



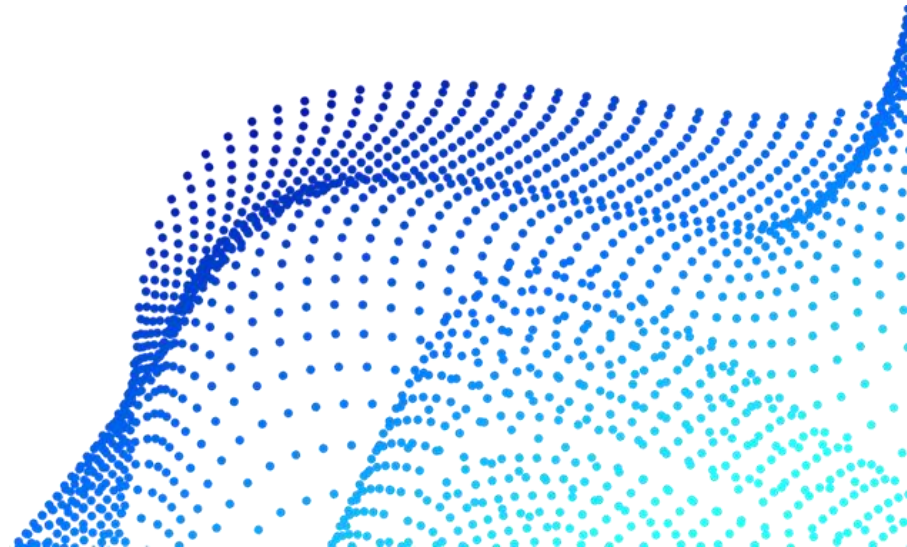
**CoARA**

# **RESEARCH ASSESSMENT : WHAT'S THE PROBLEM & HOW MIGHT WE FIX IT?**

**8 September 2023**

OAI13 Conference

**DR ELIZABETH GADD**



# OVERVIEW



1. What is research assessment reform & why do we need it?
2. The role of the CoARA
3. What themes are emerging from global assessment reforms and practices?

# 1. KEY DRIVERS FOR RESEARCH ASSESSMENT REFORM



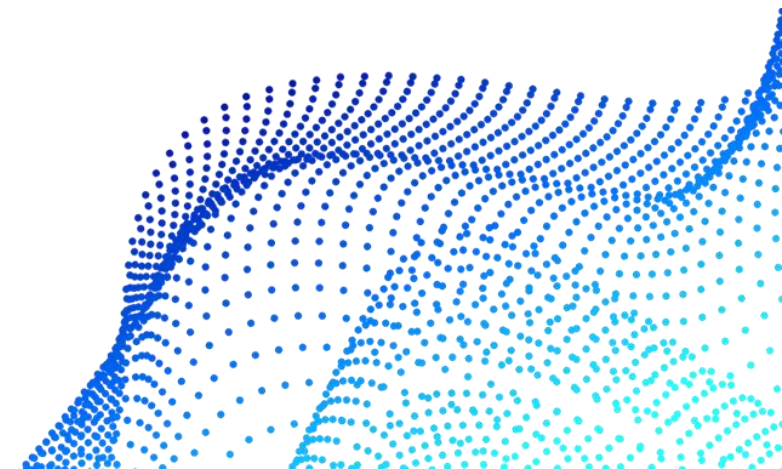
<https://coara.eu/agreement/>



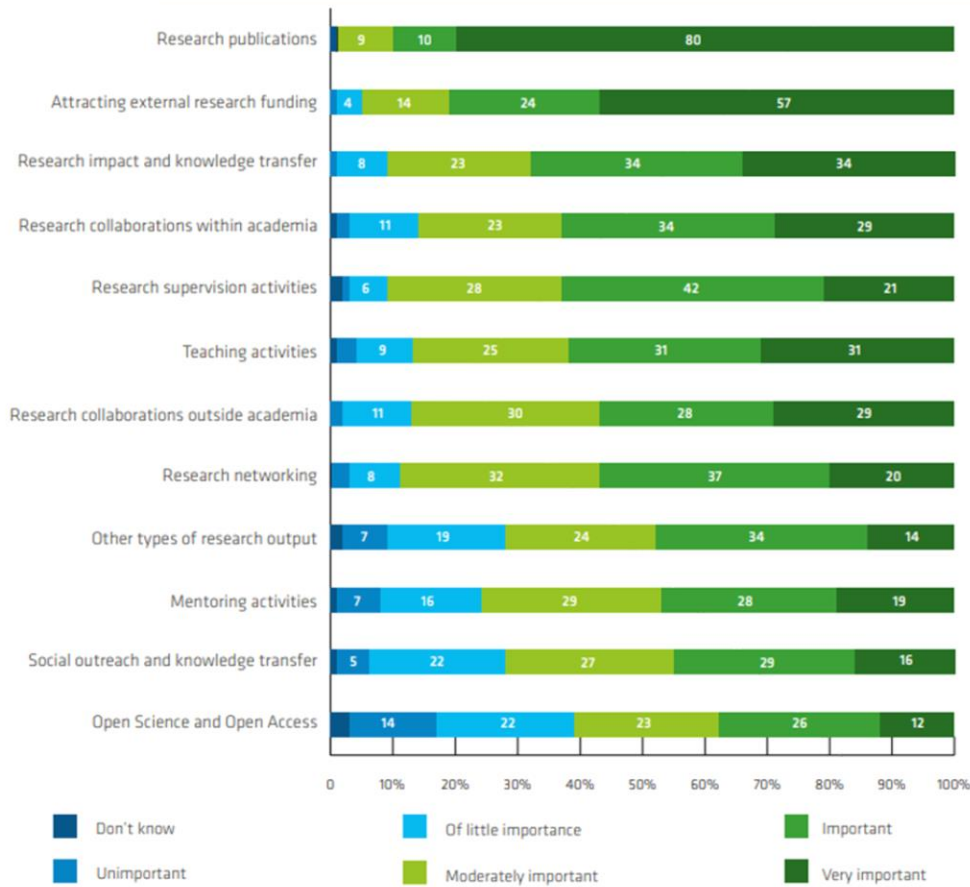
# WHAT IS RESEARCH ASSESSMENT REFORM AND WHY IS IT NEEDED?

- “An umbrella term for approaches to assessment which incentivise, reflect and reward the plural characteristics of high-quality research, in support of diverse and inclusive research cultures.”

[https://rori.figshare.com/articles/report/The\\_changing\\_role\\_of\\_funders\\_in\\_responsible\\_research\\_assessment\\_progress\\_obstacles\\_and\\_the\\_way\\_ahead/13227914](https://rori.figshare.com/articles/report/The_changing_role_of_funders_in_responsible_research_assessment_progress_obstacles_and_the_way_ahead/13227914)

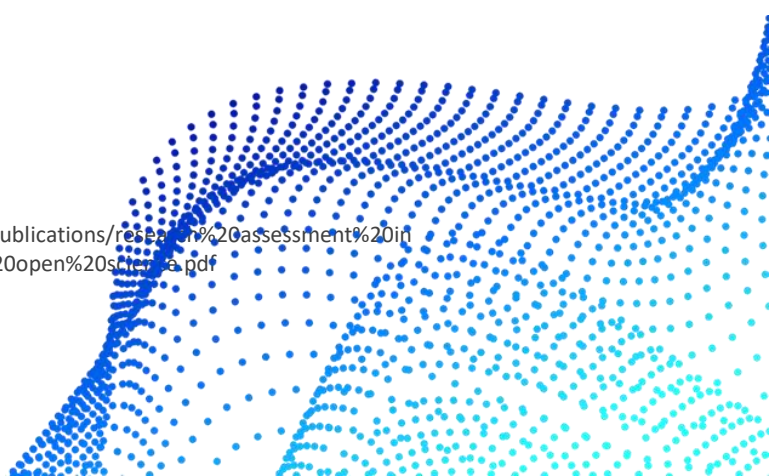


**Figure 9** – Importance of academic activities for research careers  
 Based on survey question 7, ranking question (cf. Annex 1). Number of respondents: 191-195/197

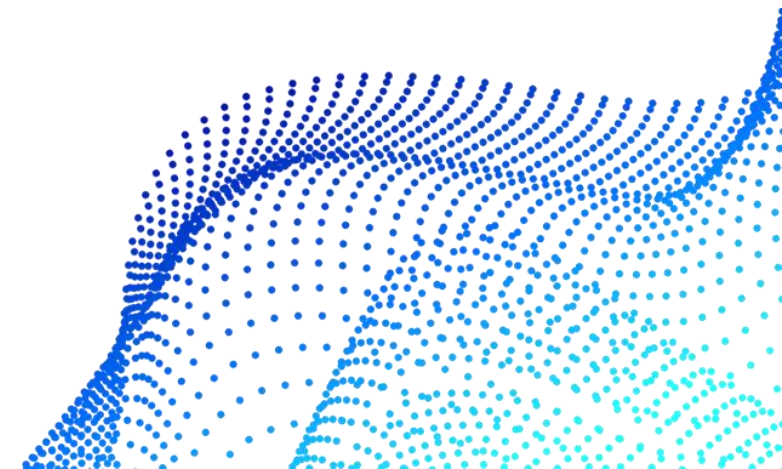


## EUA 'RESEARCH ASSESSMENT IN THE TRANSITION TO OPEN SCIENCE' REPORT.

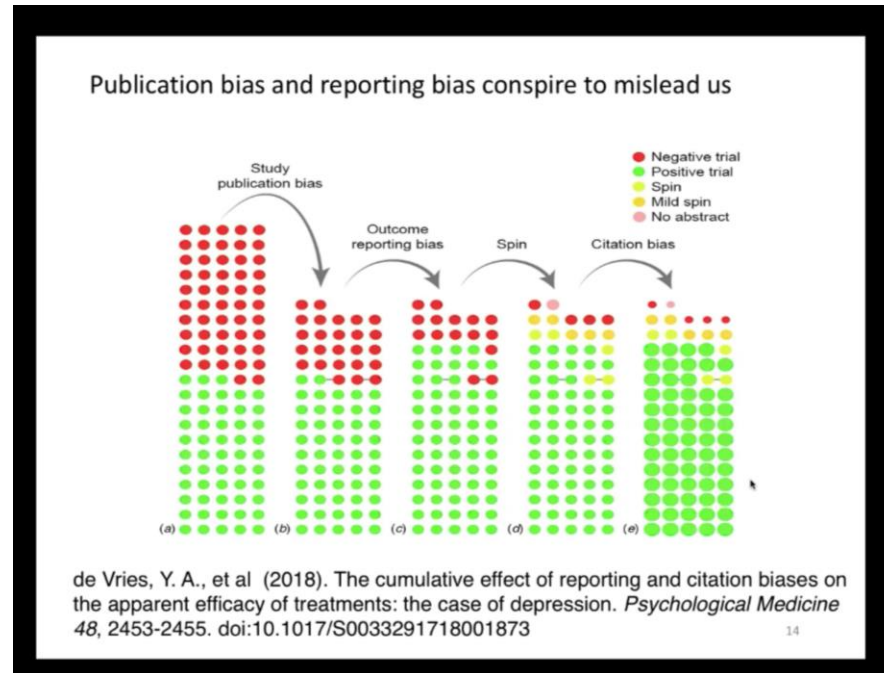
► <https://eua.eu/downloads/publications/research%20assessment%20in%20the%20transition%20to%20open%20science.pdf>



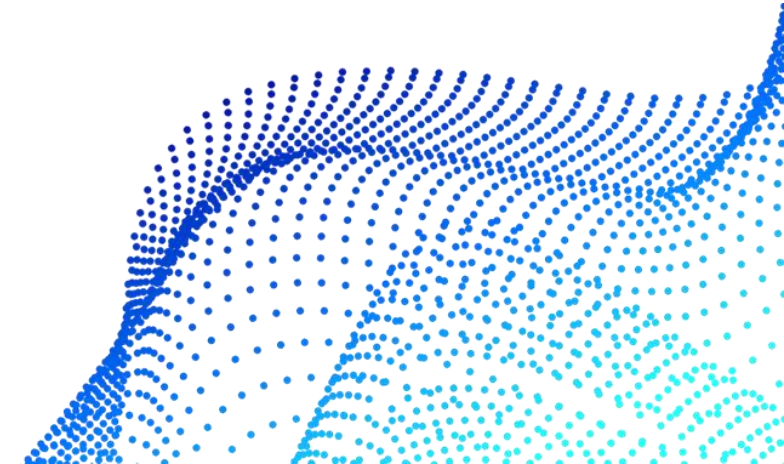
# WHAT'S WRONG WITH OUR CURRENT, PUBLICATION- DOMINANT, RESEARCH EVALUATION SYSTEMS?



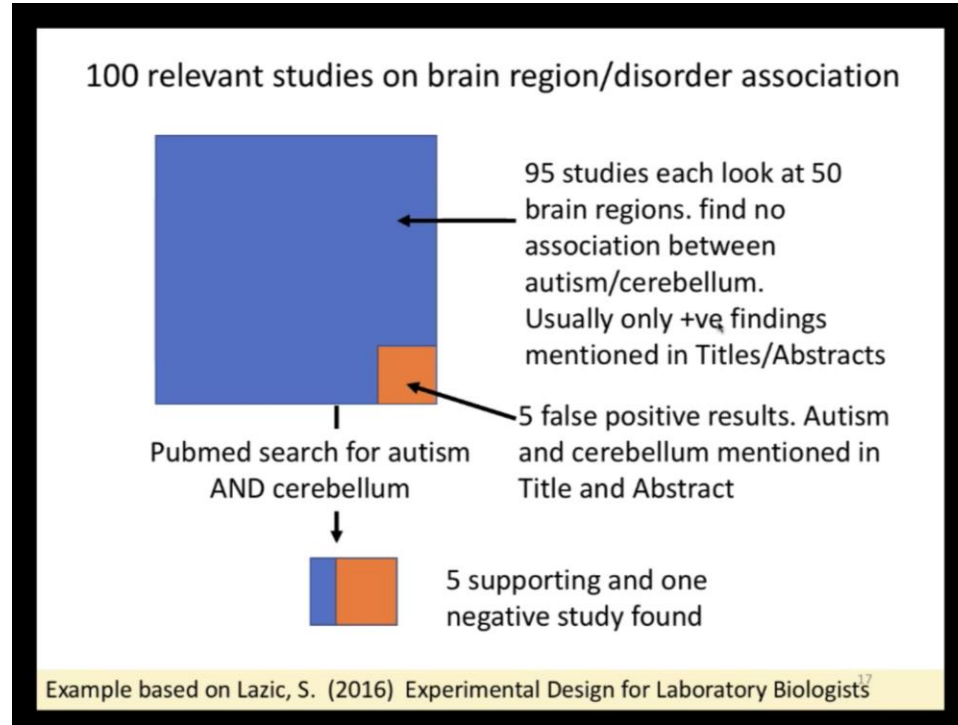
# THEY SKEW THE SCHOLARLY RECORD



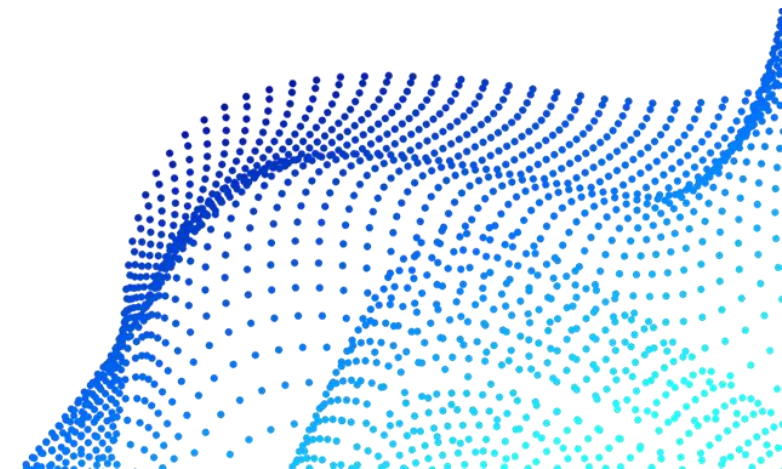
From Professor Dorothy Bishop presentation to King's Open Research Conference June 2020



# ...WHICH DISTORTS SCHOLARSHIP



FROM PROFESSOR DOROTHY BISHOP PRESENTATION TO KING'S OPEN RESEARCH CONFERENCE JUNE 2020





# THEY ARE BIASED AGAINST WOMEN

## Understanding the Extent of Gender Gap in Citations

One journal now asks authors to explain citation gap.

By Rachael Pells for Times Higher Education // August 16, 2018

18 COMMENTS

Research into the gendered citation patterns of academics has confirmed what many have long suspected – that male authors tend to cite other men over women in their article bibliographies. But



nature

International weekly journal of science

Home | News & Comment | Research | Careers & Jobs | Current Issue | Archive | Audio & Video | For Authors

Archive | Volume 535 | Issue 7611 | News | Article

NATURE | NEWS



## Men cite themselves more than women do

The apparent trend has been on the rise over the past two decades.

Dalmeet Singh Chawla

05 July 2016



HOME > NEWS > WOMEN CITED LESS OFTEN IN NEWS THAN MEN, STUDY FINDS

## Women Cited Less Often in News Than Men, Study Finds

MAY 28, 2005

Facebook 0 Twitter LinkedIn Google Email Share 0 Print

THE PEW  
CHARITABLE  
TRUSTS

Despite rising numbers of women in the workforce and in journalism schools, the of the day still largely reflects a male perspective, a new study from the Project for Excellence in Journalism finds.

AAAS Become a Member

Science

Contents | News | Careers | Journals

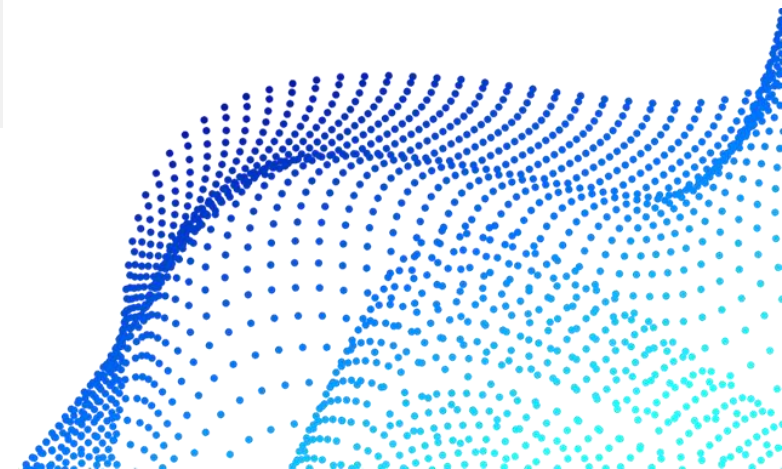
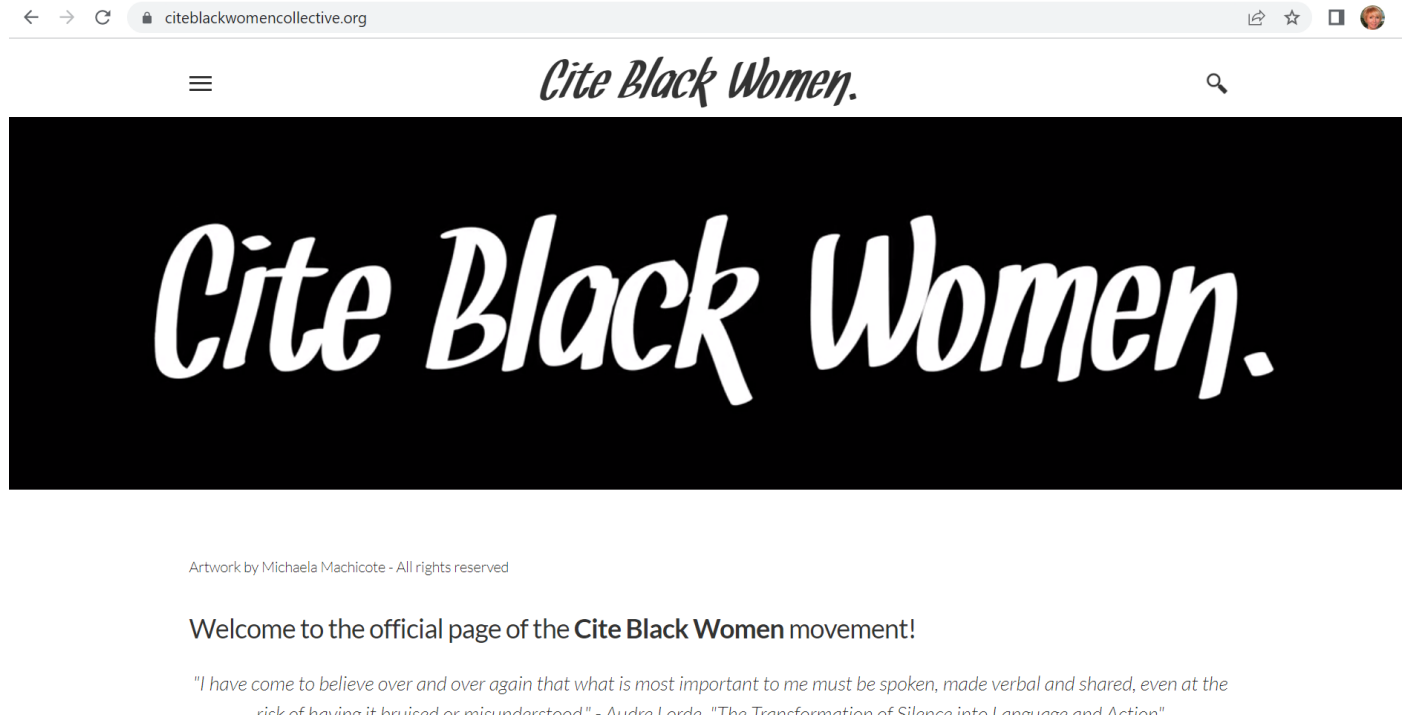


CREDIT: SHIRONOSOV / ISTOCKPHOTO

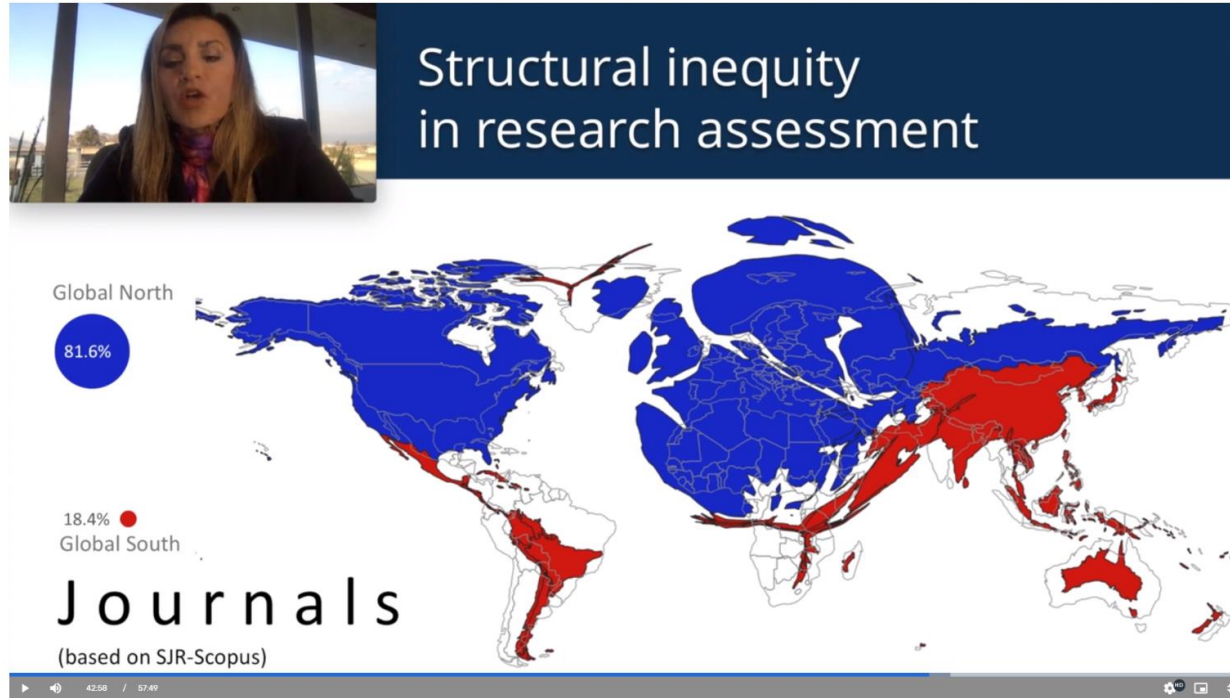
## Female academics with partners less likely to collaborate internationally

By Beryl Lief Benderly | Oct. 22, 2015, 1:30 PM

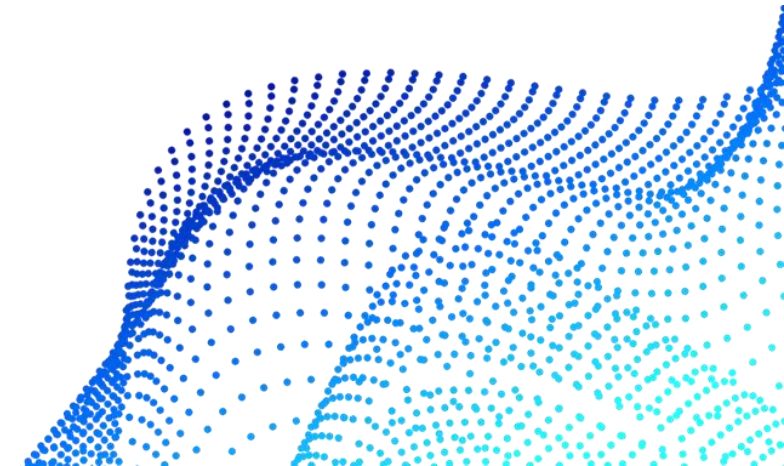
# ...ESPECIALLY BLACK WOMEN



# ...AND THOSE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH



Arianna Becerril-García, Responsible Research Assessment Conference, GRC, November 2020

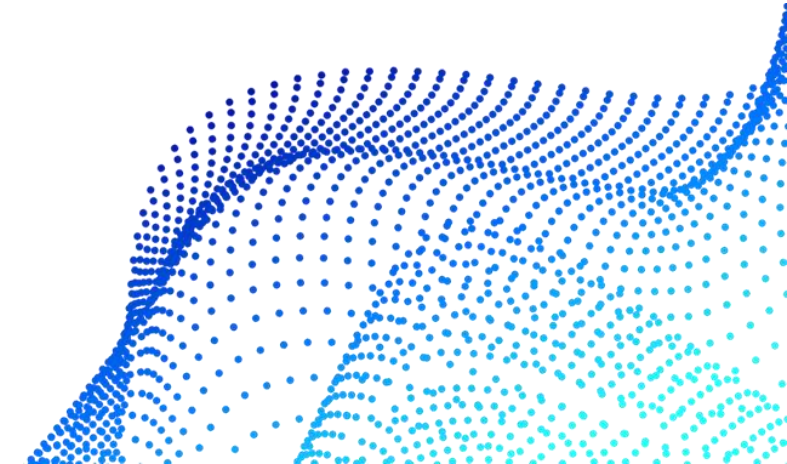


# THEY DISADVANTAGE THOSE IN THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

Table 3. Percentage of citations found by each data source, relative to the total number of citations found overall and by broad areas.

|                                  | N         | % of citations found (relative to N) |                    |        |            |                | COCI |
|----------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------|------------|----------------|------|
|                                  |           | Google Scholar                       | Microsoft Academic | Scopus | Dimensions | Web of Science |      |
| Humanities, Literature & Arts    | 89,337    | 87                                   | 39                 | 31     | 29         | 25             | 18   |
| Social Sciences                  | 406,661   | 88                                   | 47                 | 40     | 36         | 33             | 20   |
| Business, Economics & Management | 235,338   | 88                                   | 47                 | 34     | 32         | 29             | 19   |
| Engineering & Computer Science   | 691,164   | 88                                   | 63                 | 61     | 54         | 48             | 30   |
| Physics & Mathematics            | 317,320   | 90                                   | 57                 | 64     | 59         | 59             | 36   |
| Health & Medical Sciences        | 1,001,507 | 85                                   | 63                 | 59     | 58         | 51             | 27   |
| Life Sciences & Earth Sciences   | 571,817   | 89                                   | 68                 | 64     | 63         | 60             | 32   |
| Chemical & Material Sciences     | 253,990   | 90                                   | 69                 | 75     | 72         | 72             | 32   |

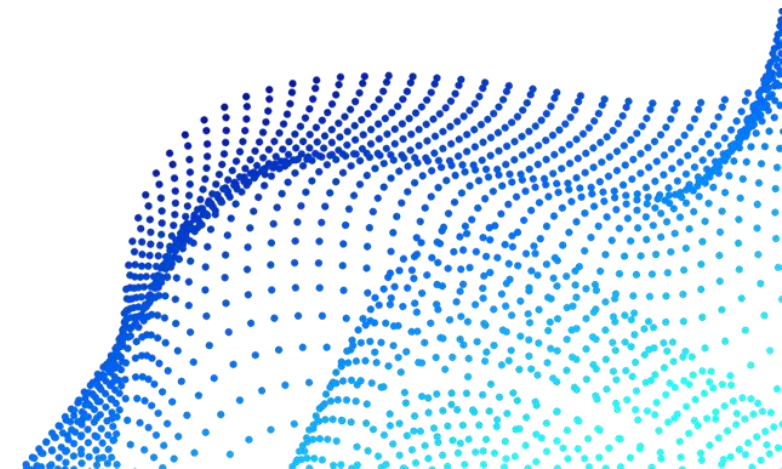
GOOGLE SCHOLAR, MICROSOFT ACADEMIC, SCOPUS, DIMENSIONS, WEB OF SCIENCE, AND OPENCITATIONS' COCI: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY COMPARISON OF COVERAGE VIA CITATIONS. MARTIN MARTIN ET AL. (2019)



# THEY LEAD TO CLOSED OUTPUTS RATHER THAN OPEN

23%

Journal articles in Web of Science over the past 5 years with a free version available



# THEY LEAD TO A LINK BETWEEN JIFS & APCS

Figure 5 Average APC in USD by impact factor below illustrates the same data.

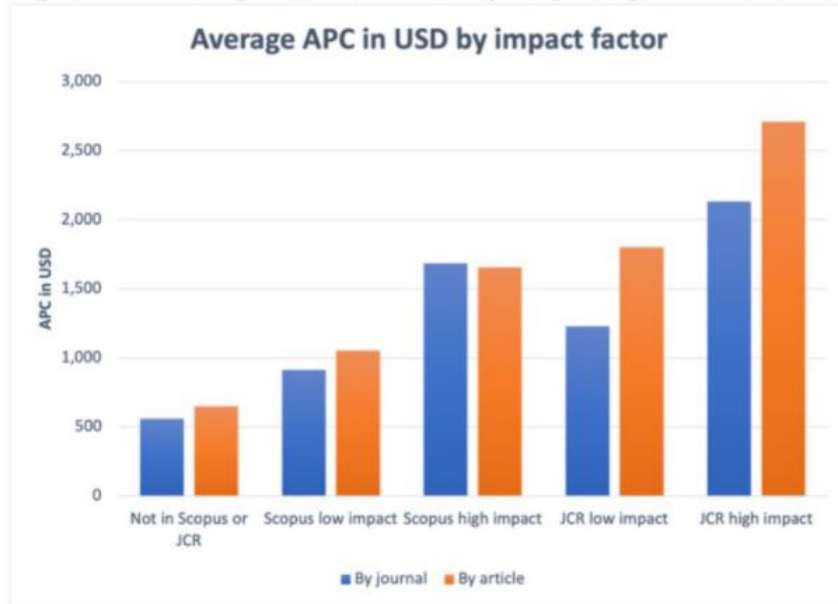
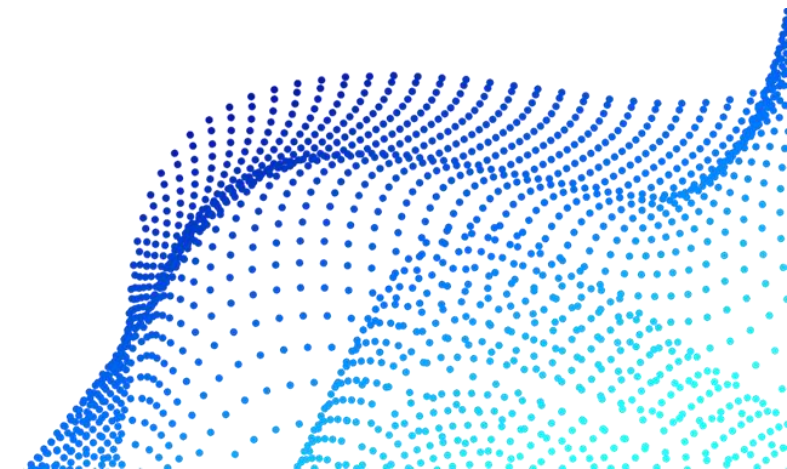


Figure 5 Average APC in USD by impact factor

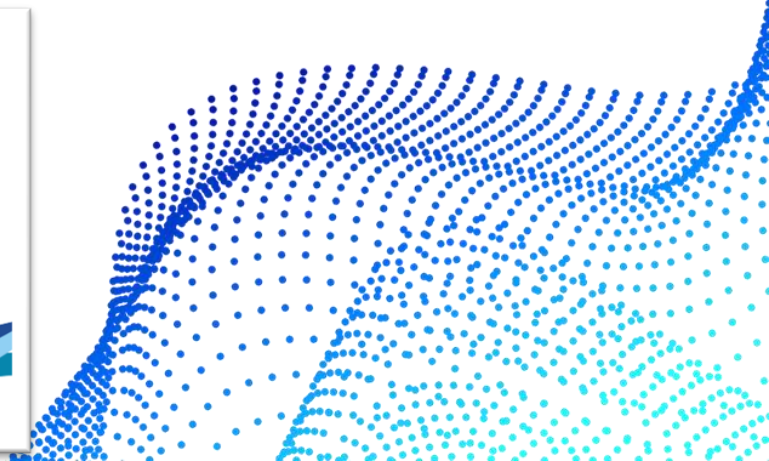
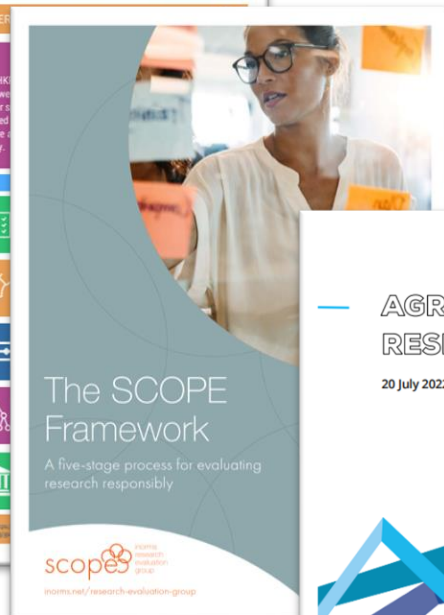
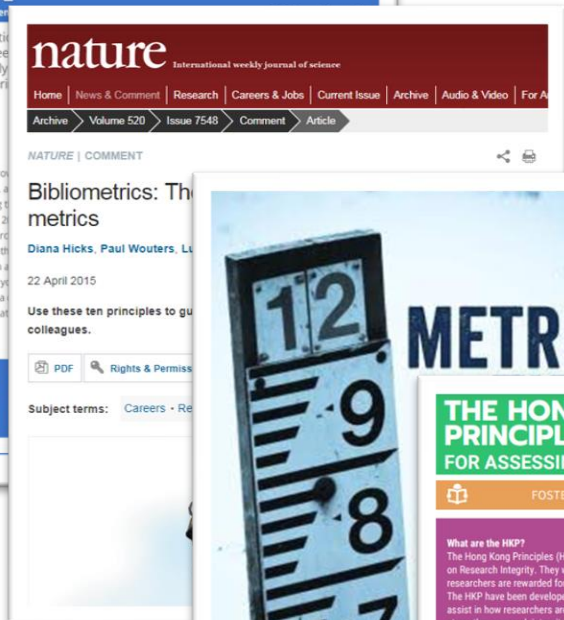
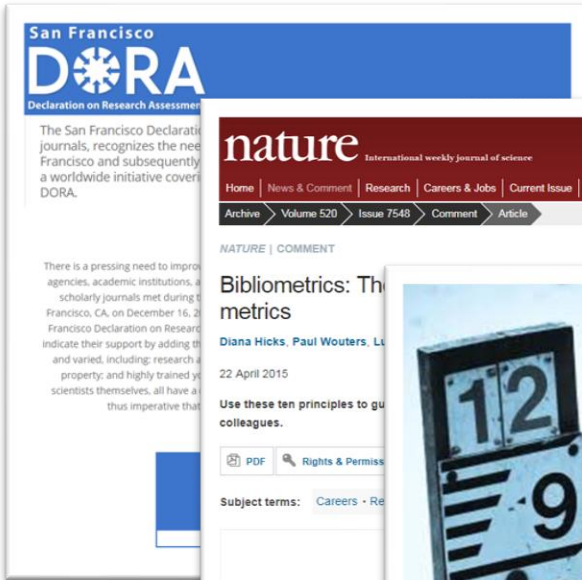
HEATHER MORRISON ET AL, 2021,  
[HTTPS://SUSTAININGKNOWLEDGECOMMONS.ORG/2021/06/24/OPEN-ACCESS-ARTICLE-PROCESSING-CHARGES-2011-2021/](https://sustainingknowledgecommons.org/2021/06/24/open-access-article-processing-charges-2011-2021/)



# HOW FAR HAVE WE TRAVELLED?



# MILESTONE RRA PUBLICATIONS





# 2. THE AGREEMENT ON REFORMING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT



<https://coara.eu/agreement/>



# 4 CORE COMMITMENTS



1. **Recognise the diversity of contributions** to, and careers in, research, in accordance with the needs and the nature of the research
2. **Base research assessment primarily on qualitative evaluation for which peer-review is central**, supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators
3. **Abandon the inappropriate uses in research assessment of journal- and publication-based metrics**, in particular the inappropriate uses of journal impact factor (JIF) and h-index
4. **Avoid the use of rankings of research organisations** in research assessment

# 6 SUPPORTING COMMITMENTS

5. **Commit resources** to reforming research assessment as is needed to achieve the organisational changes committed to
6. **Review and develop** research assessment criteria, tools and processes
7. **Raise awareness** of research assessment reform and provide transparent communication, guidance, and training on assessment criteria and processes as well as their use
8. Exchange practices and experiences to enable **mutual learning** within and beyond the Coalition
9. **Communicate progress** made on adherence to the Principles and implementation of the Commitments
10. **Evaluate** practices, criteria and tools **based on solid evidence** and the state-of-the-art in research on research, and **make data openly available** for evidence gathering and research



# TIMEFRAME

Agreement includes touch-base points in years 1 and 5 after signature to communicate progress, based on **self-assessment**.

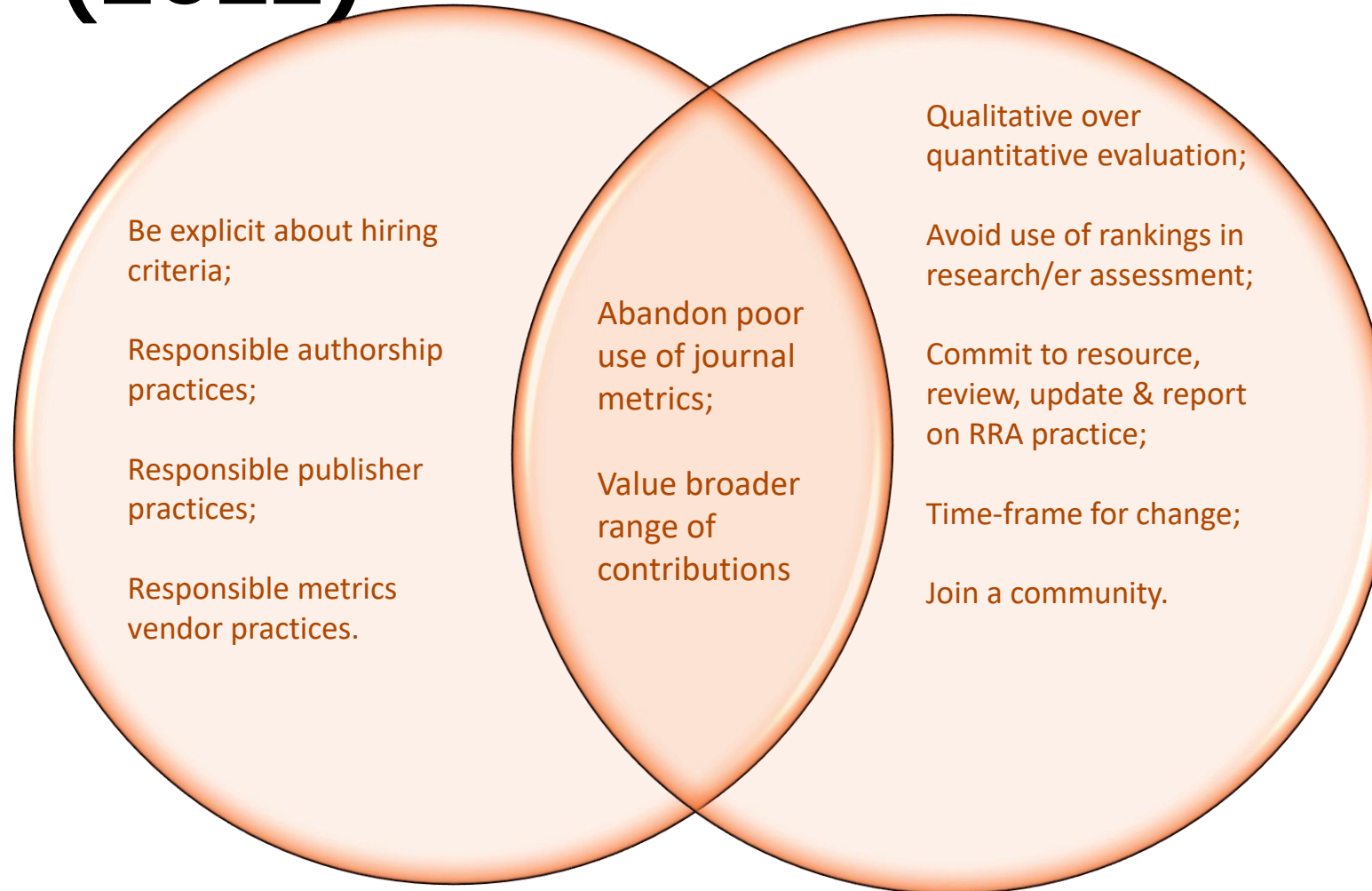
- **By year 1** signatories share how their organisation **has started the process of reviewing or developing criteria, tools and processes**.
- **By year 5** signatories have regularly **demonstrated progress towards reviewing, developing and evaluating criteria, tools and processes** that fulfil the core commitments.



The Agreement is **only the starting point!**

Changes to be developed and implemented by the Coalition.

# DORA (2012) & COARA (2022)



# 3. THEMES EMERGING FROM GLOBAL RESEARCH ASSESSMENT REFORM



<https://coara.eu/agreement/>



# BEING VALUE-LED & VALUING A BROADER RANGE OF THINGS



## The Commitments

The Agreement, based on 10 commitments, establishes a common direction for research assessment reform, while respecting organisations' autonomy.

The Commitments | The Timeframe | Signatories

humetricshss.org

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## Live your values. Transform the academy.

- ### The Commitments
1. Recognise the diversity of contributions to, and careers in, research in accordance with the needs and nature of the research
  2. Base research assessment primarily on qualitative evaluation for which peer review is central, supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators
  3. Abandon inappropriate uses in research assessment of journal- and publication-based metrics, in particular inappropriate uses of Journal Impact Factor (JIF) and h-index
  4. Avoid the use of rankings of research organisations in research assessment

HuMetricsHSS  
HUMANE METRICS INITIATIVE

# NEEDING BETTER DATA ABOUT THE THINGS WE VALUE



## HARNESSING THE METRIC TIDE: indicators, infrastructures and priorities for responsible research assessment in the UK

Stephen Curry, Elizabeth Gadd and James Wilsdon

Report of *The Metric Tide Revisited* panel  
December 2022

### Box 3: DATA FOR GOOD

- Gender and ethnicity pay gaps amongst research staff;
- Percentage of research staff on short term contracts;
- Measures of research staff wellbeing and contentment in workplace surveys
- Volume of teamwork; collaborations; co-produced research (with users);
- Open research indicators;
- Policy impact
- Peer review
- Citizenship
- Measures of
- Career path
- Research le
- Research le
- Effective m

theptosblog.plos.org/2022/12/open-science-indicators-first-dataset/

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## Explore the first Open Science Indicators dataset—and share your thoughts

December 12, 2022 / [PLOS](#) / [Open Code](#) [Open Data](#) [Open Science](#)

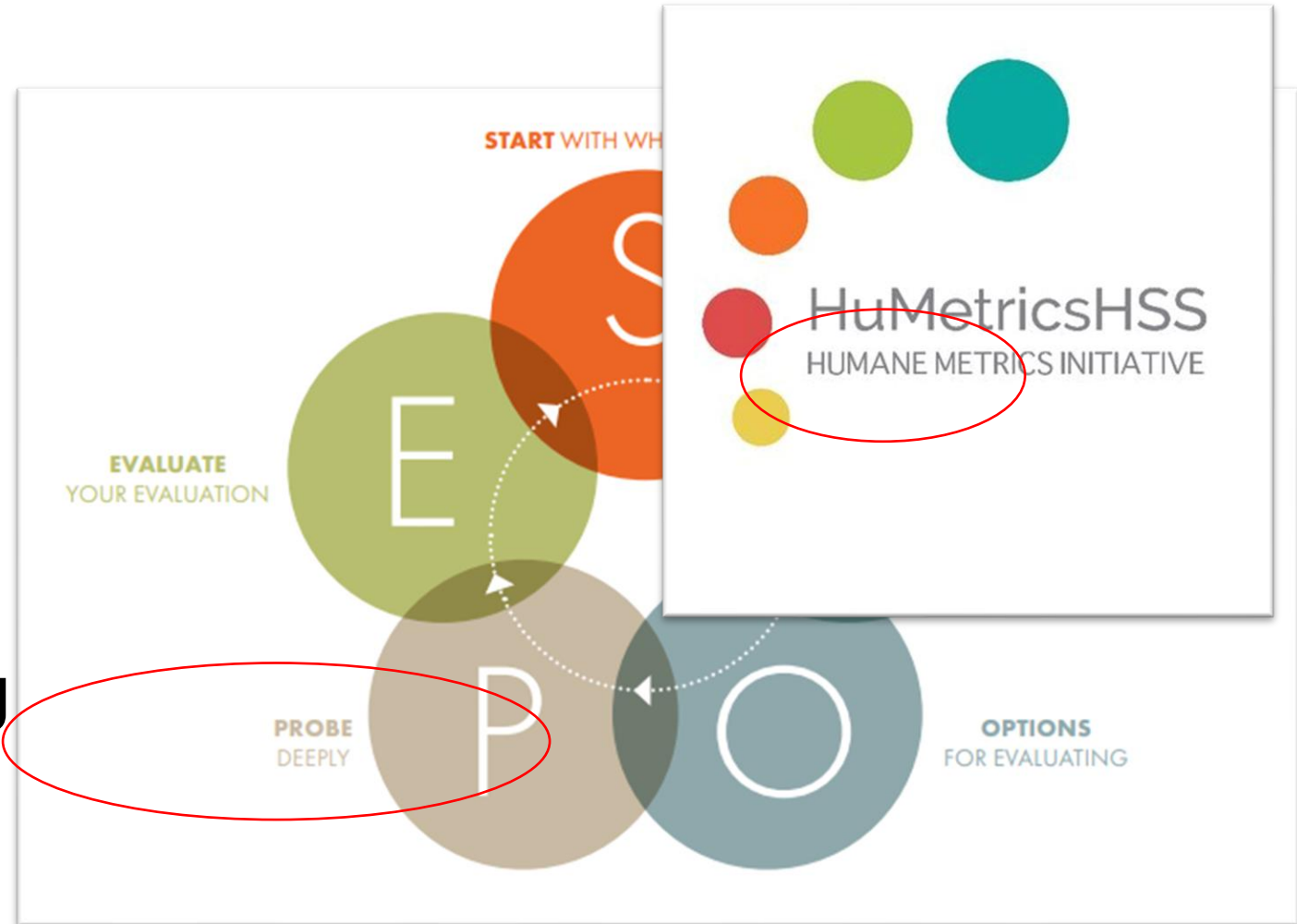




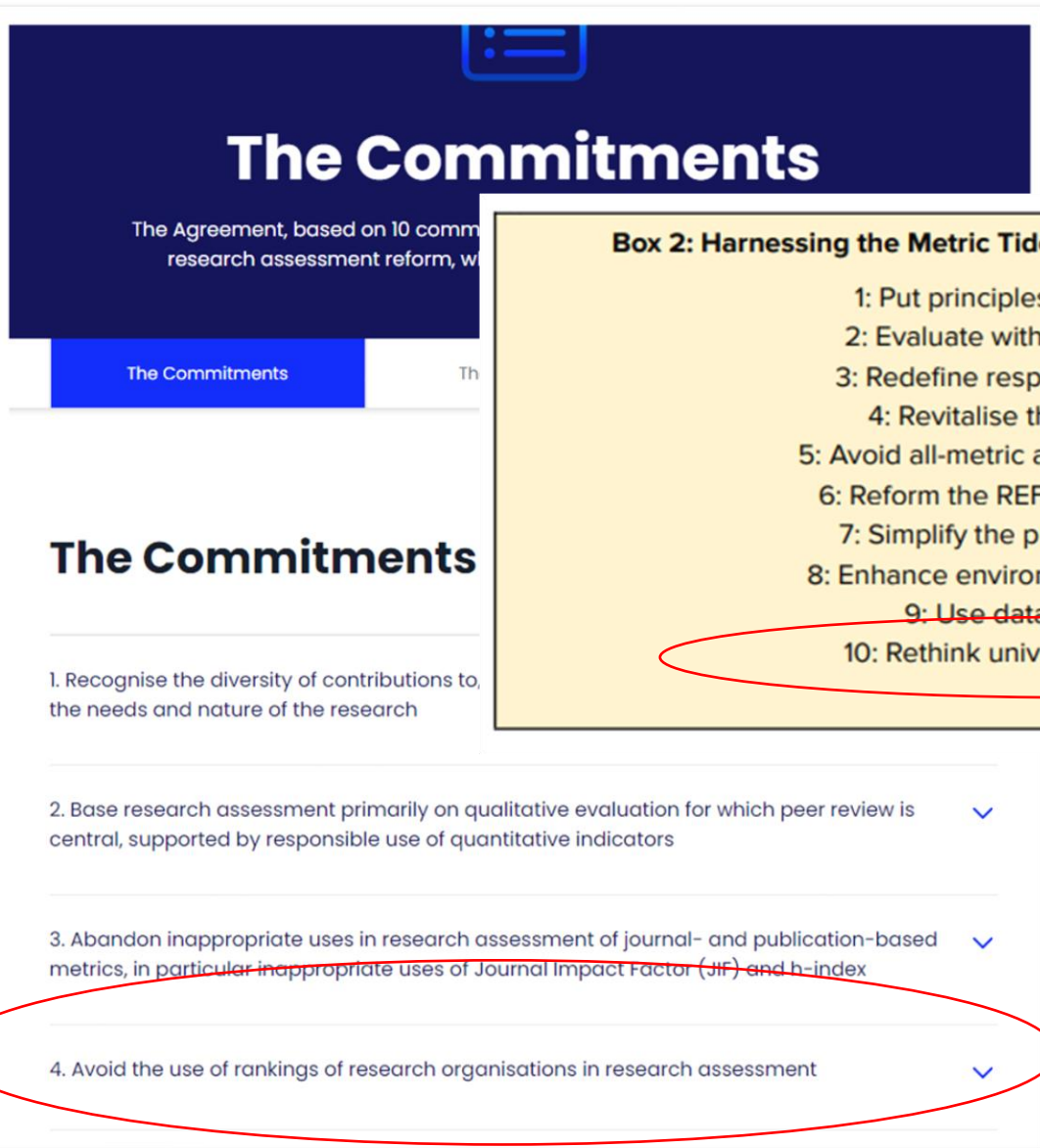
# CO-DESIGN & PUTTING EQUITY AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO

## SCOPE 'Probe' stage

1. Who might this discriminate against?
2. How might this be gamed?
3. What might the unintended consequences be?
4. Does the cost of measuring outweigh the benefit?



# PUTTING RANKINGS IN THEIR PLACE



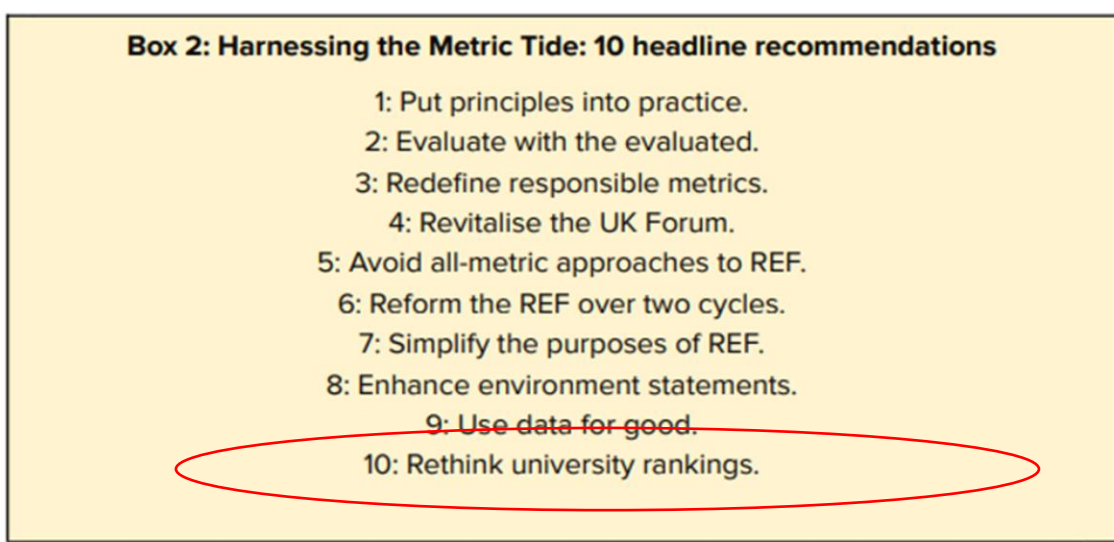
The Commitments

The Agreement, based on 10 commitments for research assessment reform, will...

The Commitments


## The Commitments

1. Recognise the diversity of contributions to the needs and nature of the research
2. Base research assessment primarily on qualitative evaluation for which peer review is central, supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators
3. Abandon inappropriate uses in research assessment of journal- and publication-based metrics, in particular inappropriate uses of Journal Impact Factor (JIF) and h-index
4. Avoid the use of rankings of research organisations in research assessment



**Box 2: Harnessing the Metric Tide: 10 headline recommendations**

- 1: Put principles into practice.
- 2: Evaluate with the evaluated.
- 3: Redefine responsible metrics.
- 4: Revitalise the UK Forum.
- 5: Avoid all-metric approaches to REF.
- 6: Reform the REF over two cycles.
- 7: Simplify the purposes of REF.
- 8: Enhance environment statements.
- 9: Use data for good.
- 10: Rethink university rankings.



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more than our rank

an inorms initiative

## More Than Our Rank

The *More Than Our Rank* initiative has been developed in response to some of the problematic features and effects of the global university rankings. It provides an opportunity for academic institutions to highlight the many and various ways they serve the world that are not reflected in their ranking position. This initiative is meant for every academic institution, whether ranked or unranked, top 10 or yet to place. It is an initiative for institutions who are proud of their ranking position but also recognize the limitations of the indicators used, and for those who feel that the rankings do not reflect their strengths or institutional mission. Every institution in the world is much more than their rank. This initiative is simply an opportunity to publicly say so and explain why.

### Why participate?

By participating in the *More Than Our Rank* initiative, academic institutions are demonstrating a commitment to responsible assessment and to acknowledging a broader and more diverse definition of institutional success.

<https://inorms.net/more-than-our-rank/>

# NARRATIVE APPROACHES PRIZED

## THE ROYAL SOCIETY

Home Fellows Events Grants, Schemes & Awards

### Résumé for Researchers

Opening up conversations about research

Résumé for Researchers has been created to support the evaluation of research. Find out more about the background to the tool [in our blog](#)

Sustained excellence in research requires high quality contributions

By creating a working environment that is both challenging and supportive

The Commitments

The Agreement, based on 10 commitments, establishes a common direction for research assessment reform, while respecting organisations' autonomy.

The Commitments | The Timeframe | Signatories

### The Commitments

1. Recognise the diversity of contributions to, and careers in, research and the needs and nature of the research
2. Base research assessment primarily on qualitative evaluation for research central, supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators
3. Abandon inappropriate uses in research assessment of journal-based metrics, in particular inappropriate uses of Journal Impact Factor (JIF)
4. Avoid the use of rankings of research organisations in research assessment

grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)

NIH GRANTS & FUNDING  
NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

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Home » About Grants » Forms Library » Submit an Application » Biosketch Format Pages, Instructions and Samples

ABOUT GRANTS

- Grants Process Overview
- Get Started +
- How to Apply +
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- Pre-Award and Post-Award Processes +
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- Information For +

### Biosketch Format Pages, Instructions and Samples

A biographical sketch (also referred to as biosketch) documents an individual's qualifications and research experience.

NIH requires submission of a biosketch for each proposed senior/key personnel and other significant contributors. Opportunities or programs may also request biosketches for additional personnel (e.g., Participating personnel on training awards).

Applicants and recipients are required to submit biosketches

- in competing applications for all types of grant programs,
- in progress reports when new senior/key personnel or other significant contributors are identified,
- to support prior approval requests for changes in senior/key personnel status and changes in research focus.

NIH staff and peer reviewers utilize the biosketch to ensure that individuals included on the application have the necessary resources necessary to carry out the proposed research.

# PEER REVIEW WATCH

Peer-review is the gold standard of science. But an increasing number of retractions has made academics and journalists alike start questioning the peer-review process. This article looks at the issues that have caused this review and takes a look at the issues that have caused this

Medical Republic

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1 MARCH 2016

## THE GOLD STANDARD: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PEER REVIEW

COMMUNICATION | JOURNALS | KNOWCENTS



Posted by  
RUBY PROSSER SCULLY



## When is Peer Review the Gold Standard, and When is it Only Tin?

Published on *October 22, 2016* by *Tony Waters*

### A new gold standard of peer review is needed

September 29, 2017 \* Author: Jon Tennant

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# SUMMARY



<https://coara.eu/agreement/>



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- FAQ

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[secretariat@coara.eu](mailto:secretariat@coara.eu)