



# **PUBLISH** and **IMPOVERISH**

Are there any alternatives to simplistic forms of  
accountability in Higher Education Research?

■ Gustavo E. Fischman | Arizona State University | @gefischman

16th International Conference on Higher Education  
Reform, CDMX, Mexico, 09/12/2019



■ Some familiar situations about

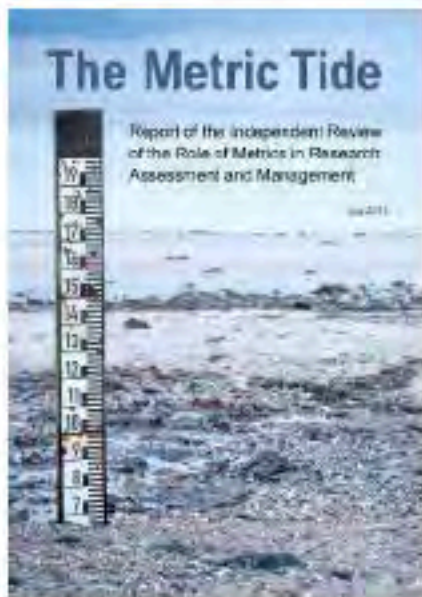
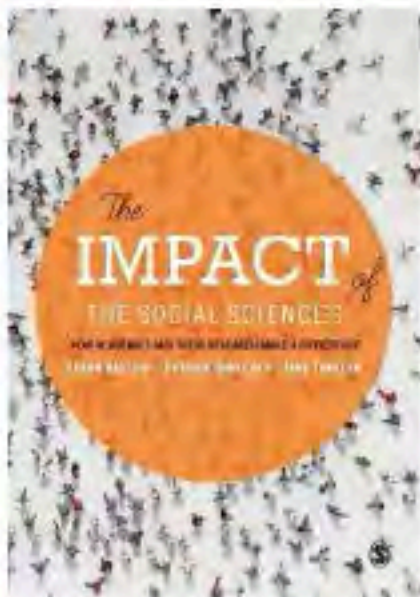
# SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING

today

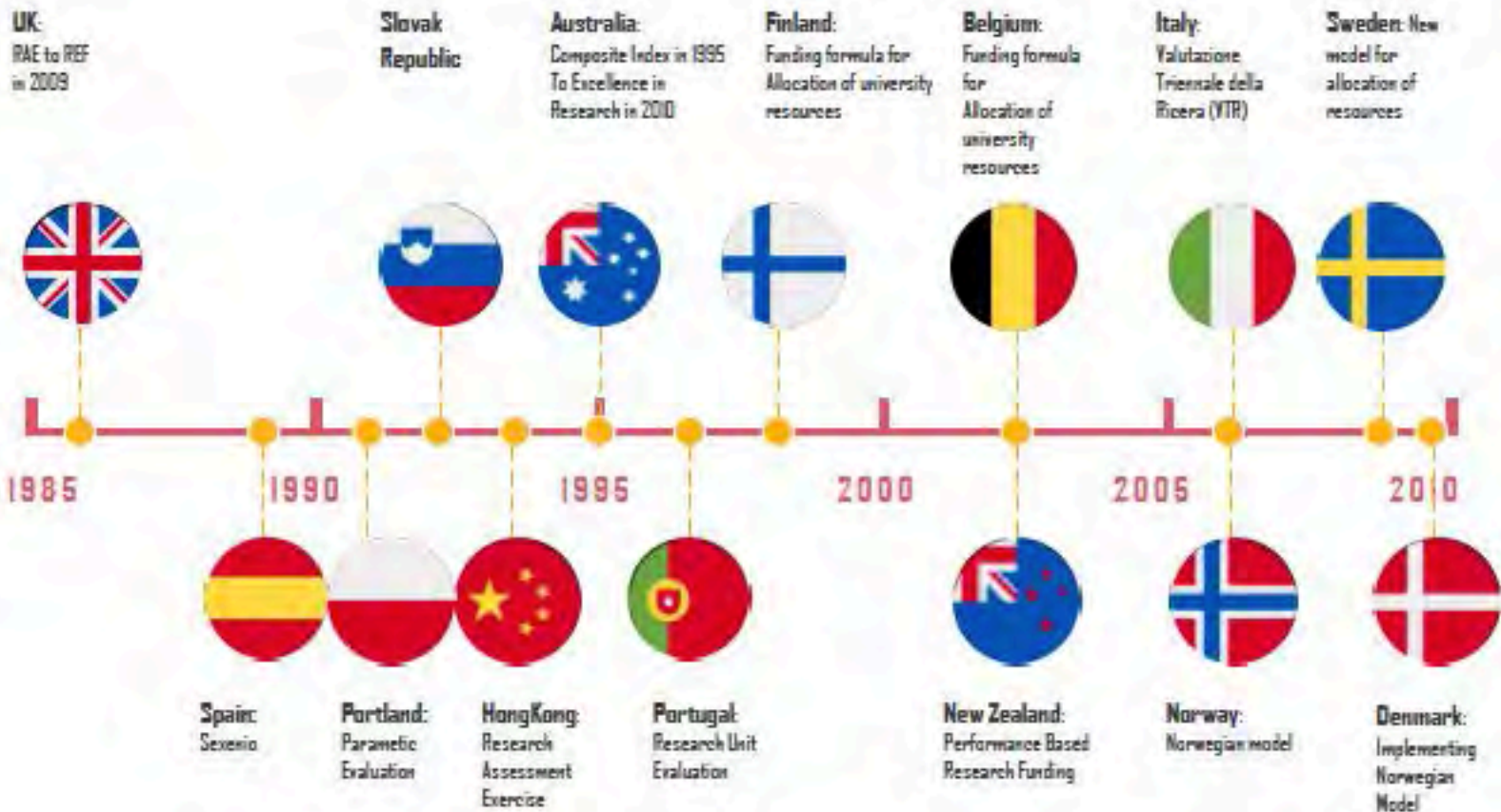
■ A big challenge

# DEFINING IMPACT





# Nacional Systems of Science Accountability (2016)



Source: Copper & Shewchuk, 2016

# University Rankings: indicators & journals



World scaled by number of documents with authors from each country in Web of Science

2016

## Using the journals for University Rankings





## Higher Education Rankings: indicators



Publications



Funding



Awards



Influence







TOM GAULD

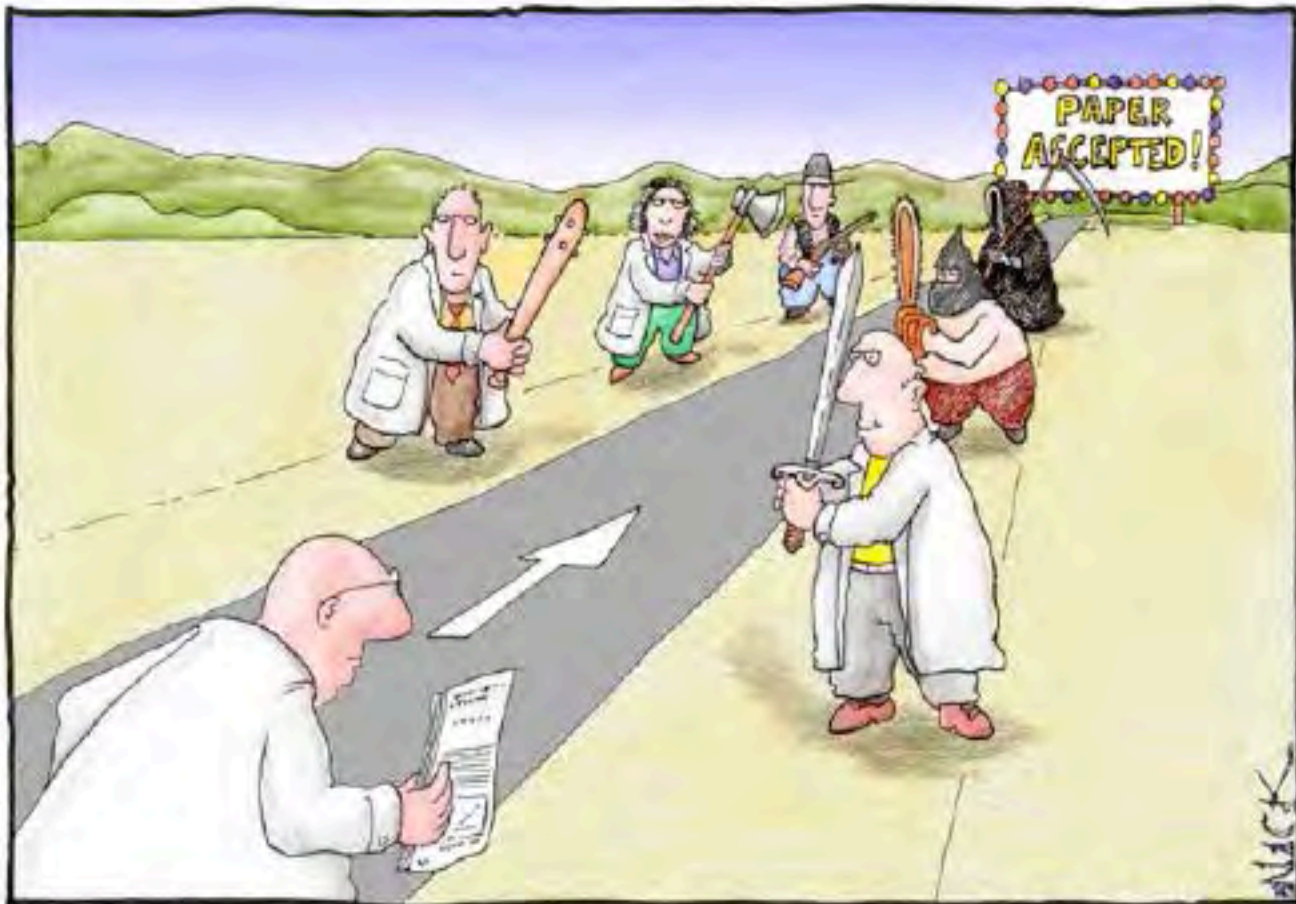
# HOW SOCIAL NETWORKS HURT RESEARCH!

*They encourage our vanity to reduce research to a popularity contest.*

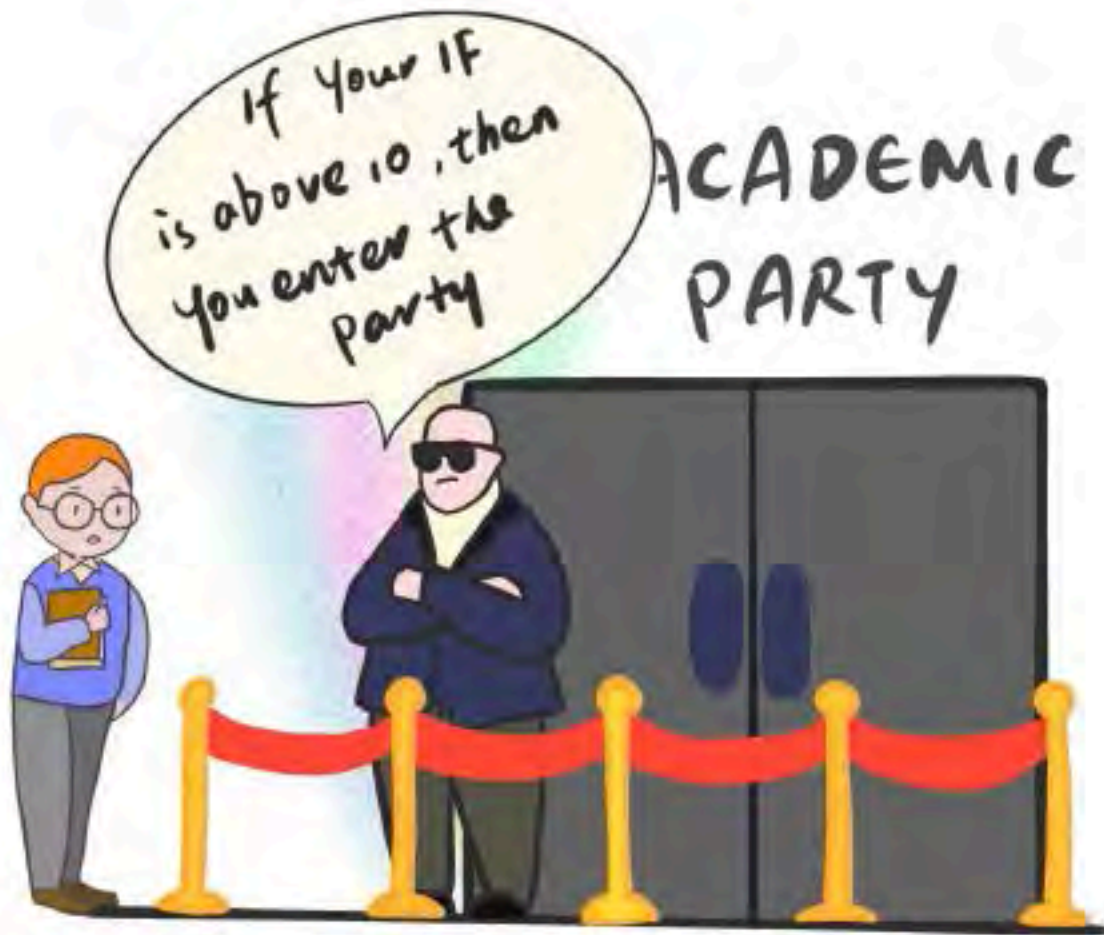


Chronicle of Higher Education, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019





Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as "quite an improvement."



# University health services 'flooded by stressed academics'

*By Hannah Richardson BBC News education and social affairs reporter May 25th, 2019*

## It is harmful!

Half of UK academics are stressed and 40% thinking of quitting. Frequent work are making university staff isolated and ill, new research shows.

*The Guardian  
May 23, 2019*



@quadatyork.ca

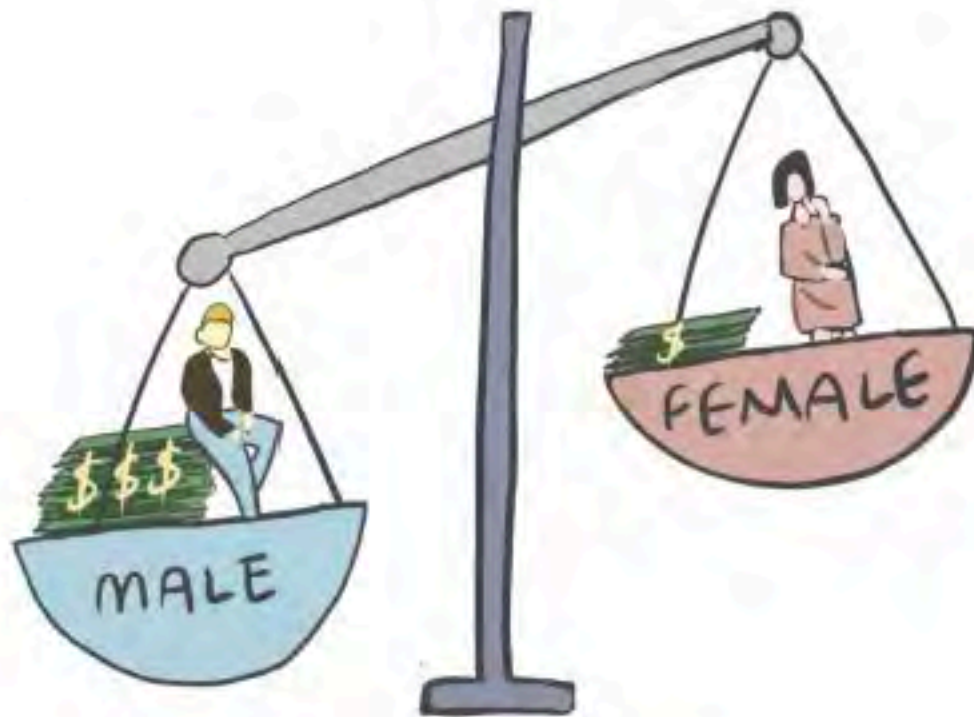
## Chinese scholars 'win up to £127,000' for papers in top journals

Analysis reveals extent of reward system for international publications, which could be distorting scientific incentives

*Times Higher Education, July 14, 2017 By David Matthews*







**Gender/Racial Discrimination**

## University Rankings: English as the language of Science?





*"It's publish or perish, and he hasn't published."*

This is not a new problem  
but it has gotten more acute.

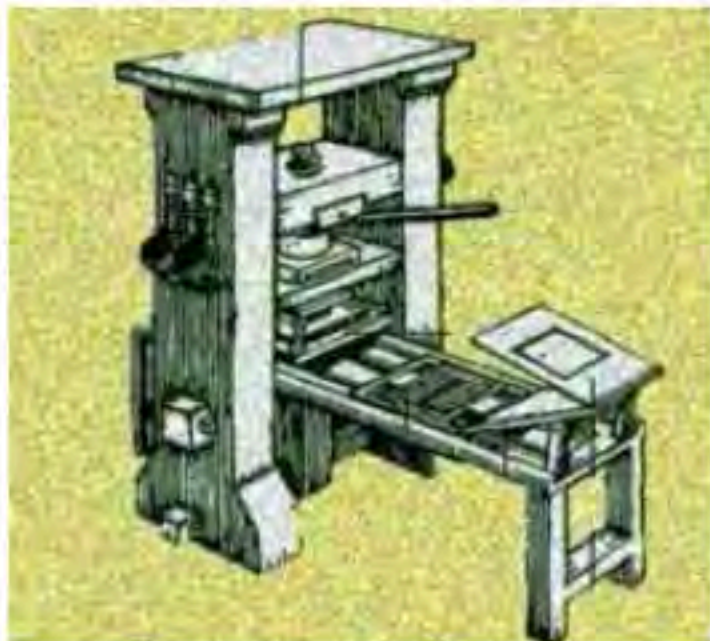


*New Yorker, 1968*

For centuries scientific communication was mostly oral



Academic journals have a long history (over 300 years) associated with technological changes and university organization.



PHILOSOPHICAL  
TRANSACTIONS:  
GIVING SOME  
**A C C O M P T**  
OF THE PRESENT  
Undertakings, Studies, and Labours  
OF THE  
**I N G E N I O U S**  
IN MANY  
CONSIDERABLE PARTS  
OF THE  
**W O R L D.**

*Vol. I.*  
For *Anno* 1665, and 1666.

In the *SAYOY*,  
Printed by *T. N.* for *John Martyn* at the Bell, a little with-  
out *Temple-Bar*, and *James Allispy* in *Dock-Lane*,  
Printers to the *Royal Society*.

# CONTINUITIES





Some structures, rituals,  
procedures that stay the  
same, but not all



Library University of Coimbra



Sorbonne

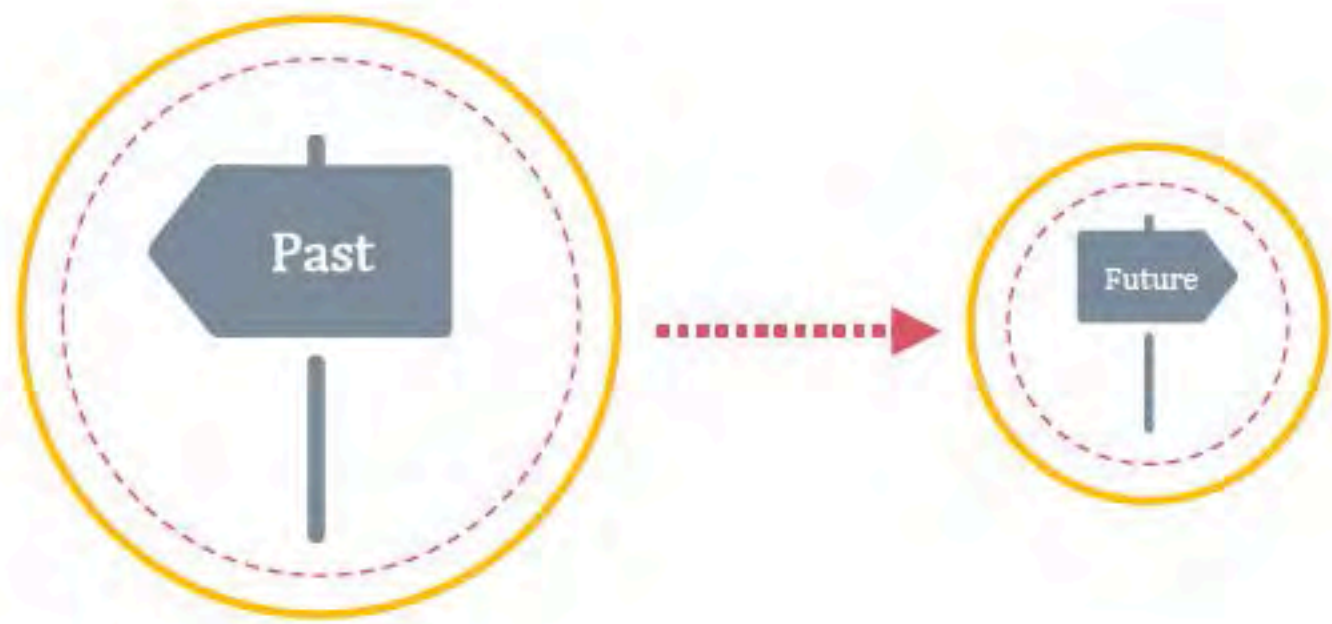








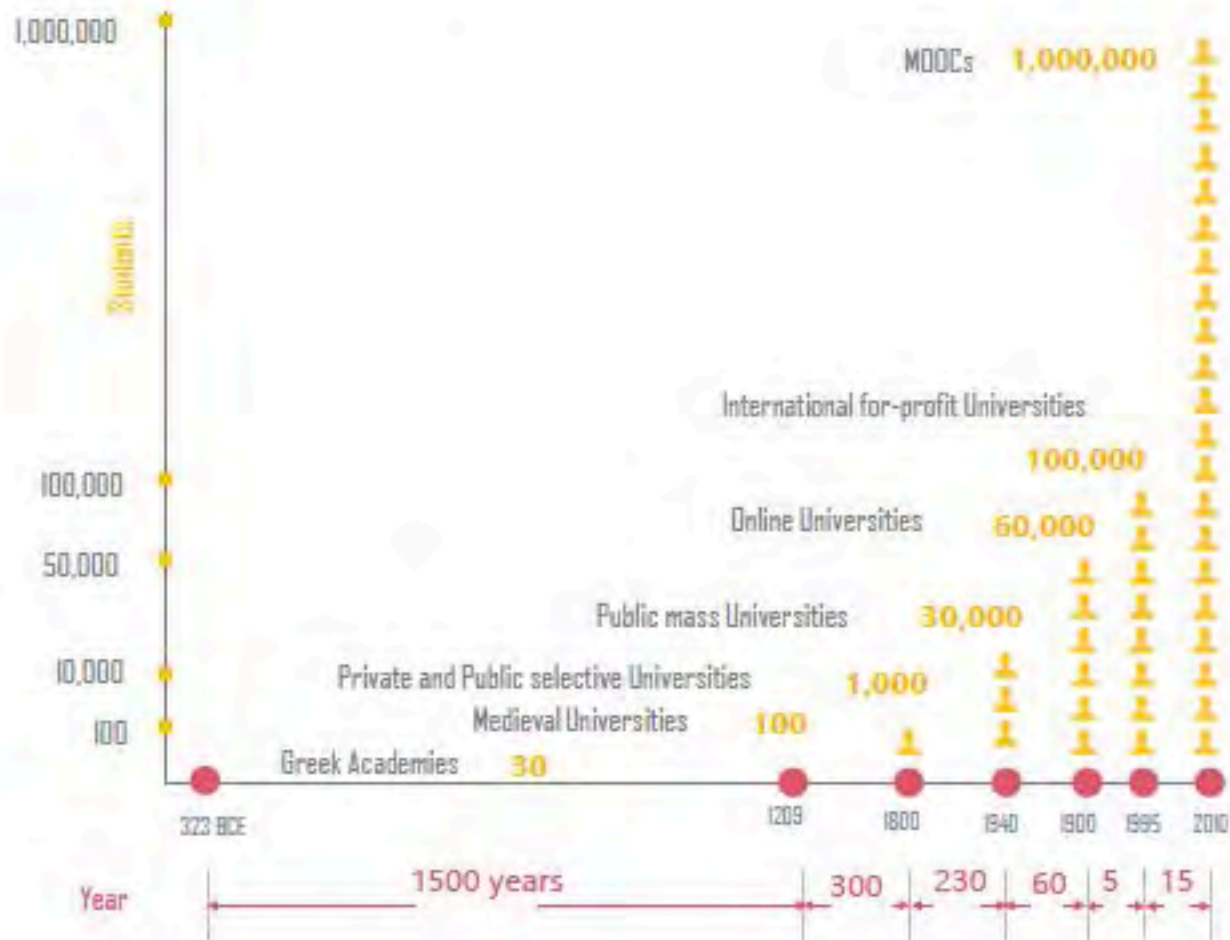
■ Mode 1





# DISCONTINUITIES

# Short history of HED



## ■ Education 2018



1.4 Billion ..... Students

200 million ..... University students

61 million ..... Teachers & Faculty

*Unesco, 2015*

# ■ Digital World 2018

Population total: **7.6** billion

■ Reach

Text messages:

**3** billion

■■■■■ 39%



Internet:

**4** billion

■■■■■■■ 53%

Cell phones:

**5.1** billion

■■■■■■■■■ 68%

Social media:

**3.2** billion

■■■■■■■ 42%



## ■ Social Network and Science 2018



**1 in 40** researchers use social networks professionally

**40 in 40** students use social networks

*Source: Internet Foundation, 2017*

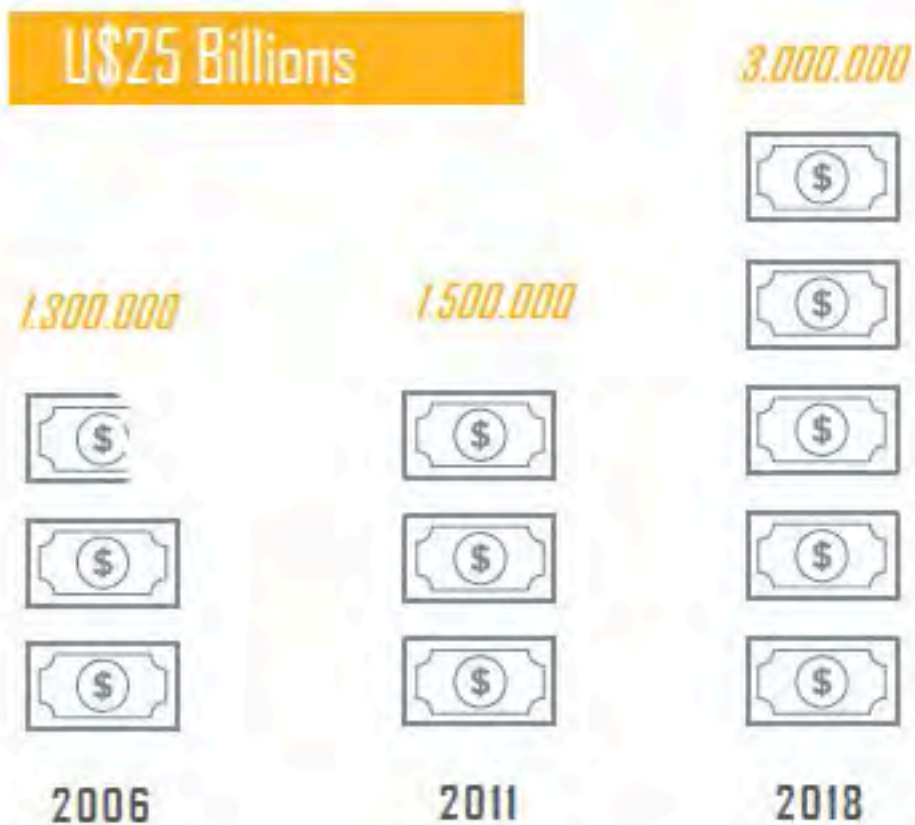
## Global Budget in Science and Development



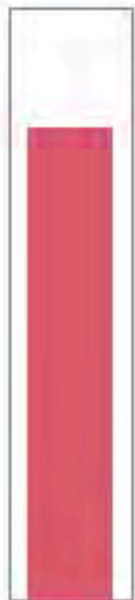
*Source: OECD, 2018*

## Scholarly Publications

Journal Articles (English)



80% of medicine articles are cited.



Natural Sciences



Social Sciences



Humanities

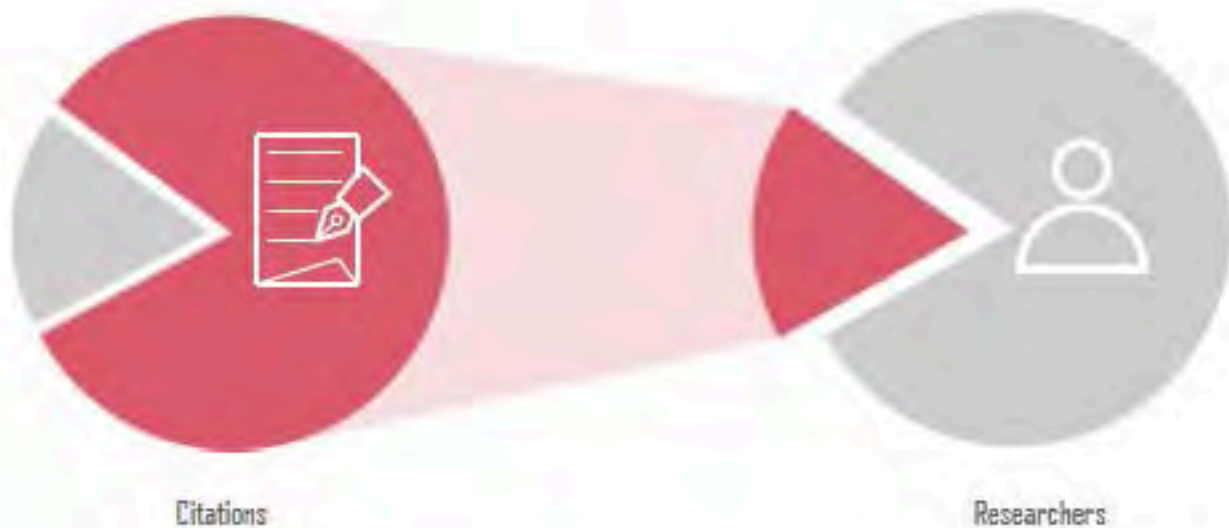


■ It is hard to avoid Pareto's Law

Distribution of prestige / influence

**80% citations** produced by **20% researchers**

**20% citations** produced by **80% researchers**





## Researchers reacting to incentives





- Frequency of words associated to "research" in mission statements







GOCOMICS.COM / NONEGUITUR

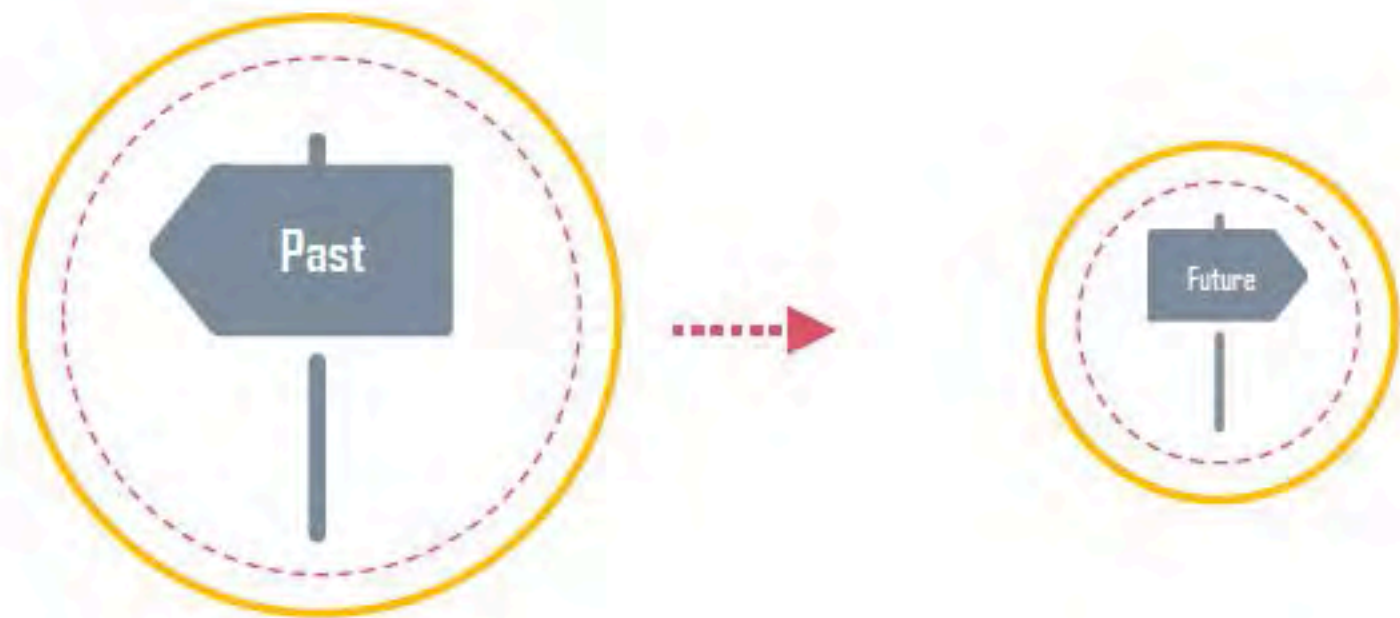
WILEYINK@EARTHLINK.NET

■ We need to rethink the scholarly orientation of scientific journals

## WITHOUT NOSTALGIA

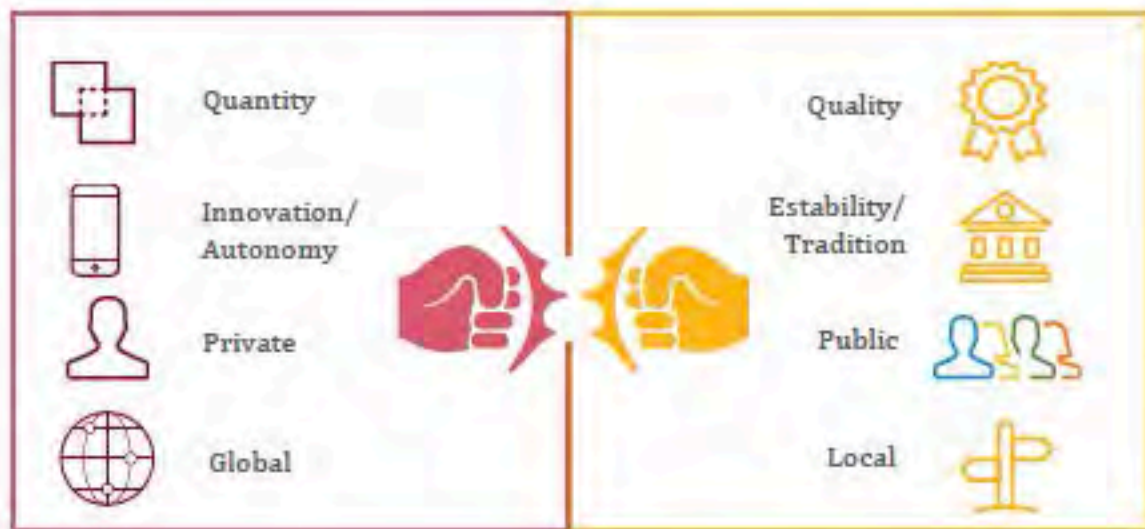


■ Remember the past but...



## ■ Two modes to think about scholarly publications

### *Mode 1: Zero Sum game*



## ■ Two modes to think about scholarly publications

### *Mode 2: Tensions that need to be addressed*



## ■ How to prevent Publish and Perish?

It is difficult (as in any scientific endeavor)  
but doable



Do not use journal-based metrics as the most important tool for assessing the “current” performance of researchers

- How to prevent Publish and Perish?

We love



**DORA**

1548 organizations

14832 individuals

## ■ How to prevent Publish and Perish?

2

We need to assess the performance of research on its merits. It is more expensive and it takes time, but it is better than spending money and time in irrelevant exercises that do not contribute to improve science



- Scholarship should be “institutionally” supported to serve the “public” by mobilizing and comprehensively evaluating knowledge production in its multiple dimensions.

Scientific

Educational

Economic

Political


Social

Cultural



# Thank You!

OPEN  ACCESS



Questions  
Comments  
Suggestions  
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