

Predatory publishing practices: Paper tigers or actual threats from evaluation systems?

Initiative: Forschung über Wissenschaft

Ausschreibung: Forschung über Wissenschaft: Kooperationsprojekte

Bewilligung: 20.12.2023

Laufzeit: 4 Jahre

The recent shift in evaluation systems to more diverse quality criteria has increased the visibility of lower quality research, incurring a moral panic about the effects of predatory publishing practices on the science system. However, this concern currently lacks empirical substantiation and ignores the complex geopolitical relations, researchers' motivations, and centre-periphery narrative inherent in the predatory publishing debate. Thus, the project uses a mixed-methods approach to answering three questions: How have publishing practices in different national settings emerged? How do academic communities define and react to predatory publishing practices? And how do evaluation systems influence (predatory) publishing practices? The aim is to elucidate the relationship between evaluation systems and (predatory) publishing practices, accounting for the contextual processes of labelling practices as questionable. The approach combines systematic review, quantitative and bibliometric methods to identify (changing) publishing practices associated with evaluation systems, together with qualitative methods to understand the motivations for these practices in six national systems: Germany, Poland, Portugal, Nigeria, India, and Brazil. Comparing multiple case studies lends validity to casual inferences and the results of this project would have implications for the design of evaluation systems.

Projektbeteiligte

Dr. Dimity Stephen

Deutsches Zentrum für Hochschul- und
Wissenschaftsforschung (DZHW)
Abteilung Forschungssystem und
Wissenschaftsdynamik
Berlin

Prof. Dr. Rita Faria

Universidade do Porto
Faculty of Law
Research Center on Crime, Justice and Security
School of Criminology
Porto
Portugal

Prof. Dr. Emanuel Kulczycki

Adam Mickiewicz University (UAM)

Faculty of Philosophy

Scholarly Communication Research Group

Poznan

Polen

Prof. Dr. Martin Reinhart

Humboldt-Universität Berlin

Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaft

Robert Merton Zentrum für Wissenschaftsforschung

Berlin