

SSI Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

"...AND THE SHOW **MUST GO ON"**

Time is passing at breakneck and hardly manageable volume of unfinished work is piling up on our desks. We repeatedly declared that there will be an alternative, more contemporary format of communication that would be a faster way of providing relevant information. So far, so good, we did not succeed in finding an appropriate alternative and a new communication chan-







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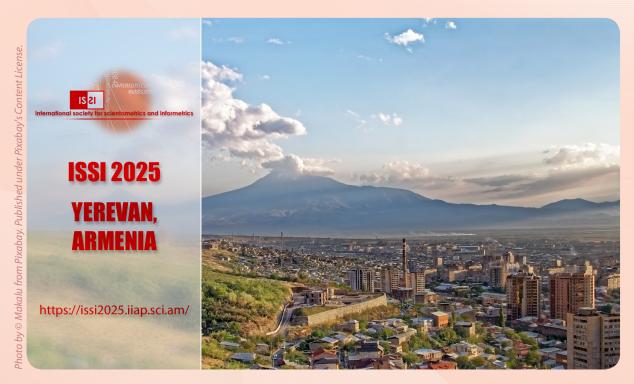
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We open the present special issue with the probably most important events of this year, the Board Elections of the Society followed by two pieces related to prizes to be awarded during the 20th International Conference on Scientometrics & Informetrics (ISSI 2025) in Yerevan (Armenia). The first prize, the Derek de Solla Price Memorial Medal, is biennially awarded by the journal Scientometrics to scientists or research teams with outstanding contributions to the fields of quantitative studies of science. The awarding ceremony is traditionally organised at an ISSI Conference, the laudation is published in Scientometrics, while an interview with the winner(s) is usually part of an ISSI issue. This time, Gunnar Sivertsen from NIFU (Norway) is receiving this prestigious award. The interview with Gunnar is made by Lin Zhang. She is also contributing a piece on the 2025 Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Scholarship, which was, this time, awarded to Lili Miao from Indiana University Bloomington (USA) for her outstanding dissertation titled "Developing National Science: A Systemic Analysis of Global Structures of Funding, Collaboration, and Production."

After the Society related material, this time too, we gave scientists the opportunity to present their views, opinions, and new results as being part of society communication. The present issue presents three pieces, the first one by Stefanie Haustein (University of Ottawa, Canada) on Youtube videos challenging the h-index in research evaluation, the second paper by Tim Engels (University of Antwerp, Belgium) and Emanuel Kulczycki (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland) introduces a new book series on Research on Research in the Social Sciences, the Arts and Humanities and, finally, the third contribution by Jacqueline Leta & Rogério Mugnaini (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) reports on the main forums of the Brazilian bibliometric community.

In the hope that special issues will not become the common ones, we conclude this note with our congratulations to the de Solla Price and Garfield doctoral scholarship awardees and our thanks to all contributors to this special issue.



ISSI ELECTIONS 2025: A REPORT ON THE PROCEDURES AND RESULTS



BALÁZS SCHLEMMER
managing editor, election assistant

INTRODUCTION

RENEWAL OF HALF OF THE BOARD

Those, who have been following the Society's life for a longer period of time, were probably not surprised when they were invited to take part in this year's elections – they come biennially with a precision of a Swiss clock.

As it is already well-known for most of the members of the Society, to ensure continuity only half of the Board is renewed at a time. After the completion of their board member cycles, this time it was Ronald Rousseau's, Vincent Larivière's and Jaqueline Leta's turn to step down. The Society expresses its thanks here for their voluntary work and valuable contributions to the Board's decision making in the last 4 years.

ROUNDS & ELECTABLE MEMBERS

Just as always, the election procedure consisted of two rounds: nomination and voting. All ISSI members in good standing

were electable and had the right to take part in both rounds, so after removing the current board members from the shortlist of electable candidates, the nomination round started off with 236 nominees.

TECHNICAL EXECUTION OF THE ELECTIONS

It is always good to see how international our Society has become: this time the members represented 39 countries from 5 continents. This geographical diversity explains why the Elections had to be carried out electronically – but it did not come as a surprise for any member who had already taken part in earlier elections.

As always, temporary user ID's and passwords were assigned to members in order to filter out unauthorised participation, as well as to monitor repeated nominations/votes and to remove the invalid ballots. Nevertheless, special attention was paid to ensure anonymity throughout all the procedures of the Elections.

FRAUDS, MALICIOUS ATTEMPTS

Due to the nature of any online transaction these days, the online Elections could also have been subject to various forms of fraudulent intentions and malicious attempts. For this reason the online forms and the data received were monitored thoroughly (literally in real time) throughout the whole Elections and I am happy to report that no suspicious activity or sign of election fraud was observed during either round of the Elections.

THE ELECTIONS

ROUND I - NOMINATION ROUND

The nomination round was open between 04 and 21 March.

Sixty-five nomination forms have been received, out of which one was a duplicate and another one arrived after the closure of the round. In accordance with the Election rules, the invalid nominations were not taken into account when summing up the results.

26.56% of the members in good standing took part in the first round and they nomi-

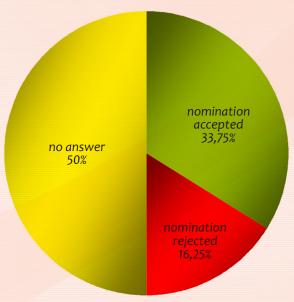


Figure 1 Acceptance of nominations by nominees

nated 80 candidates who were asked whether or not they would accept the nomination. Out of the eighty candidates recommended by the members 27 accepted the nomination. (See *Figure 1* for acceptances and refusals.)

ROUND II - VOTING ROUND

The voting round took place between or and 18 April.



Figure 2 Nomination and voting turnout rates in the last eight elections



Figure 3 Results of the ISSI Elections in 2025

Ninety-nine ballots arrived until the deadline, out of which 2 had to be ignored because of repeated voting. No form arrived after the submission deadline. After filtering out the invalid submissions the Elections were closed with 97 valid ballots, that is, a turnout rate of 40.25% – this is not record-breaking but a fair representation of the totality of the members. (See *Figure 2* for turnout rates in the last eight elections.)

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD QUOTAS

The ISSI is strongly committed towards equal opportunities and towards the fair representation of the totality of its members. As a consequence, a few years ago two quotas were introduced to avoid overrepresentation of certain institutions or geographical entities within the leadership of the Society.

The first quota says that out of the 6 regular board members no more than three board members are allowed to come from the same continent. The second quota refers to the institutional level: no more than one board member is supposed to come from the same institution. (The scope of the quotas does not extend to the President and the Secretary-Treasurer.)

Should any newly elected candidate have a conflict with the above quotes, the results must be overwritten for the benefit of the next applicable candidate in line.

RESULTS

ISSI members were to elect three board members at the same time; therefore the first three candidates who got the most votes

(given that they did not interfere with the institutional and geographical quotas) were supposed to become new (or re-elected)

Board members. In the course of the 2025 Elections neither conflict of quotas, nor election tie that required further intervention occurred, so the order of preference formed by the voters was directly interpretable as the final result.

According to the voters' choices, the following 3 members have been elected to the Board:

- ▶ BHATTACHARYA, Sujit (IND) 7.72%
- ► TRAAG, Vincent (NLD) 6.91%
- ► WAGNER, Caroline (USA) 7.72%

See *Figure 3* for a more comprehensive summary of the outcome of the voting round.

THE NEW BOARD

In summary, the new board (old members + new members) will be formed at the ISSI 2025 Conference in Yerevan as follows:

- President: Abramo, Giovanni (ITA)
- ► S-T: Glänzel, Wolfgang (BEL)
- Haustein, Stefanie (CAN)
- ▶ Bhattacharya, Sujit (IND)
- ▶ Wagner, Caroline (USA)
- ► Traag, Vincent (NLD)
- ► Singh, Vivek Kumar (IND)
- ► Zhang, Lin (CHN)

Congratulations for the winners and thanks for all the nominating / voting ISSI members for participating in the Elections in 2025. See you in 2027!

INTRODUCING THE DEREK DE SOLLA PRICE AWARDEE OF 2025

INTERVIEW BY LIN ZHANG

The awarding ceremony of the Derek de Solla Price Memorial Medal has become an essential part of the programme of ISSI conferences since the foundation of the Society in 1993. The Price Medal was conceived and launched by Tibor Braun, founder and Editor-in-Chief of the international journal Scientometrics, and is periodically awarded by the journal to scientists with outstanding contributions to the fields of quantitative studies of science. This year's awardee is Gunnar Sivertsen, research professor and special adviser at the Norwegian Institute for Studies inInnovation, Research and Education (NIFU STEP) in Oslo. Congratulations to the award-winner!

GUNNAR SIVERTSEN

- You are recognized as the founder of bibliometric research in your country, Norway. However, your background was in the humanities with a PhD in 18th Century Scandinavian literature. What inspired your shift from 18th-century literature to leading a national effort in bibliometrics—a field seemingly so far from your original training?
- → I arrived at our field of research via five years as the Editorial Director of the

Journals Department at Scandinavian University Press. We published 60 journals covering the whole spectrum of disciplines from geology to theology, from internal medicine to international relations. My contact with the editor and the community of each journal stimulated my interest in scientific endeavours as such. I learnt how publishing with peer review is an integrated last phase of the research process as well as an integrated first phase of communication with the



Gunnar Sivertsen is Research Professor Emeritus at the Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation. Research and Education (NIFU) in Oslo, Norway. Gunnar's research contributes to science-based innovation in the development of research policy, evaluation, and funding, and in the use of aggregate indicators for the same purposes. He created the "Norwegian Model" for a complete representation of scientific publications from all fields of research and contributed to the design of general indicators for measuring scientific collaboration at various levels of aggregation. He has developed a large network of research collaboration with co-authors in twentyfour countries.

scientific community at large. Discussing practices, standards, and values with the editors and editorial boards appealed to my original interest in the history and philosophy of science, which was part of my background in the humanities.

Then, at a time when I was becoming tired of being commercial, two fortunate things happened. One of the talks at a conference I attended in Denmark in 1988 was by Olle Persson, the founder of bibliometrics in Sweden who won the Derek de Solla Price Medal in 2011. His talk showed me, for the first time, what I still think of as the magic of bibliometrics: Because publishing is a necessary last phase of the research process, and because a publication needs to tell what we found, how we got there, who we collaborated with, and what other previous

research we built on, we leave unavoidable traces of our research activity in the metadata of our publications. Closing the doors of our offices or laboratories doesn't help. At least in the public research sector, bibliometrics tells what's going on at aggregate levels where we otherwise "cannot see the forest for trees".

The other fortunate event was that NIFU, a Norwegian public research institute dedicated to studies for informing research policy, announced a new position to initiate bibliometric research in our country. I got the position that I have thrived in since.

You invented the so-called "Norwegian Model" for measuring research activity at the level of institutions with a comprehensive and balanced representation of

all fields of research. Now, twenty years later, the model seems to be less used. What has happened?

→ The model is still used for statistics but not any more for institutional funding of research. As we note in the report we recently published with Alex Rushforth and colleagues in thirteen countries¹, the paradigms for research assessment and funding change over time. When I first worked in the field of bibliometrics in the nineties, I faced the paradigm of professional-disciplinary evaluation, which relied on internal disciplinary standards and expertise. We provided bibliometric analysis per discipline.

Then came the paradigm of excellence and competition. Research performance was compared across fields, partly with the aid of bibliometrics. The Norwegian model was introduced at that time as a part of an indicator-based solution to performancebased institutional funding. It did not come from the desk in my office. I developed it in direct interaction with the academic communities as represented by the Norwegian University Association and the government as represented by the Ministry of Education and Research. The aspects you mention, comprehensiveness and balance, were necessary because universities and other research organizations with different purposes and research profiles would be funded by the same mechanism.

The need to respect the diversity of purposes and profiles is more accentuated in the present paradigm of responsible research assessment, which is sceptical towards bibliometric indicators that may negatively affect research cultures. A limi-

- I know from our collaboration that you have combined your engagement with governmental needs for fair and unbiased funding instruments with contributions to the general development of indicators in our field. One of these indicators is Modified Fractional Counting (MFC). Could you please explain what it is and why it matters?
- → The MFC first came about as a further development of the publication indicator in the Norwegian model. The indicator was originally based on the most widespread way to count publications at aggregate levels where publications are credited among collaborating institutions or countries according to the fraction of co-authors they contribute with. After running the model for a few years, we observed that the indicator was biased, not balanced as intended. It rewarded fields of research with few authors per publication more than fields with higher number of authors per publication. I talked about the problem with a friend who is professor of mathematics, and he suggested using the square root of the fraction as a modification. I simulated this solution in our comprehensive national data and found a much better balance. Despite my background in the humanities, I was then able to convince the Ministry and the institutions that we should introduce the square root. One positive side effect was that the indicator was now more difficult to calculate at the individual level - which it was not designed for anyways.

tation of the paradigm so far is that it mainly focuses on individual level recruitment, promotion and funding. We still need to see the forest, not only the trees. In my country and a few others, the Norwegian model prevails mainly by providing statistics. But I think its main strengths – fairness, comprehensiveness, balance, and equal visibility across all fields – remain relevant for discussions of responsible leadership and research assessment.

Rushforth, A., Sivertsen, G, Bin, A., Firth, C., Fraser, C., Gogadze, N., Gras, N., Harris, L., Holm, J., Kolarz, P., Koley, M., Maldonando Soto, J., Nienaltowski, H-M., Rovelli, L., Salles-Filho, S., Sarlo, S., Sarthou, N., Sjostedt, A., Vasen, F., Ward-Boot, N., Wilsdon, J., Wróblewska, M., Xu, F., Zhang, L. (2025). A new typology of national research assessment systems: continuity and change in 13 countries. RoRI Working Paper No. 15, May 2025. DOI 10.6084/m9.figshare.29041787.

As you know, Lin, this practical solution then became a topic of further scientific inquiry in our 'summer in Leuven' research group with Ronald Rousseau. Ronald found that using the square root of the fraction is a special case of introducing k as a sensitivity parameter where the k-th root is equivalent to giving each author of a publication with N authors a credit equal to $1/\sqrt{k}$ N. When k = 1, it represents traditional fractional counting. When k = 2, the square root is used, and with k = 3, the cubic root is used, and so on. Higher values of k come closer to full counting. We could then simulate the wider spectrum of alternatives on complete data representing all areas of research and institutions with different purposes and research profiles. We now found, on a more secure scientific basis, that using k = 2 (the square root) comes closest to balancing between different scholarly publishing cultures.

The scientific discussion of MFC continues. Our publication introducing MFC to our field in Journal of Informetrics in 2019 has recently been debated in the same journal.

- Both of your earliest journal articles in our field are about the understanding and measurement of international collaboration in science. They were published in 1992 and 1993 and are still your most cited. However, we have not seen any further contributions to this topic before recently and now you are suddenly very active. Why the renewed focus?
- → It is because the geopolitical situation is negatively affecting a globalized science with intense collaboration across defence alliances. Security policy is now introduced to public sector research for the first time in history. As I said before, public science needs publish and openly tell what we found and how we got there. This is the opposite of secrecy. The affiliations and references in our bibliograph-

ic data also show how much we depend on each other in all parts of the world.

The present situation differs from the times of the Cold War. Science has grown tremendously and become globally integrated. Fifty years ago, NATO member states dominated public science and only two percent of the articles had co-authors outside of NATO. Now, public science is larger outside of NATO than within and a third of NATO's articles have external co-authors. Our global network activities can no longer be controlled by inspecting passports and letters. We thereby represent risk from the perspective of security policy.

The term research security was first launched for the public research sector by the first Trump-administration in 2021. A clearly deteriorating relationship between USA and China in research and higher education was visible in our bibliometric data already then. So far, other international relations in science seem to be less affected. But the historical change has happened. Control and secrecy now influence open science.

- You are an example of international collaboration with publications in 14 different languages and with co-authors from so far 34 countries. How did this global reach come about?
- → It's part of who I am. I grew up with parents from two different countries who met each other in a third country, and we partly lived in Africa and Asia. I'm always stimulated by international collaboration and being in contact with other cultures and languages. I'm also often asked to provide policy advice or give talks in other countries, which is a pleasure and explains the language diversity in my publications. I often said: I have two ways of going to work, by bicycle and by flights, of which the latter is preferable for inspiration and safety. But not for the climate, which is why I should not have told you now.

2025 EUGENE GARFIELD DOCTORAL DISSERTATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

LIN ZHANG & WOLFGANG GLÄNZEL

In conjunction with its 20th International Conference on Scientometrics and Informetrics (ISSI 2025) to be held on June 23-27, 2025 in Yerevan (Armenia), the International Society for Scientometrics and Informetrics (ISSI) solicited nominations for the Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Scholarship. The purpose of the scholarship is to foster research in informetrics, including bibliometrics, scientometrics, webmetrics, and altmetrics by encouraging and assisting doctoral students in the field with their dissertation research.

We were very pleased to have received nine high-quality nominations from across the globe for this year's award. All nominees submitted their doctoral research proposals, recommendation letters by their PhD supervisors, and CVs. The nominees have produced high quality and visionary work and selecting an award winner among them was not easy. The selection committee conducted a rigorous review and discussion process to evaluate the originality, quality, and relevance of each submission. Results were then compiled, and the committee arrived at a final consensus.

We are happy to announce that Ms. Lili Miao from Indiana University Bloomington in the United States is the winner of the 2025 Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Scholarship. Lili Miao's dissertation titled "Developing National Science: A Systemic Analysis of Global Structures of Funding, Collaboration, and Production" offers a comprehensive framework for understanding how national scientific capacity emerges through the interplay of funding, human capital, institutional infrastructure, and international collaboration. Her work reveals how structural inequalities, global interdependence, and disci-

plinary dynamics shape the opportunities and constraints facing countries — particularly those with limited resources — in building sustainable scientific systems. The committee was especially impressed by the systemic perspective, empirical depth, and policy relevance of her research. In addition, the committee is pleased to recognize two other outstanding nominees with honorable mentions: Mr. Alex Jie Yang from Nanjing University (China) and Ms. Francielle Franco dos Santos from São Paulo State University, Brazil.

As Lili Miao will be unable to attend ISSI2025 in person, a pre-recorded video of her presenting her work will be shown during the Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Scholarship ceremony.

The details about the application process, selection criteria and award are available https://issi2025.iiap.sci.am/special/. The scholarship award consists of a 3,000 USD grant donated by the Eugene Garfield Foundation to support the academic work of the winner.

The committee for the 2025 Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Scholarship consisted of the four members:

- ► Guillaume Cabanac, University of Toulouse & Institut Universitaire de France, France
- ► Nees Jan van Eck, CWTS, Leiden University, the Netherlands
- ► Mike Thelwall, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom
- ► Lin Zhang, Wuhan university, China (ISSI Board member)

We thank all nominees for sharing their inspiring work and congratulate them on the quality and impact of their research. The depth and diversity of this year's submissions reflect the strength and promise of the next generation in our field.



Bio: Lili Miao is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering at Indiana University Bloomington, advised by Prof. Yong-Yeol Ahn and Prof. Cassidy R. Sugimoto. Her research employs computational methods to investigate the interplay between science, innovation, and society, with a particular focus on how nations build scientific capacity amid the forces of globalization and deglobalization. Her work has been published in leading venues such as Nature Human Behaviour and has contributed to the development of the National Network for Critical Technology Assessment—a National Science Foundation-funded initiative aimed at informing U.S. technology policy. She is the recipient of several honors, including the Humane Studies Fellowship from the Institute for Humane Studies and the Excellence in Research Award from the Luddy School at Indiana University.

Developing National Science: A Systemic Analysis of Global Structures of Funding, Collaboration, and Production

Abstract: National scientific development is a foundational driver of economic prosperity, technological innovation, and societal wellbeing. While prior research has examined how geographic, historical, and economic conditions shape overall scientific growth, few studies have adequately captured the profoundly interconnected nature of the global scientific enterprise as well as that of scientific disciplines. To better account for this complexity, I adopt a systemic framework that conceptualizes national scientific development as a dynamic knowledge production system composed of interdependent components: scientific investment, human capital, institutional capacity, and international collaboration. Applying this framework, I reveal how nations' economic conditions interact with their existing research capacity, showing that countries with lower levels of economic development may face enduring structural constraints that hinder the expansion of their scientific capacity. The globalized nature of scientific production introduces further complexity: while international funding can offset domestic shortfalls in low-income countries, it also renders their research efforts vulnerable to external volatility. Moreover, international collaboration, often assumed to be universally beneficial, tends to reinforce existing hierarchical structures, constraining capacity-building and marginalizing contributions from less-developed countries. By focusing on both global interdependence and fine-grained disciplinary interconnections, this dissertation offers a nuanced understanding of how individual factors—and crucially, their interactions—shape national scientific development. These insights may provide evidence-based guidance for science policy and international collaboration, underscoring the need for strategic investment, equitable partnerships, and systemic thinking to support a more inclusive and sustainable global scientific enterprise.

RELEASE OF YOUTUBE VIDEOS THAT EXPLAIN WHY WE FINALLY NEED TO STOP USING THE H-INDEX



SCHOOL of Information Studies,
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Funded by the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the Metrics Literacies project at the Schol-CommLab set out to tackle one of our field's oldest headaches: the misuse and abuse of bibliometric indicators by researchers, administrators, and funders in research assessment. We first reported on the project in ISSI Newsletter #76, reflecting on a workshop held at STI 2023 in Leiden. In a hands-on session, participants created user personas to reflect on their own real-world experiences with indicator misuse. We quickly realized that when it comes to the h-index, everybody had a story to tell.

I'm now happy to share that the Metrics Literacies project has officially wrapped up and released two educational YouTube videos targeted at researchers, research administrators, and funders. Built on a thorough literature review and, let's be honest, many years of lived experience with bibliometric analyses, the videos address the many flaws of the h-index, which to this day remains one of the most widely used indicators – despite its limitations. We still hear that the h-index is used in hiring, promotion, and funding decisions, despite everything that has been written by ISSI community members and other bibliometric experts since physicist Jorge Hirsch first proposed the index back in 2005, now 20 years ago!

The videos were developed by an interdisciplinary and international team of bibliometricians, science communicators, and media producers, working together with film and theatre students from Montreal and Ottawa. Over the five-year project, numerous information science graduate students were involved, and many colleagues

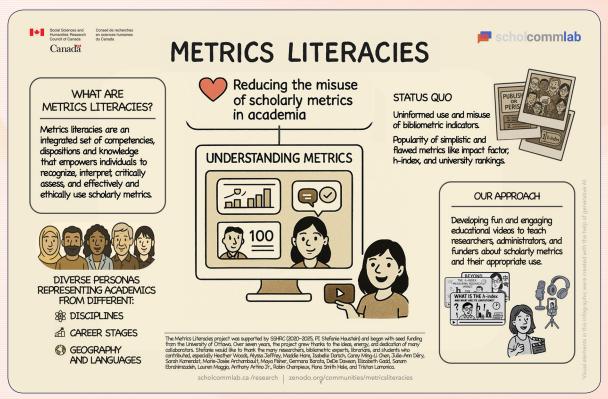


Figure 1. Infographic of the Metrics Literacies project (CC-BY Haustein, 2025).

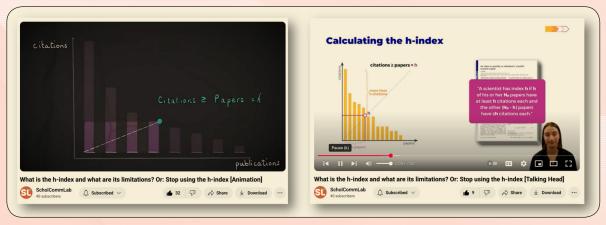


Figure 2. Animation (left) and talking head (right) videos explaining how the h-index is calculated.

provided feedback on the user personas and other educational materials. I would like to thank all for their contributions.

The videos were primarily created to serve as the basis for a randomized controlled trial (RCT), carefully designed to test our hypothesis that video would be a more effective teaching format than traditional scholarly text. Sadly, like many recent survey-based studies, we ran into the problem of post-pandemic survey participation fatigue. Despite our best recruitment efforts, we were not able to gather enough responses from researchers at the University of Ottawa

to achieve statistical significance. However, our non-significant results – and, more importantly, the study design – will still be presented at the STI 2025 conference in Bristol, in the hope that our methodology might be useful to others planning similar studies (or hoping for better response rates). We also presented a poster (Hare et al., 2025) at the *Bibliometrics and Research Impact Conference* in Montreal, Canada this month.

While we may not have hard statistical evidence that the videos outperform text, we can confidently say: they're more fun, far more engaging – and viewers seem to



Figure 3. Animation (left) and talking head (right) videos demonstrating effects of field differences.

agree. In just their first two months online, the two videos have already attracted over 1,500 views on YouTube.

Both videos cover the same core content and address four learning objectives that reflect common issues with the h-index: how it's calculated, why it disadvantages early career researchers, how it ignores differences between disciplines, and how much results can vary depending on which database you use. The first video (Haustein et al., 2025a), an animation, uses storytelling to follow researchers as they wrestle with whether to include the h-index in CVs and award applications. The second video (Haustein et al., 2025b) takes the more familiar talking-head format, with a visible presenter and slides - a format we all know from pandemic teaching and online presentations. To illustrate how both videos cover the same content but in very different formats, Figures 1 and 2 show two examples with identical learning objectives but distinct visual styles.

Both videos spell out how boiling complex research careers down to a single number reinforces existing inequalities, misses important context, and risks steering hiring, promotion, and funding decisions in the wrong direction.

The videos, along with all other project outputs, including teaching resources, briefing notes, design-thinking materials, and detailed RCT methodology, are available on Zenodo: https://zenodo.org/communities/metricsliteracies. Since the videos

are released under a Creative Commons CC-BY license they can be reused, adapted, remixed, and translated for any purposes such as teaching and training. If you would like to translate or remix them, please get in touch and let us know if we can help.

We invite everyone in the ISSI community to watch and share the videos – to perhaps finally remove the h-index from the evaluation toolkit.

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INTRODUCING THE RESEARCH ON RESEARCH IN THE ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES BOOK SERIES



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In this contribution we introduce the new book series *Research on Research in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences* (RoRAHSS – https://www.brepols.net/series/rrahss). The series is published by Brepols Publishers to provide a dedicated long-form outlet for in depth studies of how research works within the arts, humanities, and social sciences (AHSS).

We conceived the series to fill a noticeable gap in publication venues for research on research or science of science. Indeed, handbooks in the field appear mostly as stand alone items or as part of a very broad series of handbooks, e.g. the Spinger *Handbook of Science and Technology Indicators* (Glänzel et al., 2019), the *Handbook Bibliometrics* published with De Gruyter (Ball, 2021), and our

own Handbook on Research Assessment in the Social Sciences published with Edward Elgar (Engels & Kulczycki, 2022). The introductory books Becoming Metric-Wise (Rousseau et al., 2018) and Measuring Research (Sugimoto & Larivière, 2018), as well as the recent volume Challenges in Research Policy (Sivertsen & Langfeldt, 2025) also appeared in broad categories rather then dedicated series. The monograph The Evaluation Game: How publication metrics shape scholarly communication (Kulczycki, 2023) even appeared in a series on general and classical physics.

This brings us to the question which book series publish monographs or edited volumes of scholars in our field. The Springer book series *Qualitative and quantitative analysis of* scientific and scholarly communication (https:// www.springer.com/series/13902) is a good example, dedicated to the study of the impact, evaluation, and organization of STM publishing. The MIT Press series History and foundation of information science (https://mitpress. mit.edu/series/history-and-foundations-of-information-science/) has a somewhat broader scope and gave, among others, fruition to the book Bibliometrics and Research Evaluation: Uses and Abuses (Gingras, 2016). However, scholars who investigate the processes, communication, evaluation, and impact of scholarship in AHSS - as well as those studying science and technology systems more broadly from AHSS perspectives, such as the sociology of science or critical science studies - have long lacked a platform for comprehensive, book-length treatments of these topics.

With the RoRAHSS series we aim to change that by welcoming contributions from a wide range of disciplinary and inter-disciplinary backgrounds. By doing so, we seek to establish the meta-research on AHSS disciplines more prominently as a recognized branch of science studies. The series explicitly positions itself with a global outlook, building on long-standing European and international collaborations in the field.

THE NEED FOR LONG-FORM IN RESEARCH ON RESEARCH

How can a book series like RoRAHSS strengthen the field of science studies? Historically, books have been at the center of the field, especially Derek J de Solla Price and his works *Science since Babylon*, originally published in 1961 (Price, 1978) and *Little Science Big Science*, originally published in 1966 (Price, 1971) spring to mind. To study informetrics, *Introduction to informetrics* (Egghe & Rousseau, 1990) remains a great resource.

Another reason lies in the nature of scholarly communication in AHSS disciplines. Researchers in social sciences and especially humanities often publish their most significant work as monographs or edited volumes,

sometimes in local languages, to reach audiences beyond the global English-speaking academia. In contrast, STEM fields typically rely on frequent journal articles in English for dissemination. These different publication patterns mean that studies of research (and science) must account for the full range of scholarly outputs. Short-form articles alone cannot capture many aspects of AHSS scholarship. In fact, various scientometric studies and community experts have emphasized that books are essential communication media in AHSS and should not be treated as second-tier outputs. Monographs allow for deep, contextualized exploration of questions that would be difficult to fully address in a 8,000-word journal article.

Some research topics are essentially "called to be books" – they do not translate well into shorter formats without losing meaning or becoming superficial. This is especially true when dealing with complex, discipline-specific epistemologies or historical and cultural analyses that require narrative depth. In the field of science of science and metascience, there is growing recognition of these differences. However, until now, there have been few venues to publish long-form works examining how knowledge is produced and evaluated in the arts, humanities and social sciences specifically.

The RoRAHSS series now provides scholars room to develop nuanced arguments, compare disciplines, and investigate methodological details that a standard article format might constrain.

BUILDING ON COMMUNITY MOMENTUM

The launch of RoRAHSS is not happening in isolation – it builds upon a decade of community momentum. Notably, the European Network for Research Evaluation in the Social Sciences and Humanities (ENRESSH) was a COST Action (2016–2020) that brought together over 130 experts from more than 30 countries to study how SSH

research is assessed and to champion better recognition of SSH scholarly practices.

One of the clear messages from initiatives like ENRESSH was the need for infrastructures and forums tailored to the unique characteristics of scholarship in the arts, humanities and social sciences. The RoRAHSS series serves as a tangible legacy of that community's work.

As series editors, we – Tim Engels (University of Antwerp, Belgium) and Emanuel Kulczycki (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland) – were active in these discussions and recognized the absence of publishing options for comprehensive studies in this area. Together with the editorial board, we see the series as a way to strengthen the field of research on research in AHSS by capturing the rich insights that have been emerging in scattered papers, reports, and projects.

EDITORIAL VISION AND BOARD REFLECTIONS

As series editors, we articulate a commitment to rigorous peer review (each volume will be reviewed by specialists, often involving the editorial board) and to maintaining high academic standards on par with Brepols' long-standing reputation. But beyond process, the vision is about content: we encourage works that *push the envelope* in understanding how knowledge is created, legitimized, and used in the humanities and social sciences. In our view, AHSS fields possess distinctive epistemologies and societal roles that deserve dedicated study and reflection.

We feel privileged to be able to draw on the experience of a highly qualified editorial board, consisting of members that have each published one or more books in the field. These internationally recognized experts are Andrea Bonaccorsi (University of Pisa, Italy), Noela Invernizzi (Universidade Federal do Parana, Brazil), Lai Ma (University College Dublin, Ireland), Michael Ochsner (FORS, Switzerland), and Cassidy Sugimoto (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA). Together they bring a

broad range of perspectives and deep experience in the field and will help us ensure the series reflects diversity and scholarly excellence.

DIVERSE APPROACHES AND PERSPECTIVES

A hallmark of the RoRAHSS series is its openness to a wide spectrum of disciplinary and methodological approaches. The scope is deliberately broad: proposals are welcomed from scholars of information science, higher education studies, sociology of science, bibliometrics, science policy, and more – as long as they focus on aspects of arts, humanities, and/or social science research.

Interdisciplinary works are explicitly encouraged, reflecting the fact that understanding research in AHSS often requires crossing boundaries (for example, combining historical analysis with quantitative publication data, or philosophical inquiry with case studies of artistic research practices). Practice-based perspectives – such as those from the creative arts or design research – are also valued.

By being inclusive in format (monographs, edited collections, and potentially other book formats) and in content, RoRAHSS fills a unique niche. It sends a message that research on research in the arts, humanities and social sciences is a diverse and evolving domain, one that benefits from multiple lenses.

FIRST TITLE AND FUTURE PLANS

The first title in the RoRAHSS series has already been accepted, offering a taste of what's to come. Written by Andrea Bonaccorsi, the title is *The Knowledge of Humanities: A Comparative Epistemology of History, Literary Criticism, History of Art and History of Architecture.* This work investigates how four major humanities disciplines conceive knowledge – comparing their epistemic frameworks, methods, and validation processes – and in doing so, lays groundwork for a general theory of knowledge production in the humanities.

Bonaccorsi's choice of topic exemplifies the ambition of the series: tackling deep questions about the nature of scholarship that require both breadth (spanning multiple fields) and depth (philosophical and historical analysis).

Looking ahead, we are actively building a community around RoRAHSS. We will organize a special session at STI-ENID in Bristol, and a first workshop, probably in January 2026, to encourage prospective authors to develop their work into a book format. Talented early-career researchers might for example turn their doctoral dissertation on research systems into a book. In the longer term we also conceive convening topic-focused meetings where scholars can brainstorm and get feedback on book proposals. These efforts aim to demystify the book-writing process for researchers who might otherwise stick to journal articles, and to encourage collaboration that could lead to multi-authored volumes. Such community engagement also ensures that RoRAHSS remains responsive to the needs and interests of the community of scholars that are members of ISSI and beyond. By creating spaces (both virtual and in-person) for discussion, we hope to spark new ideas and facilitate authors in developing longform projects that align with the series' vision.

CONCLUSION

The Research on Research in AHSS series represents an exciting development for those of us interested in the science of science, especially as it applies to the arts, humanities and social sciences. It addresses a clear gap in scholarly publishing by providing a venue for long-form, in-depth explorations of how knowledge is created and assessed in these rich but often undervalued domains. The ISSI community and all scholars of scholarly communication can look forward to the insights that will emerge from this series – and are warmly invited to partake in this growing conversation, whether as readers or as future contributors.

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BRAZILIAN BIBLIOMETRIC COMMUNITY: THE MAIN FORUMS



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After the 1970s, when the Brazilian Institute for Information on Science and Technology (acronym IBICT), that is, the country's oldest graduate school in information science, was founded we have witnessed a bloom of the Brazilian research community on bibliometric¹. During these first years, according to Urbizagástegui Alvarado (1984), the field was responsible for publishing around 80 documents, most of them in the format of thesis with an international mentor. This was the result of an intense collaboration between IBICT and some international bibliometricians that were invited to teach in its newly opened master course (IBICT, 2012).

In the following decades, dozens of bibliometric studies on Brazilian bibliometric research have been published either in Portuguese or in English, including the one signed by Meneghini & Packer (2010). In this study, the authors have identified 197 documents published in the period 1990-2006 in the field of bibliometric which have at least one author affiliated to a Brazilian institution. Using Google Scholar, authors have found less than five documents in 1990 and more than 40 in 2006, in a curve that "shows a trend towards continued and sharp growth" (Meneghini & Packer, 2010 pg. 512). Some years later, Grácio, de Oliveira & Wolfram (2019), using data from Scopus database, found 1.107 articles on "metric studies" published in the period 2011-2016 and with at least one author from a Latin American country, being Brazil responsible

We assume that bibliometric, scientometric and informetric are fields with similar goals and methodologies. Thus, we will use only the term "bibliometric" to refer to the three fields.

Table 1: Main forums of the Brazilian scientific community in bibliometrics

EVENT	FOUNDATION	FREQUENCY	LAST EDITION	
			VENUE	PRESENTATIONS
EBBC	2008	Biannual	University of Brasilia, Brasilia, Brazil	138
GT7	1994	Annual	Federal University of Espírito Santo, Vitória, Brazil	44
Latmétricas	2021	Biannual	Universidad de la Frontera, Temuco, Chile	55

for almost 60% of these articles (n = 649). Authors have also found that most of the articles were published in Latin American journals, but the main nuclear journal was Scientometrics, with 70 articles on "metric studies", an indication of the internationalization of the region's research in this field.

The increasing number of Brazilian studies on bibliometric research can be easily seen. We have searched the bibliometric research² indexed in OpenAlex database (https://openalex.org/) published from 1980 to 2025 with at least one author affiliated to a Brazilian institution. We found 5,259 articles in the field but, until 2010, there was very little production (less than 100 documents per year) while, in recent years, the number of documents on bibliometric research surpassed 500 per year (in 2021 and in 2023).

The large number of annual publications is due to many reasons, including the Brazilian open sources of information that have been extremely useful for bibliometric research developed in the country. The main sources are: (a) Lattes Platform (https://lattes.cnpq.br/), (b) SciELO (https://www.scielo.br/), (c) Brapci - Database in Information Science (https://brapci.inf. br) (d) BDTD - Brazilian Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (https://bdtd. ibict.br/vufind/) and (e) BRCris, the most recently opened source Brazilian Scientific Research Information Ecosystem (https:// brcris.ibict.br/). In addition to the sources, another factor that is most likely positively related to the remarkable increase in Brazilian output in bibliometrics is the number of active researchers in the field, which may sum up 150-200, and from other fields.

The growth and dissemination of bibliometric methods and indicators among Brazilian researchers arises with some concerns, which were explored in a previous ISSI newsletter by Leta (2012) and included: (a) the loss of bibliometric's identity, (b) the domination of the interests from national science policy bodies in scientometric analysis and (c) the growth of superficial analyzes and misunderstandings about databases and scientific indicators. After more than 10 years, it is possible to state that, at least partially, these concerns have been overcome, as the Brazilian scientific community in bibliometrics has created forums and spaces for discussion and dissemination of bibliometric knowledge, thus recovering its identity and centrality in the field.

We highlight three bibliometric main spaces in the region: the Brazilian Meeting on Bibliometrics and Scientometrics (EBBC, acronym in Portuguese), the Working Group named Production and Communication of Information in Science, Technology and Innovation (short name in Portuguese GT 7) within the Brazilian Meeting on Research in Information Science (ENANCIB, the acronym in Portuguese) and the Latmétricas. Table 1 summarizes some aspects of the three spaces.

As for the EBBC, its first edition occurred in the city of Rio de Janeiro in 2008, with Dr. Jacqueline Leta as the main organizer. In reality, the rst EBBC aimed to put together Brazilian specialists on bibliometric well science managers (a total of 60 participants) and motivate them to the ISSI International Conference that happened in 2009 in the same venue. As a result of this first meeting,

Strategy search: Scholarly works (10,632) = Title & Abstract: bibliometric OR infometric OR "scientific production" OR "Scientific research output" plus Country: Brazil plus Type: articles.

the Brazilian specialists established a national agenda for EBBC, a biennial meeting with a program structure similar to the ISSI International Conference, including international keynotes, round-tables, oral presentation sessions and workshops.

The 2nd EBBC was organized by Dr. Maria Cristina Hayashi, professor at the Federal University of São Carlos (located almost 250 Km far from São Paulo), in 2010 and 180 participants could attend its different activities. In 2012, the 3rd EBBC had Dr. Ida Stumpf, professor at Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, as the main organizer. The venue of the meeting was in a charming city named Gramado (almost 100 Km far from Porto Alegre, where the main university campus is located; Brazilian south region) and counted 170 participants. The 4th EBBC was organized by Dr. Raimundo Nonato Macedo dos Santos, professor at Federal University of Pernambuco, in the state capital Recife, in the Brazilian northeast region. The distance from the main Brazilian cities has led to a reduction in the number of attendees, which summed 121 in 2014.

In 2016, the venue of 5th EBBC was the University of São Paulo, the Brazilian most prestigious university in the public sector. Dr. Rogerio Mugnaini was the organizer and there were 161 participants. In 2018, the meeting venue had to be changed and it took place again in the city of Rio de Janeiro, but at that time on the campus of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. The 6th EBBC had 200 attendees and Dr. Jacqueline Leta was (again) the organizer.

Two years later, just in the middle of covid-19 pandemic, the 7th EBBC was organized by Dr. Raymundo das Neves Machado, professor at the Federal University of Bahia in the on-line format. And, despite the context of health calamity, this event had 1,019 participants, the largest audience at EBBC. With the end of the pandemic, the 8th EBBC returned to the in-person format, having been held at the Federal University of Alagoas, in the city of Maceió, another capital in the Brazilian northeast region.

The organizer was Dr. Ronaldo Araújo and the meeting had 137 participants, a smaller number than previous meetings, probably a result of a delayed effect of the pandemic as well as the venue location that is far from the main Brazilian capitals.

Finally, in 2024, the 9th EBBC, the last edition of the meeting, took place at the University of Brasilia (UnB), located in the Brazilian central-west region, in the heart of the country. The meeting, which was attended by 235 participants, was organized by Dr. João Maricato, professor at UnB, and by IBICT, which is headquartered in the city of Brasília. One of the results of this partnership was the creation of an on-line platform with full access to the papers presented in all EBBC editions, which, from now on, will be the official platform for the event. This initiative increases the visibility of the majority of bibliometric research developed in the country, strengthening and consolidating the research groups and all the community of Brazilian researchers in this field. The platform is available at https://ebbc.inf. br/ojs/index.php/ebbc/issue/archive.

As for GT 7, it is important to mention that it is a working group within the EN-ANCIB, a national event that takes place annually and is coordinated by Brazilian graduate programs in information science, under the auspices of the National Association for Research in Information Science (ANCIB, the acronym in Portuguese). Each year, a graduate program leads the local organization of the event, which has 12 working groups. The last two editions were organized at the Federal University of Sergipe (2023) and the Federal University of Espírito Santo (2024) and the set of presentations in all working groups summed 419 and 478, respectively. In these two editions, GT 7 was led by two professors, Dr. Kizi Mendonça de Araújo and Dr. Ronaldo Araújo, and had 38 and 44 presentations, respectively. That is, around 10% of all ENANCIB oral presentations are directed to GT 07, which indicates that bibliometrics is still strong and active within information science research.

The third space, the Latmétricas, is a biannual meeting of researchers from various disciplines who conduct qualitative and quantitative studies on science and technology metrics. The origins of Latmétricas can be traced back to 2019, when the first edition of two independent events happened: the LATmetrics, in the city of Niterói, Brazil; and the Latin American Symposium on Metric Studies in Science and Technology (acronym LASMSST) was held at Mexico National University, in Mexico City. For 2021, instead of organizing LATmetrics and LASMSST second editions, the organizers of both events agreed to hold a joint meeting. Hence, the first Latmétricas, initially planned to take place in-person at the Antioquía University, Medellín, Colombia, was held virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021. Organized by Dr. Gabriel Vélez Cuartas, the programme of LATmétricas first edition included working groups, conferences and workshops on topics such as science evaluation, open access and science communication. The second edition, chaired by Dr. Ronald Cancino Salas, took place inperson at the de la Frontera University, in Temuco, Chile and resulted in the publication of the 'Manifesto for Socio-Territorial Science, Technology and Innovation Metrics (CANCINO, 2024). The third edition is being organized by Dr. Eduardo Robles Belmont, professor at the Mexico National University, in Mexico City, where the meeting will be held in November 2022.

The creation and continuity of these three events, that are forums and discussion spaces for bibliometric research in Brazil, allow both gathering Brazilian and foreigner experts and students (potential experts) and strengthening the whole community towards a more unified group. Each event, with its peculiarities in terms of themes and audience, acts as a kind of complement to its "sister events", since one may provide an environment of a more critical context to metric studies (including the sociopolitical, ethical and commu-

nicational dimensions of science, technology and innovation metrics), while another event may be more concerned with awakening the relevance of reliable and accurate data in metric studies or with emphasizing values such as diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, which are vital discussions on open science, responsible metrics, and scientific integrity. The diversity among the three events enriches the metric-based analyses and helps to reveal, in a more responsible and reliable way, different aspects of Brazilian and regional scientific output. The challenge, therefore, is to encourage a greater participation of bibliometricians in these events and, thus, ensure more identity for the field.

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