftop interview between Michaéla and me, with clips from the event on day one, and a draft edit of the Harald Walach interview with clips from his presentation on day one. I refer to Emails between Michaéla and Peter for follow up to that.

Based on the material we had created, Michaéla and I decided on creating a five part report on the event with each interview/conversation being center in a part. I edited the five parts down to some 20 - 30 minutes each, to a total of a report just under 2 hours in all. In the report I used under 10% of the material I was allowed to film of presentations given at the venue.

I also made previews of the interview parts 2, 3 and 4 available to Walach, Witczak and Vermeulen and obtained their approval for publication. I later learned from Michaéla that Kim Witczak had retracted her approval.

I volunteered our report in five parts to Michaéla, as a single not for distribution or sharing preview film of our work once completed. I did this as a hidden [not advertised, but viewable to those who have the link] YouTube clip. She sent it to Peter for preview as was agreed. I took that preview offline after I learned Peter had confirmed he had illegally downloaded it and even shared it without our permission, by doing so violating our rights to our original work and violating our agreement.

Rico Brouwer, Almere, November 10 2022

Addendum: Email confirming agreement:

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: RE: My Podcast Follow the Science
Date: Wed, 26 Oct 2022 12:32:13 +0200
From: Peter [email address removed]
To: 'Michaela Schippers' [email address removed], Janus [email address removed]
CC: 'Rico' [email address removed]

Dear Rico and Michaela

Thanks for your appreciation. I am very happy that we made it.

I copy Janus. As I said yesterday, we would like to see what you intend to upload before you do it. This will not give you problems and could even be helpful for you, but it is our safeguard, which we find important.

Janus, any comments?

Bw Peter

From: Michaela [email address removed]
Sent: 26 October 2022 11:52
To: Peter [email address removed]
Cc: Rico [email address removed]
Subject: My Podcast Follow the Science

Hi Peter,

Thanks for hosting such an important and vibrant conference!

It was great, and I know as an organizer this can be a headache :-)

Nevertheless, I think this was an historical conference and I learned a lot.

As promised, our filmmaker, Rico Brouwer, wrote down how we envision use of the footage.

Of course, we are very careful to make sure it is done with integrity, as it is our aim to make the world a better place, not to "score" in any way.

dear mr. Gotzsche,

My name is Rico Brouwer, I filmed large parts of the the lack of scientific freedom conference in Copenhagen. The 25th you, your documentary maker, Michaéla and myself agreed I would put in writing how I intend to use those recordings.

We will publish through Michaéla Schippers open (that is; not behind pay/membership wall) channel called <https://followthescience.nl> which hosts interviews with scientists, and video's we made describing certain psychological and behavioural phenomena.

At the event in Copenhagen we recorded three such interviews during brakes with some of the presenters, and two interviews between Michaéla and myself. We intend to publish those five topics with clips taken from the presentations. In editing you'll find I'll have used bits of some of the presentations. Like a visual management summary If you will. We'll link our reports to the event website should people wish to review the recordingsd in full. I will not now or later publish any of the sessions in full. Of course we'd appreciate it if you would refer interested people to our output as well, we publish what we make under a creative commons license (free to share).

best,

Rico Brouwer

All the best,

Michaéla