

# Non-Bibliometric Aspects of Book Evaluation

N-BABE

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Jon Holm & Geoffrey Williams

# Why N-BABE

- Ending the SSH fallacy
  - Is SSH simply a means to disguise the non-funding of H?
- Books are not the primary defining characteristic of the SSH, but do represent a distinguishing feature
- Understanding
  - the nature of the output
    - As a lexicographer, I don't know what 'scientific' means
  - the notion of quality in books
  - the impact of books
  - the motivations of
    - the researcher
    - the publisher

# A book by any other name

- The key issue
  - What is a book?

EINRESSH

# Key issues

- STATUS OF DIFFERENT BOOK FORMATS
  - Proceedings
  - Edited volumes
  - Monographs
- STATUS OF PUBLISHERS
  - Peer review and selection process
  - Markets
  - Backlists

# More issues

- **ROLE OF BOOK EDITORS**
  - Editors role in commissioned work
  - Acknowledgment of editorial work in PBF-systems
- **OPEN ACCESS**
  - How open access will affect publication patterns, the extent to which they can be beneficial and the extent that they add unnecessary or negative constraints
  - Whether an academic core of publications that should be in open access exists, which would include the case of publishing embargos on book chapters

# The Academic Core

- Work essentially aimed at readers within a discipline or between close disciplines. Only these can be required Open Access in the context of funded research
  - Theses
  - Proceedings
  - Collected works
  - Reports
  - Technical or policy documents

# The big issue

- FINANCING

- Who pays?
- Who gets royalties?
- Weight in national PBF-systems
- Institutional policies on printing fees
- Editorial policies on printing fees

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# Valorising and not punishing

- APPRECIATION / IMPACT

- identifying the books that have made a real difference, either in terms of scientific or societal impact:

# Measuring: Mixed data

- Other qualitative criteria as book reviews, prices
- Other quantitative criteria as sales, library holdings and borrowings
- Google scholar capture book citations, bearing in mind that
  - citations appear in many places, not all of them are tokens of scholarly impact
  - it is difficult to establish yardsticks: What should count as high, middle and low levels of citations. How to calculate the expected mean citation of a book published a specific year in a specific discipline by a specific author.
  - Time period: The book has a very long life, and interest could be rebound

# Right now

- A series of talks to open discussion and define thematic groups
- Before the break
  - Jon Holm: Overview of publication pattern of SSH disciplines in Norway, what an emphasis on the role and distribution of scholarly books and book chapters
  - Jorge Mañana Rodríguez : Non-bibliometric aspects of SPI

# Right now 2

- More papers
  - Ginevra Peruginelli: Law and books
  - Janne Pölönen et al. Finnish label for peer-reviewed publications?
- Some grey areas
  - Is peer review of books reliable ?
  - Will publishers comply with a label ?
  - Can we build a typology of book output?
  - Are doctoral theses books ?
  - Can we define an academic core for open access ?
- Establishing work groups

# The way forward

- A transversal Special Interest Group on Non-Bibliometric Aspects of Book Evaluation
  - Aspects of quality appreciation WG1
  - Aspects of impact WG2
  - Knowing how we classify what we put in a database
- A first step to
  - An integrated SIG combining both the qualitative and quantitative aspects of book evaluation with impact studies on the place of SSH books within the sphere of academic and non-academic publishing.