



# Is it a peer-review label? Presenting reviewers' names in scholarly books in Poland



**Emanuel Kulczycki**  
Ljubljana, 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2018

# Team

- ▶ Tim C. E. Engels (Flanders/Belgium)
- ▶ Raf Guns (Flanders/Belgium)
- ▶ Marek Hołowiecki (Poland)
- ▶ Emanuel Kulczycki (Poland)
- ▶ Janne Pölönen (Finland)
- ▶ Ewa A. Rozkosz (Poland)

# Starting point

„Why don't you present reviewers' names?“



Editorial pages of monographs

# West Europe / USA

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# Central / Eastern Europe

Recenzenci:

prof. zw. dr hab. Jerzy Jarowiecki  
prof. dr hab. Jerzy Myśliński

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У монографії вперше у вітчизняній історичній та політичних науках комплексно досліджується феномен глобальної комунікації початку ХХІ ст. як визначальний фактор сучасного світового розвитку. В контексті революційних змін у галузі новітніх технологій, стрімкої диджиталізації, розвитку мережі Інтернет, глобальної блогосфери, соціальних медіа, мобільної телефонії тощо висвітлюється роль глобальної комунікації у таких сферах життєдіяльності людства, як культура, політика, економіка та кібербезпека. Визначаються головні актори глобального управління комунікацією; осмислюється експансія медіа-корпорацій глобального і регіонального масштабу; розроблена типологія глобальної медіакратії. Аналізуються стан і тенденції розвитку медіа та інформаційно-комунікаційних технологій в Україні та надаються пропозиції щодо їх удосконалення.

Для науковців, політиків, спеціалістів зі зв'язків із громадськістю, працівників медіа-сфери, студентів і аспірантів, які вивчають історію, політологію, міжнародні відносини, глобалістику, глобальну комунікацію.

Рецензенти:

І.Д. Дудко, доктор політичних наук, професор,  
Київський національний економічний університет  
імені Вадима Гетьмана,  
Г.І. Зеленько, доктор політичних наук, професор,  
Інститут освітньої історії НАН України

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doc. PhDr. Zdeněk Friedmann, CSc.  
doc. PhDr. Jiří Semrád, CSc.

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# Flanders & Finland



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# The purpose of the study

**The purpose of the study** is to investigate how Polish scholarly book publishers accept a manuscript for publication and how they conduct peer-review.

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## **Hypothesis:**

Presenting the reviewers' names in the scholarly books is a form of **peer-review label**.

# **Research project**

## Theoretical framework



## ***Peer-review label*** (Finland)

- ▶ 2 reviewers – PhD level researchers or other expert,
- ▶ publication criteria,
- ▶ author receives the reviews,
- ▶ publisher promotes the principles of the specific peer-review instructions and research integrity,
- ▶ there is the documentation of the peer-review process.



## ***Guaranteed Peer Reviewed Content*** (Flanders)

- ▶ minimum 2 reviewers,
- ▶ a peer-review procedure according to internationally accepted standards,
- ▶ there is the documentation of the peer-review process,
- ▶ formal confirmation that the reviewer authorizes publication with the quality label.

Reviewers  
Jan Kowalski  
Anna Nowak



Presenting the reviewers' names  
in the scholarly books (Poland)

**social practice**

Peer-review label  
(Flanders and Belgium)

**formal procedures**

# Research scheme (mixed methods approach)

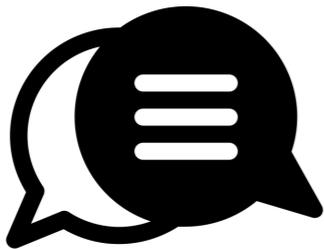
## first phase

1



pilot interview with one  
academic publisher

2



interviews with academic  
publishers  
( $n = 20$ )

integration



qualitative  
hypothesis  
verification

## second phase

3



pilot interviews with one  
author and one reviewer



pilot survey with one  
author and one reviewer

4



online survey with authors  
( $n = 600$ ) and reviewers  
( $n \geq 600$ )

# Data sources

**Source:**

National Library  
in Poland

20 biggest\* academic publishers  
\*at least 330 scholarly books per 4-year period

**Semi-structured  
interviews**

**Source:**

Polish research  
evaluation system

600 **single-authored** monographs

We have reached a copy of  
each selected monograph  
and written down the  
reviewers' names.

**Anonymous  
online survey**

600 researchers

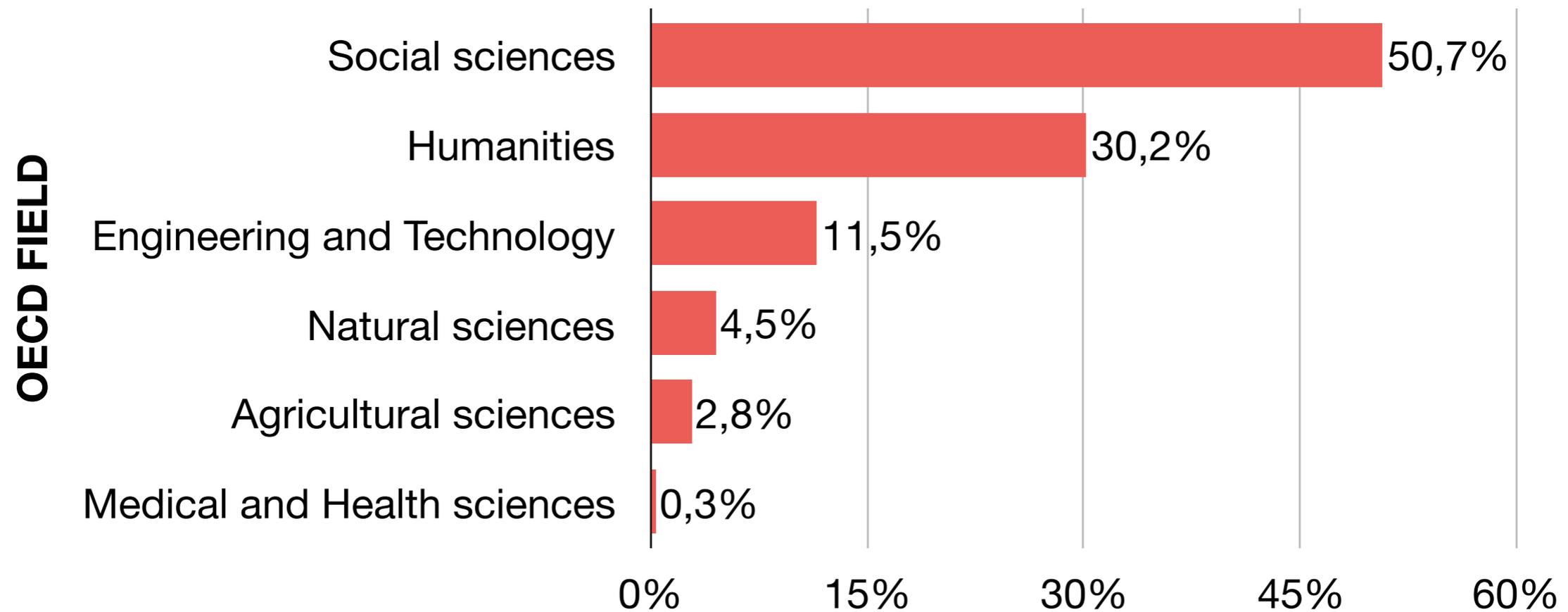
882 reviewers

**Anonymous  
online survey**

**Source:**

editorial pages of monograph

The share of monographs across OECD Fields ( **N = 600** )  
which reflects the structure of analyzed publishers' productivity



**94% of monographs were written in Polish**

# **Results** of Interviews

# The profile of Polish academic publishers

- ▶ University publishers mainly publish the authors from the university.
- ▶ Reviewers are usually recommended by the faculties. These recommendations are usually accepted by publishers.
- ▶ **2/3** publishers provide assessment criteria for reviewers.
- ▶ Almost all publishers send the reviews for the authors.
- ▶ **3/4** of publishers expect a written answer from authors.
- ▶ The main aim of presenting reviewers' names is to confirm that monographs were peer-reviewed.

# Two groups of academic publishers

**Publishers ask  
reviewers to accept a  
monograph after  
revision**

***N* = 15**

3 commercial publishers  
12 university publishers

**Publishers do not  
ask reviewers to  
accept a monograph  
after revision**

***N* = 5**

2 commercial publishers  
3 university publishers

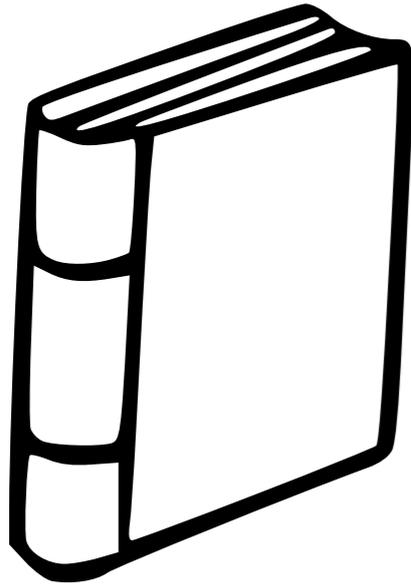
# Results

from anonymous online survey

Authors of monographs  
( N = 177 )

## Preliminary conclusions

33% of authors completed the questionnaire



- ▶ The authors confirm that the peer-review was conducted.
- ▶ The authors confirm that monographs were reviewed mostly by 1 (34%) or 2 reviewers (66%).
- ▶ The authors confirm that they received descriptive reviews which were reliable.
- ▶ 3/4 of the authors had to change a manuscript after the peer-review but only 1/3 of them had to prepare the answers to the reviewers.
- ▶ Actually, there is no the second round of peer-review.

# **Results**

from anonymous online survey

Reviewers of monographs  
( N = 212 )

# Preliminary conclusions

27% of reviewers completed the questionnaire



- ▶ The reviewers confirm that they were competent to review this specific book.
- ▶ Most publishers ask for permission to expose reviewers' names.
- ▶ The publishers very often do not specify any criteria for review.
- ▶ More than a half of the reviewers did not see the need for improving a manuscript. They accepted without the condition that a manuscript needs to be revised.
- ▶ A half of the reviewers did not receive a response to their reviews.

# Preliminary results of data triangulation

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## **From the technical side of process:**

Polish publishers conduct peer-review according to the international standards.

## **From the quality of peer-review perspective:**

Polish publishers should improve some practices (e.g. accepting manuscript after revision by reviewers).

# Next steps

- ▶ We will construct a statistical model including two groups of publishers which will allow us to verify publishers' claims.
- ▶ Then we will discuss and decide whether the hypothesis „Presenting the reviewers' names in the scholarly books is a form of peer-review label” is confirmed.

# Thank you

emek@amu.edu.pl

emanuelkulczycki.com