

the politics of un/naming in the evaluation process

david pontille & didier torny

Centre de Sociologie de l'Innovation

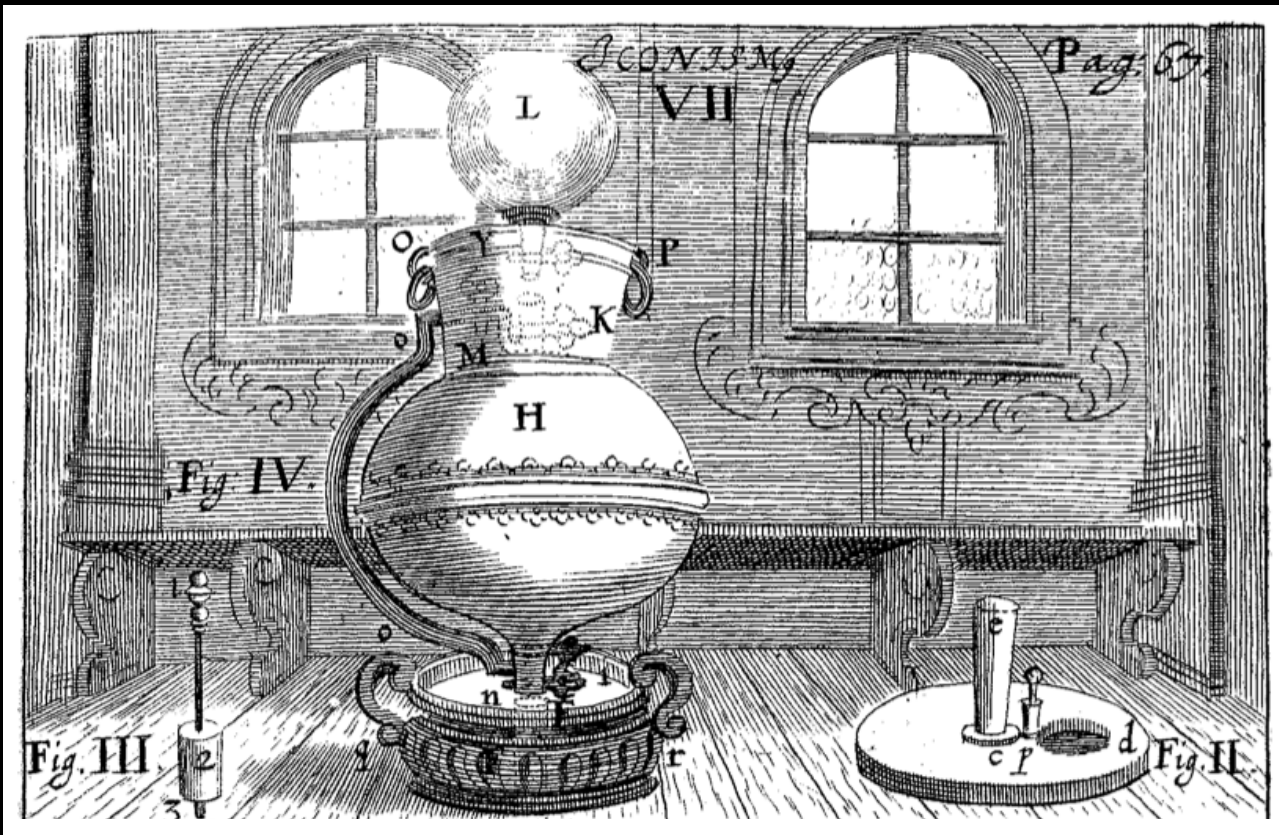


“Current challenges in the evaluation of social sciences and humanities”
April 30th, 2019 • Université Saint-Louis, Bruxelles • COST ENRESSH

names in science

experimentation

publication

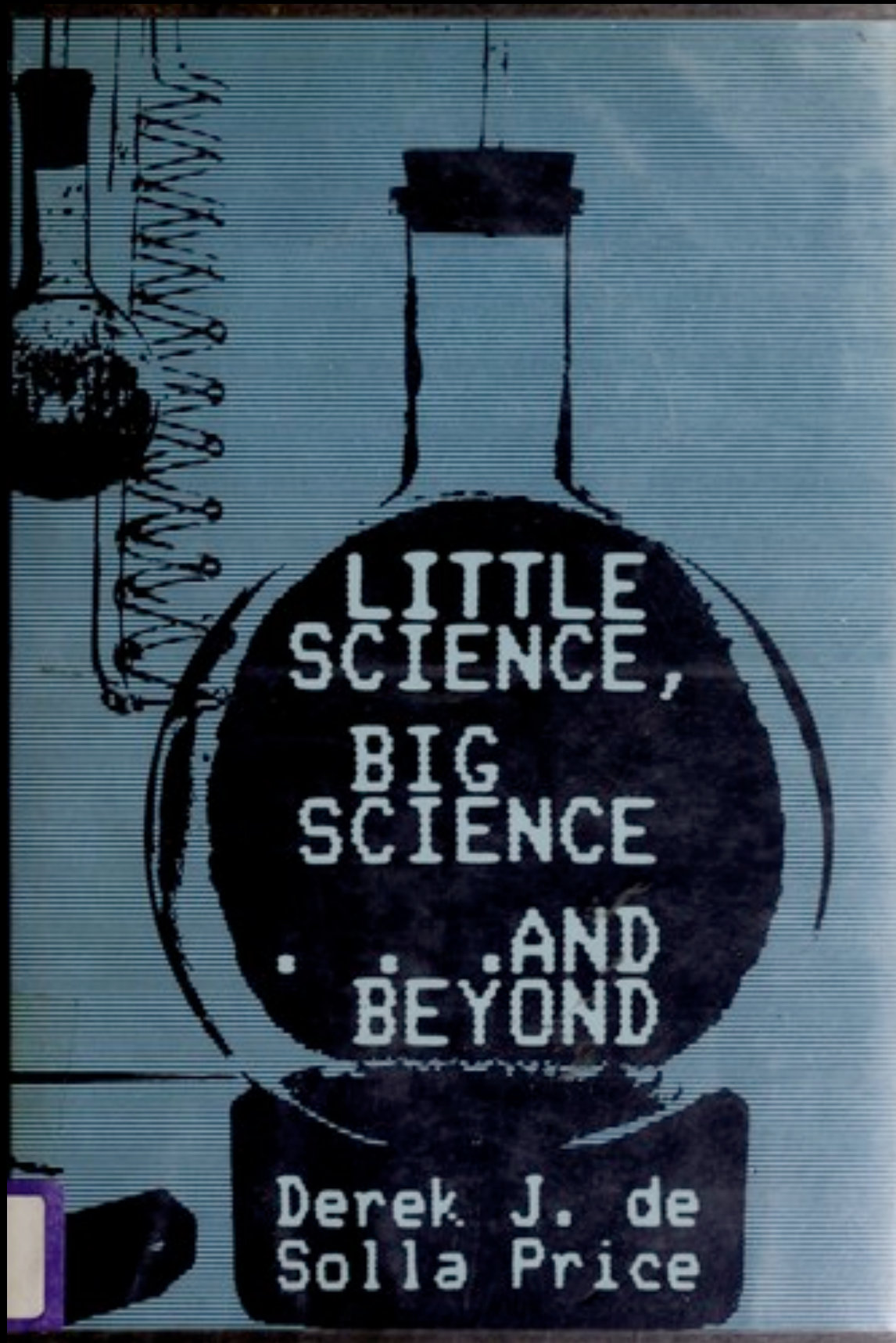


19
Whereas I being now in y^e service
of Mr. he is pleas'd to imploy me -
about y^e making of divers Expts yt he would
not haue ^{to be} divulg'd; I do hereby solemnly
& faithfully promise & ingage my -
self yt I wil be true to y^e trust repos'd
by y^e sayd master in me, yt I wil
not knowingly discover to any p^rson
wtsoever, whether directly or indi-
rectly, any process, medicine or

Whereas I _____ being now in ye service of Mr. _____ he is
pleas'd to imploy me about ye making of divers Expts yt he would
not haue to be divulg'd; I do hereby solemnly & faithfully promise &
ingage myself yt I wil be true to ye trust repos'd by my sayd master
in me, yt I wil not knowingly discover to any p[er]son w[ha]tsoever,
whether directly or indirectly, any process, medicine, or other Expt,
wch he shal injoin me to keep secret & not impart; wthout his consent
first obtain'd to communicate it. And this I promise in ye faith of a
Xtian, witnes my hand this _____ day of _____.¹⁴⁸

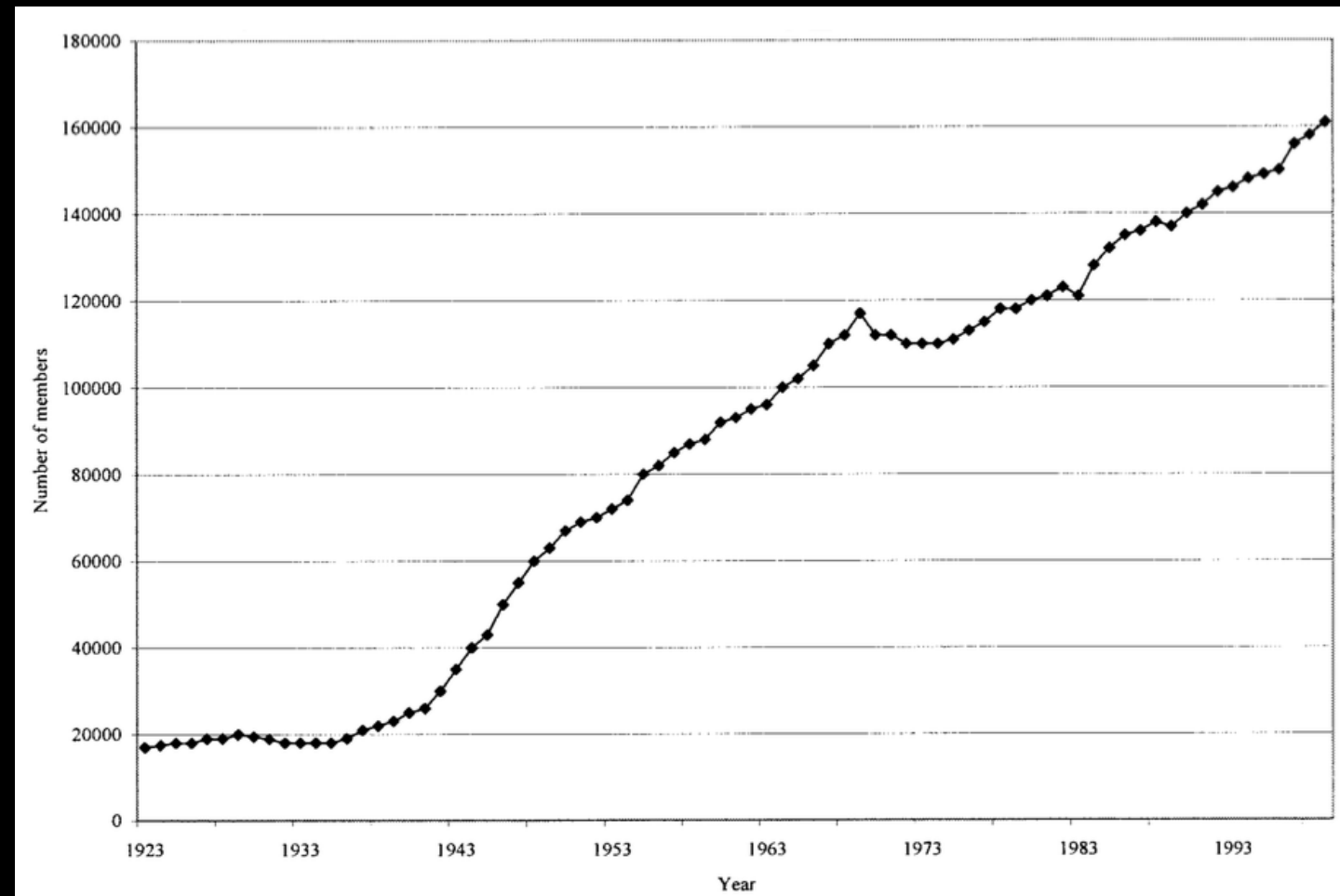
in y^e faith of a Xtian, witnes my
hand this _____ day of _____.

big science and authorship



Partager	SIZE OF AUTHOR-SET					
	2	3	4	5	6+	All
Physics:						
Laureates.....	71 (398)	55 (147)	63 (58)	54 (46)	83 (46)	67 (695)
Abstracts.....	64(1,410)	38 (643)	35(142)	39 (38)	26 (34)	57 (2,267)
Chemistry:						
Laureates.....	52 (638)	17 (337)	12(119)	6 (49)	11 (35)	35 (1,178)
Abstracts.....	55(3,519)	25(1,162)	14(305)	14 (81)	12 (58)	45 (5,125)
Biological sciences:						
Laureates.....	47 (750)	19 (380)	4(186)	1(100)	1 (78)	29 (1,494)
Abstracts.....	55(2,802)	22(1,061)	10(347)	2(112)	6 (63)	41 (4,385)
All:						
Laureates.....	54(1,786)	24 (864)	16(363)	15(195)	27(159)	39 (3,367)
Abstracts.....	57(7,731)	27(2,866)	16(794)	12(231)	13(155)	46(11,777)

(Zuckerman 1968)



(Cronin, Shaw, LaBarre 2004)

names and citation counts

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Vol. 52, No. 3 (2001) 457–470*

Citation counts of multi-authored papers – First-named authors and further authors

LYDIA L. LANGE

Scientometrics (2014) 101:125–158
DOI 10.1007/s11192-014-1423-3

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names as “units”



authorship in SSH

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collective names

Physics Letters B 740 (2015) 222–242



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Search for $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ produced in association with top quarks and constraints on the Yukawa coupling between the top quark and the Higgs boson using data taken at 7 TeV and 8 TeV with the ATLAS detector



[ATLAS Collaboration](#) [★]

[★] *E-mail address:* atlas.publications@cern.ch.

¹ For simplicity, tH refers equally to $\bar{t}H$ in this Letter.

scientists and institutions

ATLAS Collaboration

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Initial sequencing and comparative analysis of the mouse genome

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counting Vs. opening up names



multiple authorship

***Drosophila* Muller F Elements Maintain a Distinct Set of Genomic Properties Over 40 Million Years of Evolution**

Wilson Leung and Participating Students and Faculty of the Genomics Education Partnership¹

1014 names

ABSTRACT The Muller F element (4.2 Mb, ~80 protein-coding genes) is an unusual autosome of *Drosophila melanogaster*; it is mostly heterochromatic with a low recombination rate. To investigate how these properties impact the evolution of repeats and genes, we manually improved the sequence and annotated the genes on the *D. erecta*, *D. mojavensis*, and *D. grimshawi* F elements and euchromatic domains from the Muller D element. We find that F elements have greater transposon density (25–50%) than euchromatic reference regions (3–11%). Among the F elements, *D. grimshawi* has the lowest transposon density (particularly DINE-1: 2% vs. 11–27%). F element genes have larger coding spans, more coding exons, larger introns, and lower codon bias. Comparison of the Effective Number of Codons with the Codon Adaptation Index shows that, in contrast to the other species, codon bias in *D. grimshawi* F element genes can be attributed primarily to selection instead of mutational biases, suggesting that density and types of transposons affect the degree of local heterochromatin formation. F element genes have lower estimated DNA melting temperatures than D element genes, potentially facilitating transcription through heterochromatin. Most F element genes (~90%) have remained on that element, but the F element has smaller syntenic blocks than genome averages (3.4–3.6 vs. 8.4–8.8 genes per block), indicating greater rates of inversion despite lower rates of recombination. Overall, the F element has maintained characteristics that are distinct from other autosomes in the *Drosophila* lineage, illuminating the constraints imposed by a heterochromatic milieu.

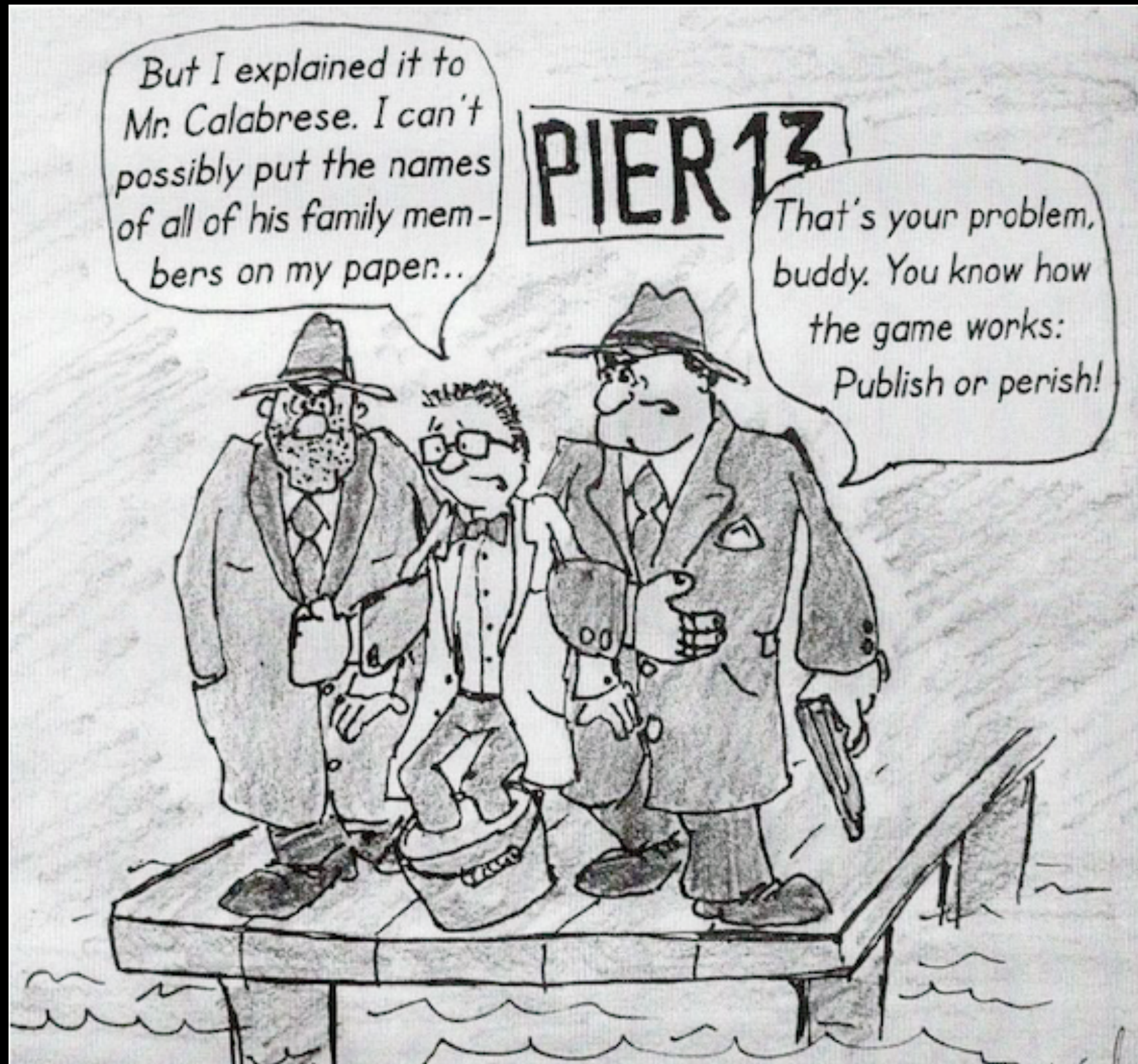
name ordering

Name, Name, Name, Name, Name, Name

Name, Name, Name, Name, Name, Name, Name

Name, Name, Name, Name, Name, Name

categories of authorship



https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Pressure-to-the-author-for-undeserved-allocation-of-authorship_fig1_274383408

guest authorship

Name, Name, Name, Name, Name

disagree/credit

unaware

gift authorship

Name, Name, Name, Name, Name

fictitious


ghost authorship



Essay

Ghost Management: How Much of the Medical Literature Is Shaped Behind the Scenes by the Pharmaceutical Industry?

Sergio Sismondo



"What is the purpose of publications?...[The] purpose of data is to support, directly or indirectly, the marketing of our product." [1]

From Ghost Writing to Ghost Management

There are many reports of medical journal articles being researched and written by or on behalf of pharmaceutical companies, and then published under the name of academics who had played little role earlier in the research and writing process [2–14]. In extreme cases, drug companies pay for trials by contract research organizations (CROs), analyze the data in-house, have professionals

agents control or shape multiple steps in the research, analysis, writing, and publication of articles. Such articles are “ghostly” because signs of their actual production are largely invisible—academic authors whose names appear at the tops of ghost-managed articles give corporate research a veneer of independence and credibility. They are “managed” because those companies shape the eventual message conveyed by the article or by a suite of articles. As discussed below, a substantial percentage of medical journal articles (in addition to meeting presentations and other forms of publication, which are not the focus here) are ghost

exerts influence at multiple stages of research, writing, and publication, it will shape the resulting article. In turn, bias affects medical opinion and practice, and ultimately, patients.

How Common Is Ghost Management?

Because ghost management is hidden, we cannot tell how common it is from published exposés. Current practices in the medical sciences legitimately allow people to serve as authors on the basis of narrow contributions. Therefore many near-honorary authors find little reason to feel uncomfortable with their roles. Fully honorary authors may

imagining an alternative (1996-2001)



(The Lancet 1998)

intensive discussions



structured workshops



"authorship force"

experimenting contributorship

pioneers journals

The Lancet 1997

British Medical Journal 1997

experiments journals

Journal American Medical Association 1997>2001

American Journal of Public Health 1997>1998

Radiology 1998

Canadian Medical Association Journal 1998>2000

Annals of Internal Medicine 1999>2000

...

Nature 1997>1999

Science 1997>2000

Whole genome sequencing of meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*

Makoto Kuroda, Toshiko Ohta, Ikuo Uchiyama, Tadashi Baba, Harumi Yuzawa, Ichizo Kobayashi, Longzhu Cui, Akio Oguchi, Ken-ichi Aoki, Yoshimi Nagai, JianQi Lian, Teruyo Ito, Mutsumi Kanamori, Hiroyuki Matsumaru, Atsushi Maruyama, Hiroyuki Murakami, Akira Hosoyama, Yoko Mizutani-Ui, Noriko K Takahashi, Toshihiko Sawano, Ryu-ichi Inoue, Chikara Kaito, Kazuhisa Sekimizu, Hideki Hirakawa, Satoru Kuhara, Susumu Goto, Junko Yabuzaki, Minoru Kanehisa, Atsushi Yamashita, Kenshiro Oshima, Keiko Furuya, Chie Yoshino, Tadayoshi Shiba, Masahira Hattori, Naotake Ogasawara, Hideo Hayashi, Keiichi Hiramatsu

materializing contributions

ANNALS OF INTERNAL MEDICINE authors' form

Manuscript Title_____

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- Financial interests, direct or indirect, that exist or may be perceived to exist for individual authors in connection with the content of this paper have been disclosed to *Annals* in the cover letter. Sources of outside support of the project are named in the cover letter, and the role of funding organizations, if any, in the conduct of the study is described in the Methods section of the manuscript.

In the spaces marked "Contribution Codes," authors should mark those code letters from the box that designate their own substantive contribution(s) to the paper. Any contribution not described in the box should be indicated in the space for "Other contributions."

Contribution Codes

- a Conception and design
- b Analysis and interpretation of the data
- c Drafting of the article
- d Critical revision of the article for important intellectual content
- e Final approval of the article
- f Provision of study materials or patients
- g Statistical expertise
- h Obtaining of funding
- i Administrative, technical, or logistic support
- j Collection and assembly of data

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_____ Yes

_____ No

Corresponding Author Signature (needed only on corresponding author's form)

Date Signed

codified contributions

handwriting signature

variations

journals	contributions (N)	list of contributions
<i>Annals of Internal Medicine</i>	10	list
<i>British Medical Journal</i>	undefined	free space
<i>JAMA</i>	11	items hierarchy
<i>Nature</i>	undefined	list
<i>Science</i>	5	items weight
<i>Physical Therapy</i>	11	list
<i>Radiology</i>	14	list
<i>The Lancet</i>	undefined	free space

ongoing experiments...

International Workshop on Contributorship and Scholarly Attribution

Hosted by IQSS at Harvard on Wednesday May 16, 2012

wellcome^{trust}



COMMENT

P

R

Writing

Study
conception

Credit where credit is due

Liz Allen, Amy Brand, Jo Scott,
Micah Altman and Marjorie Hlava are
trialling digital taxonomies to help
researchers to identify their contributions
to collaborative projects.

Investigation

Formal
analysis

Wc

This

con

con

obft

pub

The

pub

attribution and associated credit. Many publishers now require contribution disclosures upon article submission - some in structured form, some in free-text form - at the same time that funders are developing more scientifically rigorous ways to track the outputs and impact of their research investments.

a 10min survey, thanks t.co/3UE57szc
2 years 10 months ago.

me^{trust}

scholarlyattrib We're collecting data on
attitudes towards scholarly attribution



rt is
ial

hip
our
a with

a standardized taxonomy

Learned Publishing, 28: 151–155
doi:10.1087/20150211

INDUSTRY UPDATE

Beyond authorship: attribution, contribution, collaboration, and credit

Amy Brand *Digital Science*
Liz Allen *Wellcome Trust*
Micah Altman *MIT Libraries*
Marjorie Hlava *Access Innovations*
Jo Scott *Wellcome Trust*

Term	Definition
Conceptualization	Ideas; formulation or evolution of overarching research goals and aims
Methodology	Development or design of methodology; creation of models
Software	Programming, software development; designing computer programs; implementation of the computer code and supporting algorithms; testing of existing code components
Validation	Verification, whether as a part of the activity or separate, of the overall replication/reproducibility of results/experiments and other research outputs
Formal Analysis	Application of statistical, mathematical, computational, or other formal techniques to analyze or synthesize study data
Investigation	Conducting a research and investigation process, specifically performing the experiments, or data/evidence collection
Resources	Provision of study materials, reagents, materials, patients, laboratory samples, animals, instrumentation, computing resources, or other analysis tools
Data curation	Management activities to annotate (produce metadata), scrub data and maintain research data (including software code, where it is necessary for interpreting the data itself) for initial use and later reuse
Writing – Original Draft	Preparation, creation and/or presentation of the published work, specifically writing the initial draft (including substantive translation)
Writing – Review & Editing	Preparation, creation and/or presentation of the published work by those from the original research group, specifically critical review, commentary or revision – including pre- or post-publication stages
Visualization	Preparation, creation and/or presentation of the published work, specifically visualization/data presentation
Supervision	Oversight and leadership responsibility for the research activity planning and execution, including mentorship external to the core team
Project Administration	Management and coordination responsibility for the research activity planning and execution
Funding acquisition	Acquisition of the financial support for the project leading to this publication.

“What we need is a controlled vocabulary of contributor roles and mechanisms for capturing contribution tags within the scholarly metadata ecosystem.” (Brand et al. 2015: 154)

contribution badges (1)

TOOLBOX BADGES OF DISTINCTION

A standardized system of digital badges that flag each author's contributions to a research paper aims to enhance collaboration and assign fair credit.



contribution badges (2)



Keith Bradnam
Steve Goldstein
Ian Korf
Jason Howard



Keith Bradnam
Ian Korf
Dominique Lavenier



Keith Bradnam
Steve Goldstein
Ian Korf
Cristian Del Fabbro
Simone Scalabrin
Matthew MacManes



Keith Bradnam
Sébastien Boisvert
Steve Goldstein
Ian Korf
Cristian Del Fabbro
Simone Scalabrin
Ruibang Luo
Matthew MacManes
Vieira, BM
Shaun Jackman
Rayan Chikhi
Pina-Martins



Keith Bradnam
Ian Korf



Keith Bradnam
Steve Goldstein
Ian Korf
Jason Howard



Keith Bradnam
Ian Korf
Dominique Lavenier



Keith Bradnam
Steve Goldstein
Ian Korf
Cristian Del Fabbro
Simone Scalabrin
Matthew MacManes



Keith Bradnam
Sébastien Boisvert
Steve Goldstein
Ian Korf
Cristian Del Fabbro
Simone Scalabrin
Ruibang Luo
Matthew MacManes
Vieira, BM
Shaun Jackman
Rayan Chikhi
Pina-Martins



Keith Bradnam
Ian Korf



Keith Bradnam
Ian Korf
Ruibang Luo
Matthew MacManes
Shaun Jackman
Rayan Chikhi
Jason Howard



Keith Bradnam
Ian Korf



Keith Bradnam
Steve Goldstein
Ian Korf
Vieira, BM
Pina-Martins
Dominique Lavenier



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Steve Goldstein
Ian Korf



Keith Bradnam
Sébastien Boisvert
Ian Korf
Simone Scalabrin
Ruibang Luo
Matthew MacManes
Shaun Jackman
Jacques Corbell
Rayan Chikhi



Keith Bradnam
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Jason Howard



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Ian Korf



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Steve Goldstein
Ian Korf
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Ian Korf



Keith Bradnam
Sébastien Boisvert
Ian Korf
Simone Scalabrin
Ruibang Luo
Matthew MacManes
Shaun Jackman
Jacques Corbell
Rayan Chikhi



Keith Bradnam
Ian Korf



Keith Bradnam
Ian Korf



Ian Korf



Guojie Zhang
Jason Howard



Keith Bradnam
Ian Korf



Keith Bradnam
Ian Korf



Ian Korf



Guojie Zhang
Jason Howard

ongoing debates...

Let's simply scrap authorship and move to contributorship

Richard Smith *chair*

Patients Know Best, London SW4 0LD, UK

Why do science journals stick to authorship wholesale to contributorship?¹

These days science is rarely undertaken. Research is conducted by teams, often with very different skills. A binary division of authors and non-authors is bound to be arbitrary as a recent systematic review shows.² It is not research papers like films rather than novels or contributorship rather than authorship.

Rennie and colleagues identified the shift from authorship in 1997 and made a convincing case for contributorship, but 15 years later we are still with authorship.³ Why can't journals let go of authorship forever?

As the Cassandra of scientific publishing, editorial saying, "Editors are unlikely to have the resources to validate all authorship claims of interest." My bet is that *Neurology*, the journal of the editorial edits, makes about a 3%

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PLOS MEDICINE

Perspective

How Industry Uses the ICMJE Guidelines to Manipulate Authorship—And How They Should Be Revised

Alastair Matheson*

Independent Consultant, London, United Kingdom and Toronto, Canada

Introduction

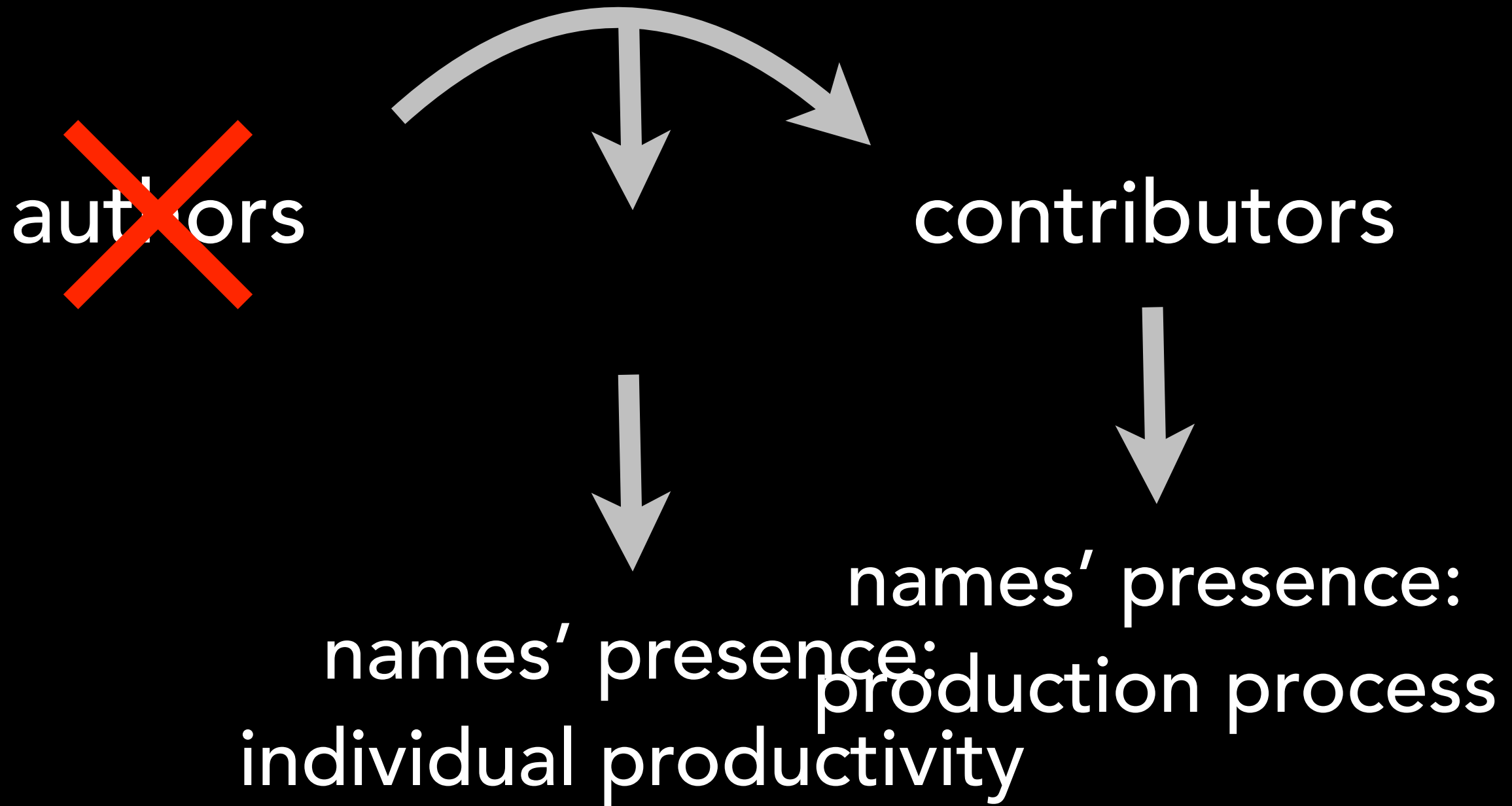
Scientists and clinicians need to know the authorship, author interests, and origination of the articles they read to judge them appropriately. Since 1985, the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) has provided evolving guidance on how authorship should be managed in the complex setting of modern biomedical science [1,2], to the benefit of the published literature. Issues such as accountability, fraud, conflicts of interest, trial registration, and access to data have been considered by this voluntary, self-funded, closed-membership group of select general medical journal editors (<http://www.icmje.org/>) [3–5]. However, certain industry practices, including publications planning, ghostwriting, and guest author-

ship, have been largely ignored. Publications were originated by academics. "Medical communications" agencies bear joint responsibility for these practices, and for the systematic masking of corporate origination within the medical literature. Industry claims its activities are ethical, but this is disingenuous and rests on two subtle strategies: first, the use of weak definitions or convenient understandings of concepts such as accountability, responsibility, authority, intellectual contribution, contributorship, guest authorship, and ghostwriting; and second, the exploitation of flaws in current guidelines, particularly those of the ICMJE.

The Authorship-Contributorship Distinction Exploited

exaggeration or understatement of authorial contributions. This practice is difficult to trace, since it involves subjective judgments, and the parties involved—companies, writers, and KOLs—all have incentives to allow their true levels of contribution to be aggrandized or downplayed. These practices gain succor from weak definitions of ghostwriting and ghost authorship, which the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME) and Council of Science Editors (CSE) deem not to have occurred if a writer is "mentioned in the manuscript" (WAME) or receives an "appropriate" place "in the author byline or Acknowledgments" (CSE) [14,15]. Industry and medical writers' organizations are thus able publicly to condemn ghostwriting using comparable framings [16–18], while the misattribution of authorship remains

two versions



including reviewers?

Definition of authorship may be changed

BMJ 2013;346:f166 doi: 10.1136/bmj.f166 (Published 16 January 2013)

Page 1 of 2

VIEWS & REVIEWS

PERSONAL VIEW

Peer reviewers can meet journals' criteria for authorship

Thomas C Erren *professor*¹, Michael Erren *senior researcher*², David M Shaw *senior researcher*³

¹University Hospital of Cologne, Cologne, Germany; ²Center for Laboratory Medicine, University Hospital Münster, Westphalian Wilhelms-University of Münster, Germany; ³Institute for Biomedical Ethics, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland

Publons as reviewer recognition

Select an award category to view the top reviewers in each of the ESI research fields.

Award Category



Verified reviewer



14425 Reviewer Merit



4811 reviews

AWARDS



IDENTIFIERS



publons.com/a/292799/

REVIEWS

4811

Median: 3
98th percentile

REVIEWS (LAST 12 MONTHS)

589

Median: 1
98th percentile

REVIEWS (AVERAGE PER YEAR)

388

Median: 2
98th percentile

MERIT

14422

Median: 9
98th percentile

OPENNESS

0.0%

Median: 0.0%
96th percentile

REVIEW TO PUBLICATION RATIO

16.8:1

Median: 1:1

3rd

MR

Mohd Shahril Abdul Rahman

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

Malaysia

60

4th



Stanislav Ivanov

Zangador

Bulgaria

49

4th

AD

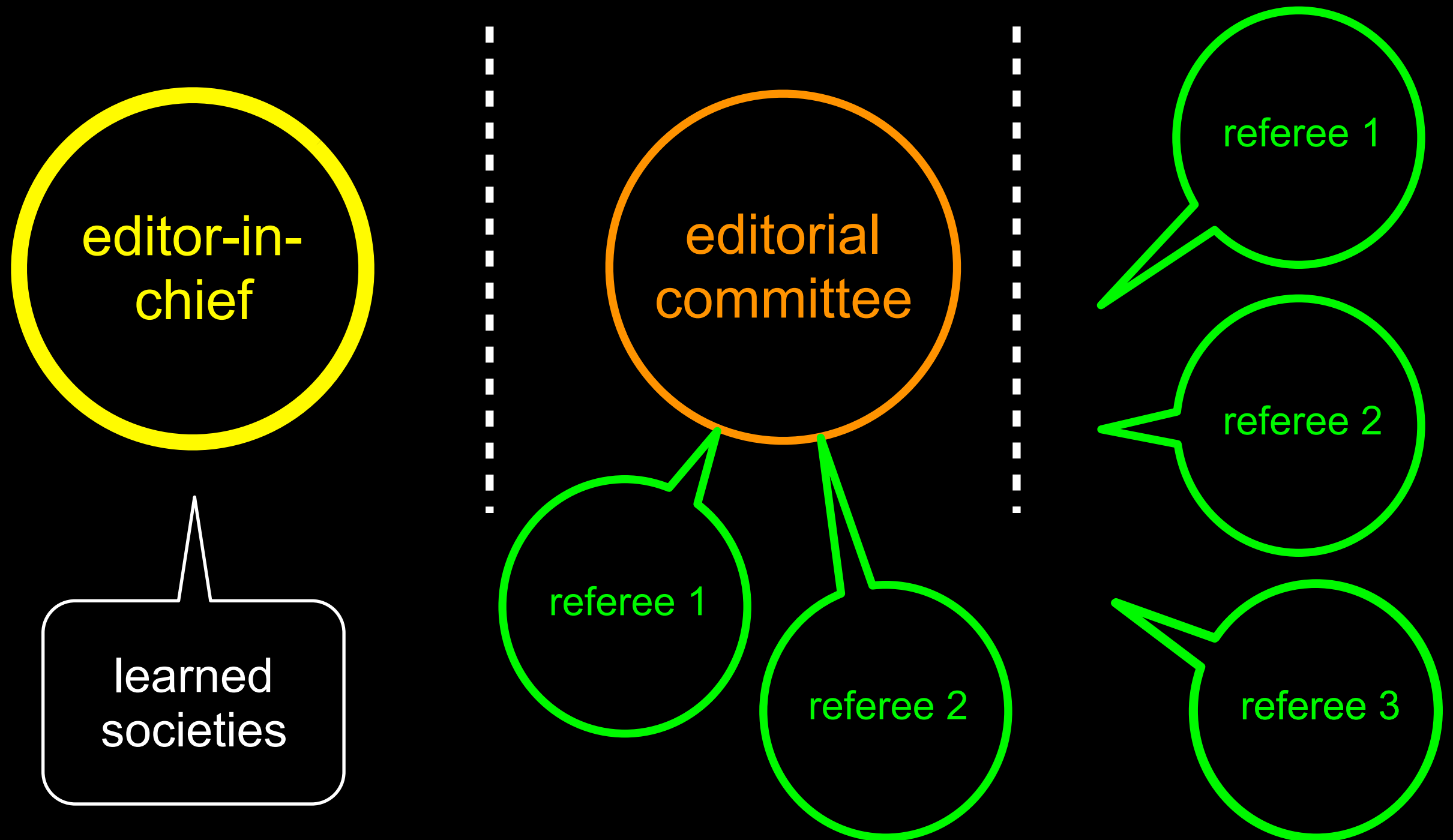
Alec Dinnin

University of Florida

USA

49

who are the judges?



embracing or rejecting reviewers



Einstein Versus the *Physical Review*

A great scientist can benefit from peer review, even while refusing to have anything to do with it.

Dear Sir,

We (Mr. Rosen and I) had sent you our manuscript for publication and had not authorized you to show it to specialists before it is printed. I see no reason to address the—in any case erroneous—comments of your anonymous expert. On the basis of this incident I prefer to publish the paper elsewhere.

Respectfully,

P.S. Mr. Rosen, who has left for the Soviet Union, has authorized me to represent him in this matter.

anonymized authors (1)

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

Preparation of Articles

As an experiment in the evaluation of articles, all papers will now be circulated to the assistant editors and judged without name or institutional identification. It will be helpful if contributors to the *Review* will attach a cover page giving the title, author's name and institutional affiliation. The first page of the paper should bear the title as a means of identification, but not name and institution.

American Sociological Review, 1955, vol. 20(3): 341.

Whether, as Professor Cahnman believes, papers of "famous colleagues" always will be "accepted on sight" I don't know. and frankly I don't mind if they are. I think a paper by a prominent author *should* be given priority—unless the editor has serious doubts about its quality.

Lowry R.P., 1967. "Communications to the editors"
The American Sociologist, 2(4): 220.

more, we frequently forget (despite that fact that we are sociologists) that a man's name is important (whether it is widely known or not). It can identify his biases and perspectives (sources of professional training, previous work, occupational experiences, etc.) and, therefore, can be used as a basis for judging the reliability and relevance of what he says. This is true for both authors and reviewers. It is important to know whether comments are coming from a functionalist, a Durkheimian, a Weberian, a Marxist, a professional researcher, a theoretician, a systems analyst, a positivist, and the like.

anonymized authors (2)

Moody L. Coffman suggests that articles be sent to reviewers anonymously. This is an excellent idea and has been proposed many times. Unfortunately it is impossible. Removing the name and affiliation of the author does not make a manuscript anonymous. A competent reviewer can tell at a glance where the work was done and by whom or under whose guidance. One must also remove all references to previous work by the same author, all descriptions of special equipment and other significant parts of the paper. Nothing worth judging or publishing would be left.

S. A. Goudsmit
*Managing Editor,
American Physical Society*

Despite removal of author and institutional affiliation from a manuscript, no phenomenal deductive powers are required, for example, to guess the authorship of an article that begins, "Earlier work (Coffman, 1962, Coffman and Moody, 1965) has shown . . ." *The Journal of Speech and Hearing Research*, for which I occasionally review, indeed experimented with this scheme last year but quickly abandoned it.

W. Dixon Ward
University of Minnesota

anonymous reviewers: abusers

Rights, wrongs and referees

Anonymity in the refereeing of scientific papers is difficult to justify. Greater openness would have many merits—not least in curbing the abuses that are encouraged by the present system

Jones R., 1974, *New Scientist*, vol. 61(890): 758-759.



anonymous reviewers: guardians



constructive

ethical

protection

strong
criticisms

readability

advisor

objectivity Vs. publicity

Reviewers

anonymized

identified

Authors

anonymized

double blind

blind review

identified

single blind

open peer review

F1000 Research



SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

What is open peer review? A systematic review [version 1; referees: 1 approved, 3 approved with reservations]

Tony Ross-Hellauer

Author details



This article is included in the [Science Policy Research](#) gateway.

Abstract

Background: "Open peer review" (OPR), despite being a major pillar of Open Science, has neither a standardized definition nor an agreed schema of its features and implementations. The literature reflects this, with a myriad of overlapping and often contradictory definitions. While the term is used by some to refer to peer review where the identities of both author and reviewer are disclosed to each other, for others it signifies systems where reviewer reports are published alongside articles. For others it signifies both of these conditions, and for yet others it describes systems where not only "invited experts" are able to comment. For still others, it includes a variety of combinations of these and other novel methods.

METRICS

8007

VIEWS

1693

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altmetrics

altmetrics:

NO ONE CAN READ EVERYTHING.
literature, but the narrow, trad
of new, online scholarly tools
the broad, rapid impact of sch
tools and research based on al

As the volume of academic lit
most relevant and significant s
main filters for importance are

plos.org create account sign in

 Subject Areas For Authors About Us Search 
advanced search

Article-Level Metrics Information

This page contains information about each of the article-level metrics that we track. [Summary tables of 'average usage'](#) are also available, as well as a page containing a [technical description of our usage data](#) in particular; and a [summary Excel file](#) containing the full data set.

Background

At PLOS, we believe that research articles should primarily be judged on their individual merits, rather than on the basis of the journal in which they were published. In March 2009, we inaugurated a program to provide "article-level metrics" on every article across all journals. This suite of relevant indicators of impact helps users determine the value of an article to them and to their scientific community. The regularly updated data fall into the following categories:

- Viewed
- Cited
- Saved
- Discussed
- Recommended

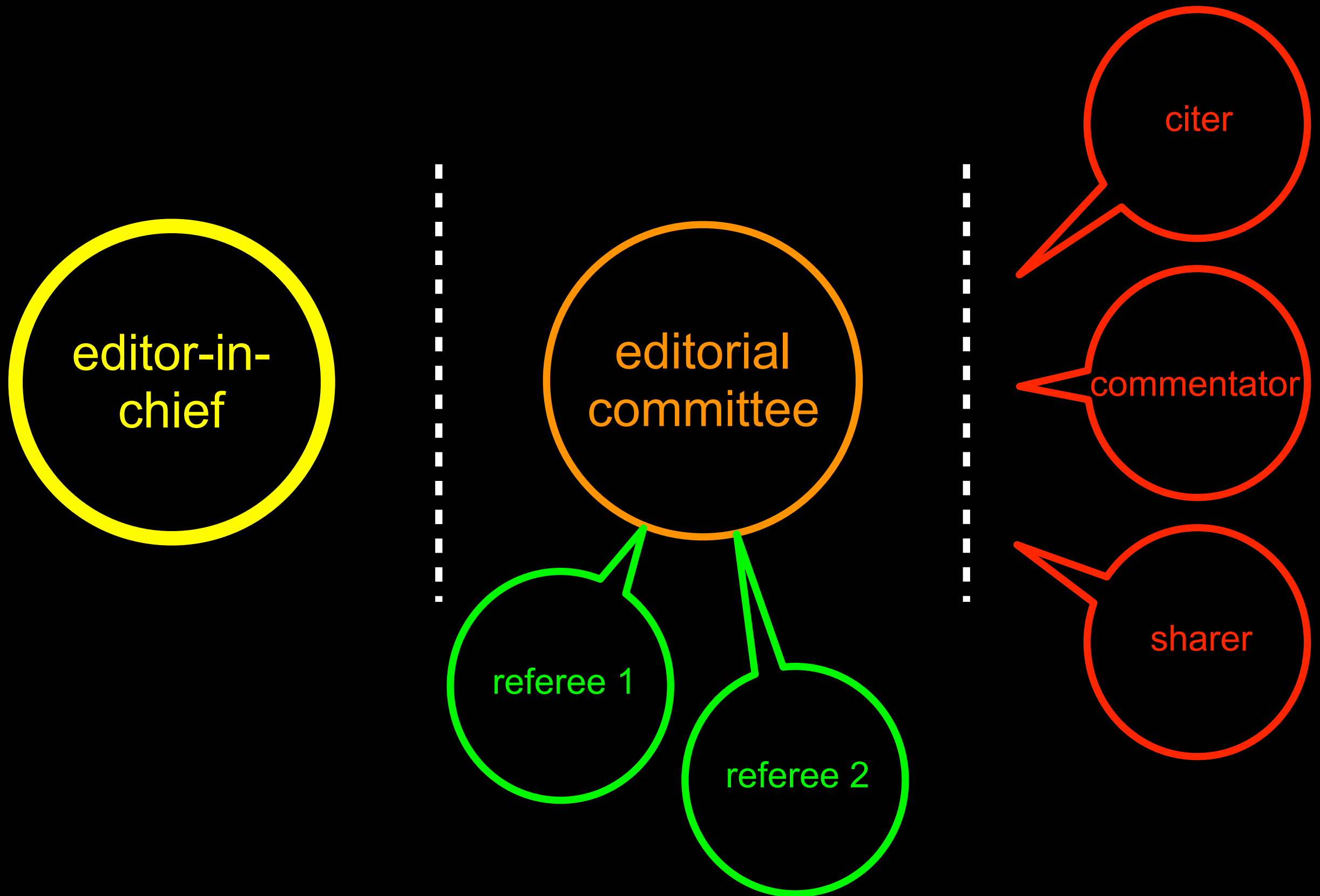
They are described further in the sections below.

Article-Level Metrics (ALMs) leverage the acceleration of research communication made possible by the networked landscape of researcher tools and services. Also by incorporating the manifold ways in which research is disseminated, these article impact indicators are made available rapidly after publication and are continually updated. It is important to note that the behavior of metrics varies by time (and needless to say by field and research area). For example, some metrics tend to accrue slowly over time; some are quicker to do so. Newly published articles will typically show lower levels of activity (for any given metric) for the initial weeks or months after publication than older articles. Further discussion of known limitations to individual metrics is detailed in the [section below](#).

PLOS is committed to the open provision of these metrics; we encourage researchers to investigate and analyze them in new and interesting ways. Therefore, the entire dataset of all ALMs are made available as a summary Excel file. This file will be updated periodically. We also provide an API and accompanying documentation for the automatic retrieval of the full set of ALM data.

Article-Level Metrics Suite

readers as judging instances



an ecology of names

Article

Classifying, Constructing, and Identifying Life: Standards as Transformations of “The Biological”

Adrian Mackenzie¹, Claire Waterton¹,
Rebecca Ellis⁵, Emma K. Frow², Ruth McNally³,
Lawrence Busch⁴, and Brian Wynne¹

Abstract

Recent accounts of “the biological” emphasize its thoroughgoing transformation. Accounts of biomedicalization, biotechnology, biopower, biocapital, and bioeconomy tend to agree that twentieth- and twenty-first-century life sciences transform the object of biology, the biological. Amidst so much transformation, we explore attempts to stabilize the biological through standards. We ask: how do standards handle the biological in transformation? Based on ethnographic research, the article discusses three contemporary

Science, Technology, & Human Values

38(5) 701-722

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DOI: 10.1177/0162243912474324

sthv.sagepub.com



Mackenzie et al.

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specificity; in their own plasticity and transformability, they are vectors of tangled values, beliefs and desires concerning speed, control, and economy. Standards are one place, in short, where we see that there is no life itself apart from forms of life.

The different standards display degrees of awareness of the impossibility of disentangling forms of life and life forms. In what biologists, bioinformaticians, engineers, and others hold onto and what they let go in biological standardization, we glimpse the difficulties that contemporary biology experiences in coming to grips with its own shifting performances of the real, in the competitive conditions which it has to negotiate for survival. Each of them—BOLI, BioBricks, and PSI—names a debilitating diversity that has reigned for too long in identifying, classifying, and constructing life forms. But in negotiating trade-offs between ideal standards and do-ability, in finding a way of pledging material arrangements to a sought-after good, there are risks and responsibilities involved in creating standards. Perhaps, standards that stand at some distance from life forms—for example, PSI—can actually accept this responsibility most openly. Standards that heavily invest life form specificity—BOLI and Biobricks—encrypt this risk in plans focused on tightly bound attributes of the living.

Declaration of Conflicting Interests

The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

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Notes

1. The case studies presented here arise from three long-term studies (2006-2012) in which the authors have been carrying out ethnographic observations and interviews, participating in committees, and attending conferences and meetings in USA, Canada, UK, and Europe.

¹ESRC Centre for Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics (Cesagen), Lancaster University, Bailrigg, UK

²Science, Technology & Innovation Studies, The University of Edinburgh

³Innovation and Technology Management, Anglia Ruskin University

⁴Center for the Study of Standards in Society, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University

⁵Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University

the presence of names

productivity

production

Name, Name, Name, | Name, Name, Name, Name

Science

Research

intellectual activity
originality

professional activity
conditions of work

transparency by numbers



0000-0001-5109-3700

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Profile for Laurel L Haak ORCID profile

Laurel L. Haak, PhD, is the Executive Director of ORCID, an international and interdisciplinary non-profit organization dedicated to providing the technical infrastructure to generate and maintain unique and persistent identifiers for researchers and scholars.

Published works



Are race, ethnicity, and medical school affiliation associated with NIH R01 type 1 award probability for physician investigators?

10.1097/ACM.0b013e31826d726



ORCID Status and Plans: May 2014 ORCID Outreach Meeting

10.6084/M9.FIGSHARE.1036360

Altmetric stats

BLOGS

35

FACEBOOK

7

GOOGLEPL

43

NEWS

21

TWITTER

249

VIDEO

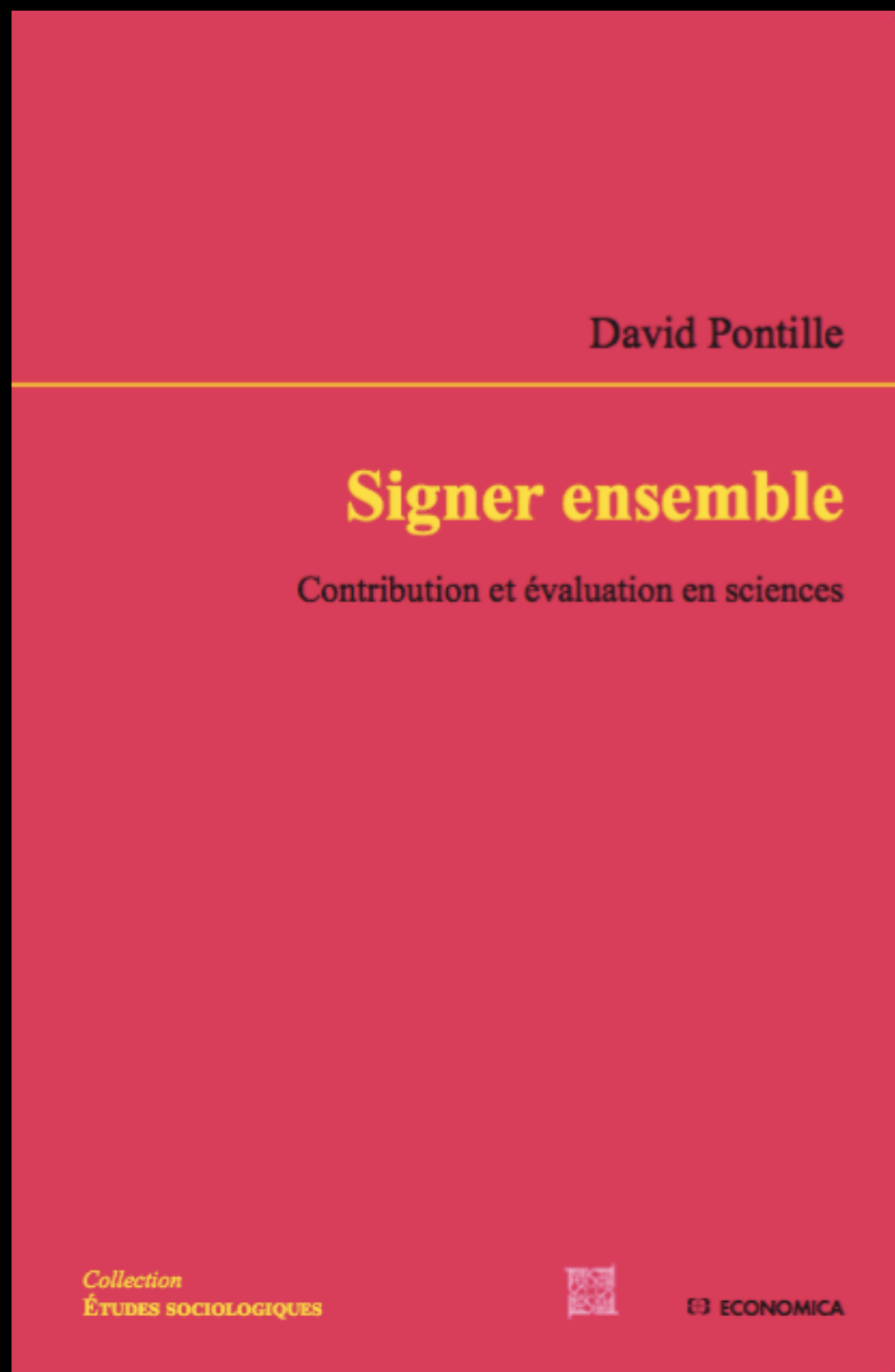
18

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703

334 CiteULike
23 Connotea

SCIENTIFIC NETWORK



2016



2004

our work

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