Data Tracking in Research

Consequences for Data Protection and Academic Freedom

Joschka Selinger, Society for Civil Rights (GFF)

9 March 2022

Big Data

CC by Aceng Zakaria

Defending Constitutional and Human Rights in four thematic pillars

1.
Enabling Space for Civil Society

2.
Data and Surveillance

3.
Equal Rights

4.
Social Rights

New business models

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New business models

Figure 4: The Academic Knowledge Production Lifecycle

New business models

CC by Alejandro Posada and George Cheng
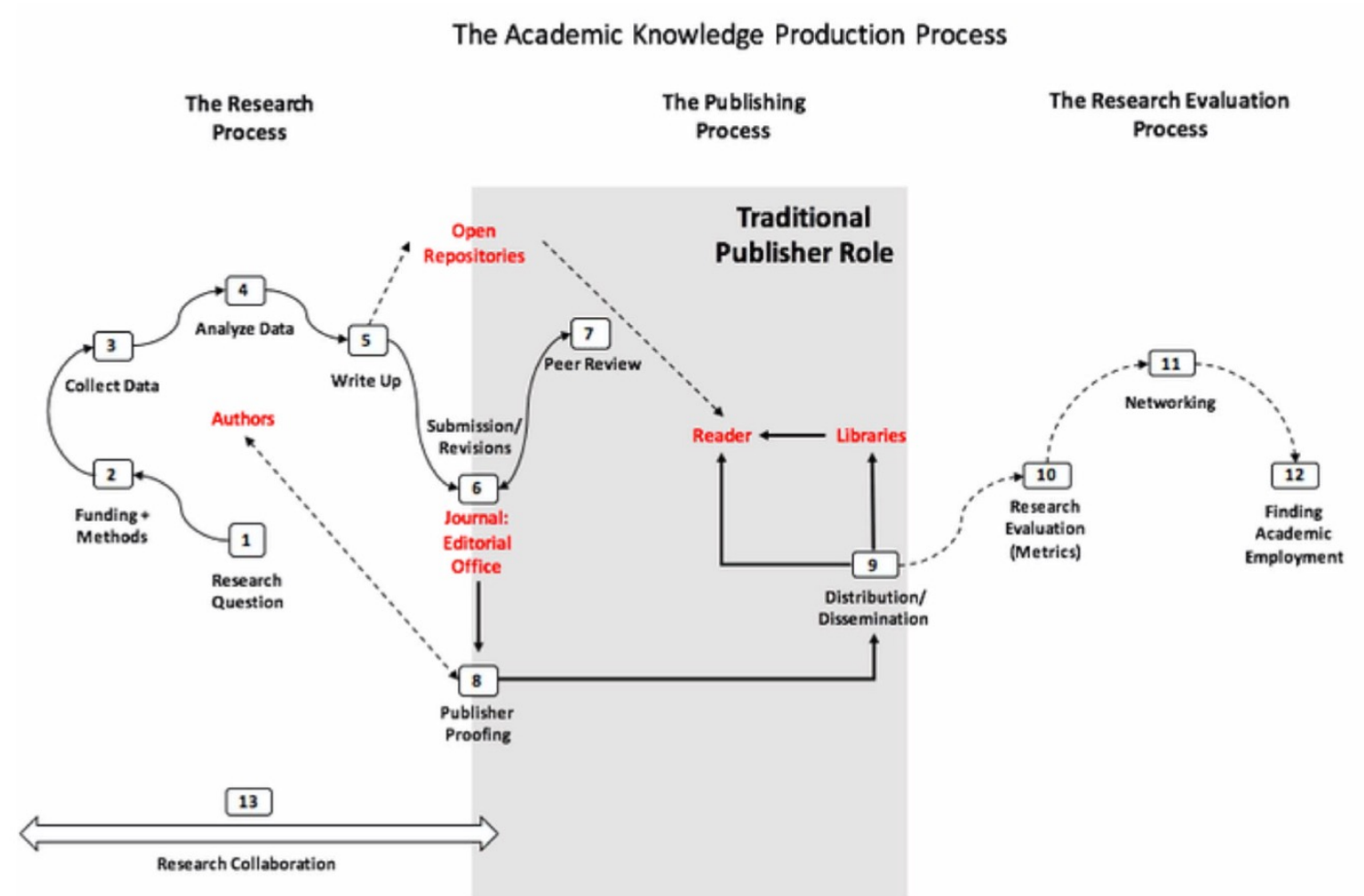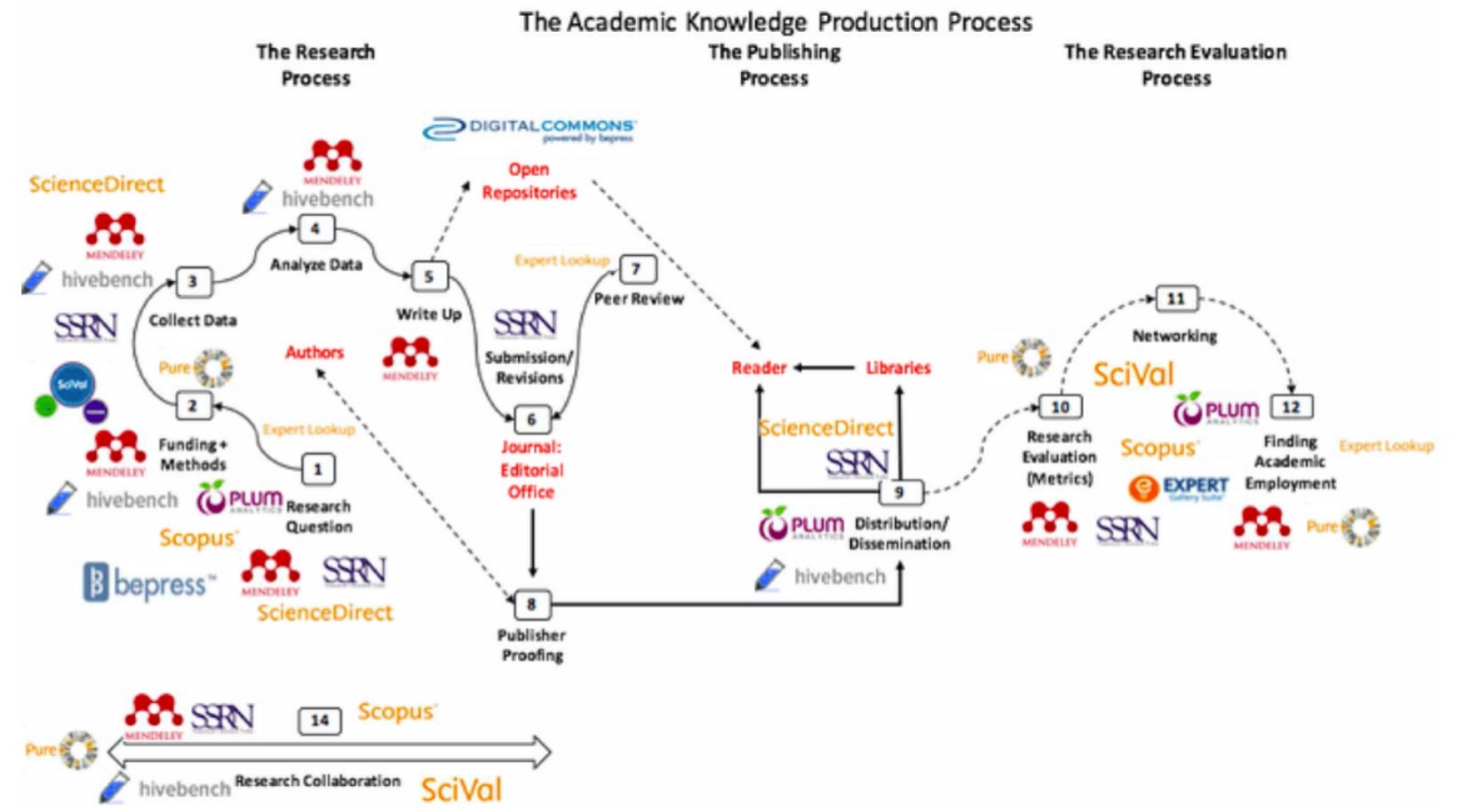
Data brokering: „ThreatMetrix"

Establish the true digital identity of your citizens

Powered by global shared intelligence from the ThreatMetrix Digital Identity Network, LexID® Digital is a unique, anonymous, alphanumeric customer identifier that revolutionizes digital authentication and fraud prevention. It provides an innovative and reliable method to unite online and offline attributes in real time enabling organizations to help establish the true digital identity of their customers. The ThreatMetrix Digital Identity Network outputs the LexID Digital identifier for each citizen (currently over 1.4 billion) by analyzing the innumerable connections between devices, locations, past behaviors and anonymized personal information. This enables agencies to pro-actively recognize the same returning user behind multiple devices, email addresses, physical addresses and account names.

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Data Collection

- **Third Party Cookies**
- **Port Scanning and Bidstream Data**
- **Spyware**

DFG criticism

„There is a risk that this shift in the commercial business model towards data analytics will result in the knowledge society becoming privatised, and that ultimately it will no longer be the public sector but increasingly private companies that are privy to knowledge about research content and trends, its institutions and stakeholders"

https://www.dfg.de/download/pdf/foerderung/programme/lis/datentracking_papier_en.pdf

Right to Data Protection

Conformity with data protection laws?
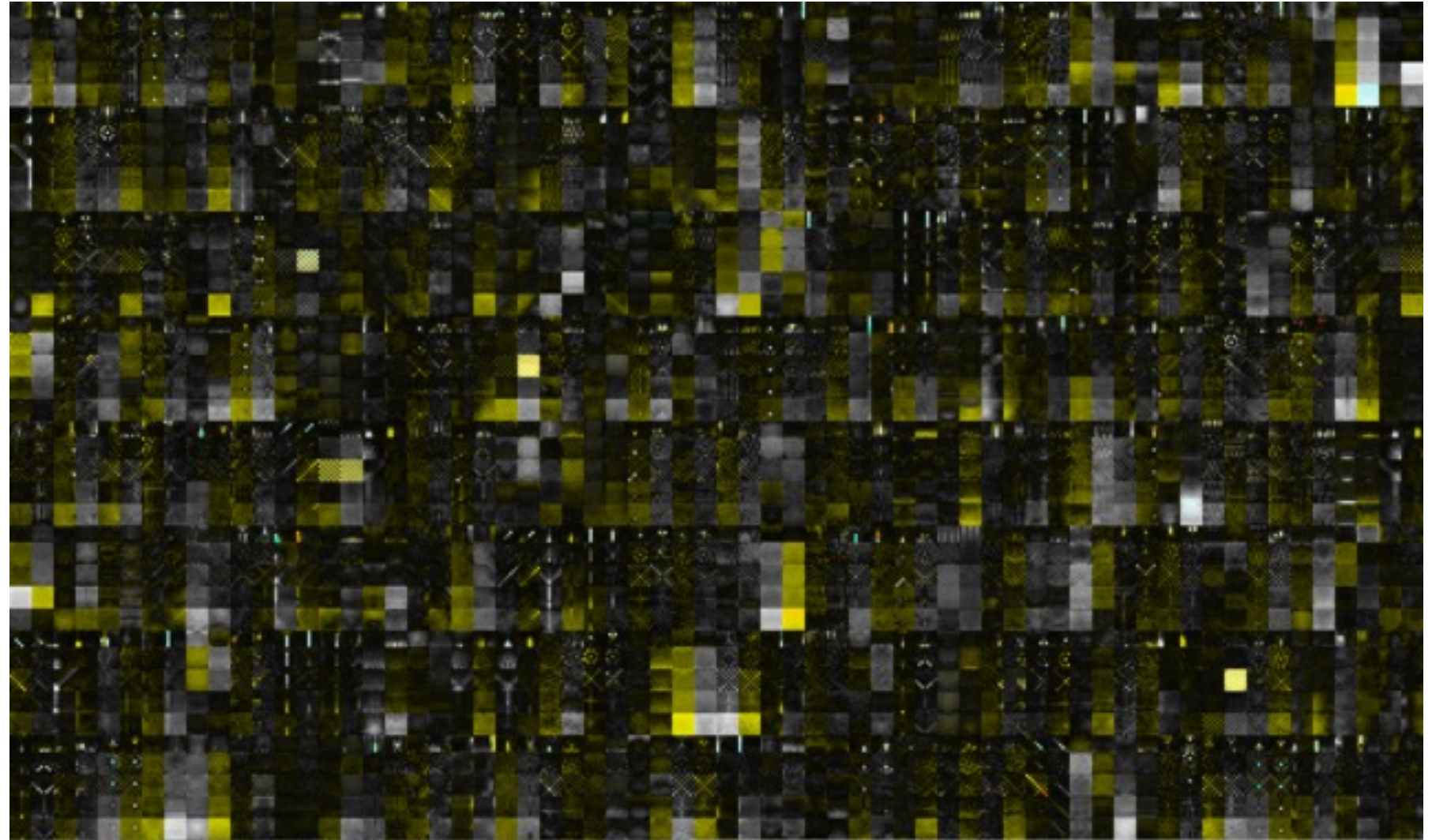
Profiling using anonymized data

Academic Freedom

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Subjective + objective Dimension of Academic Freedom

Academic Freedom and Data Bias

What can we do?

Open Access
vs
Open Washing

Dutch research institutions and Elsevier initiate world's first national Open Science partnership

Tuesday 19 May 2020

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Access to Research

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Enforce Data Protection

- Individual Remedies
  - Information requests
  - Data protection complaints
  - Injunctive relief

- Research Institutions
  - Secure high level of data protection by default
  - Minimize tracking by contract design

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