**Small Group Discussion Questions\_\_\_\_ FYS 178**

18 and 20 August 2020 (Wk#2) Society, Technology & Weather

Questions for **Introduction** and **Chapter 1** of “Appropriating the Weather…”

[1] How do the concepts of “family” and an individual’s “career” benefit society? How would the absence of “family” and the pursuit of “career” by individuals hurt a society?

[2] As a physicist, VB was pursuing two different research topics; electromagnetic waves (under Hertz) and hydrodynamic analogies for action-at-a-distance forces (under his father). Did this pursuit of dual research programs cause any challenges for VB? Please give specific examples of how this pursuit may have caused stress in VB’s life.

[3] At some point, VB had to make a choice to a single research pursuit. Which research path did he choose and what was the price he paid for pursuing this path?

[4] The textbook author talks about how a scientist achieves professional success (p. 5, para. 3) in the Introduction. How did VB’s early choice of the single research pursuit in physics jeopardize his professional success?

[5] If presented with the same choices as VB, how would you have decided which research path to pursue?

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Questions for **Introduction** and **Chapter 1** of “Appropriating the Weather…” (cont.)

[6] VB’s electromagnetic waves research with Hertz was integrated into a growing communications industry. Name the industry and describe how innovations in this industry benefited society.

[7] After abandoning electromagnetic waves research, VB settled into a teaching position and worked toward publishing the results of his and his father’s research. Where was the teaching position and was the school a place where VB could earn professional success? [see Question [4] above]

[8] VB made a discovery that had a potential application to atmospheric and oceanic motions (p. 21). What was the discovery? How might this discovery have paved a path to VB’s new career direction (outside of physics)?

[9] VB’s colleague, Otto Pettersson, feared VB was driving himself to the point of breakdown. What were some of the pressures contributing to VB’s delicate state of mind?

[10] What qualities of VB’s personality (p. 5, 6) might have made it difficult for him to choose to leave the field of physics? What are aspects of a person’s personality that make it difficult to change his/her goals in life?