

Not in My Back Yard

Que c'est bête de te parler quand t'es pas la pour m'écouter

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The Epi Conspiracy

August 15th, 2010 [Jan de Leeuw](#) [Leave a comment](#) [Go to comments](#)



Lois Henry and a gaggle of libertarians on the barricades for non-conformity and academic freedom.

Read this first.

<http://www.bakersfield.com/news/columnist/henry/x1415295919/Independent-thought-not-wanted-at-UCLA>

Permit me to add some comments to Lois' inspiring and thought-provoking column.

- I don't know why James Enstrom "lost his job". He was not a tenured faculty member. He was a largely self-funded Associate Research Professor, of which there are quite a few in the Medical School.
- That universities maintain air pollution is dangerous **because** they want to ensure a continuous influx of research grants is a gratuitous and offensive insinuation. It should be supported by hard evidence and not just by innuendo. It's what the libertarians and right wingers also say about global warming research and what they used to say about cigarette smoking.
- Epidemiological observational research is fraught with difficulties, and each individual study can be easily criticized on multiple grounds.
- As with global warming research, the overwhelming consensus is that PM-2.5 is bad for your health (and thus influences mortality). The fact that the effects may be weak (who knows) does not make the studies

