

Humanities in a competitive Academic World
Les sciences humaines dans un monde académique en
concurrence

François de Callataÿ (Académie royale de Belgique), ***Les sciences humaines dans un monde académique en concurrence : une esquisse de cadre général***

Résumé : Les sciences humaines sont régulièrement désignées comme ayant développé des pratiques de recherche et de publication moins professionnelles que celles qui prévalent ailleurs (sciences de l'ingénieur, de la nature, du vivant mais aussi sciences sociales le plus souvent). On indique d'abord à grands traits le cadre actuel de la recherche en sciences humaines (financement et bibliométrie, cette dernière à l'aide d'un cas exemplaire : les publications en numismatique). On s'interroge ensuite sur la validité de ces critiques en essayant de faire le tri entre ce qui est pertinent et ce qui ne l'est pas. On esquisse enfin une réflexion sur la nécessité grandissante de financer une recherche de qualité en sciences humaines.

Axel Cleeremans (Académie royale de Belgique) ***How the corporatization of the university leads to culture crash***

Abstract: Fraud and questionable research practices are on the rise in academia, and so is scientific integrity in general. At the same time, universities are increasingly run like businesses, with oversize management salaries, increasing tuition, a progressive withdrawal of the public sector, an increasing proportion of the faculty hired on temporary contracts, and funding that depends on achieving specific and quantified "knowledge production" in the form of research contributions. These new developments foster an ultra-competitive culture in which the main goal of scientific research — to seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge — is no longer possible. Instead, ultra-competition promotes secrecy, data hacking, and, ultimately, fraudulent practices, the cost of which probably far exceeds that incurred by the freeloaders it was meant to root out. Knowledge simply cannot be taken to be a product like any other.

Manuel Durand-Barthez (Unités Régionales de Formation à l'Information Scientifique et Technique, Paris), *Bibliométrie en SHS : questions de logique et d'éthique*

Résumé: Fruit défendu ou empoisonné, l'aura dérangeante de la bibliométrie dans la communauté SHS rend son inadéquation de plus en plus inéluctable en Sciences humaines et sociales. Emblématiques, les actions menées par les chercheurs et les institutions SHS en France depuis 2004 illustrent la nécessité de substituer le concept de caractérisation à celui de métrique.

Gunnar Sivertsen (Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education, Oslo, Norway): *The Scholarly Publishing Practices of the Humanities and their Representation in Performance Indicators*

Abstract: For good reasons, the humanities practice a more heterogeneous pattern of scholarly publishing than can be seen in other areas of research. Books, articles in books, and articles in journals and series are all needed because they represent supplementing research methodologies. The humanistic tradition for international scholarly publishing is several centuries old, but today, the humanities would lose their societal relevance and impact, as well as core philological standards, if English became the only language in scholarly publications. Although the situation is improving, the coverage of the humanities is still very limited in the commercial data sources that are often used for performance indicators, *Scopus* and *Web of Science*. I will demonstrate the limitations with a focus on the types and magnitudes of the scholarly literatures that are not yet covered. I will also discuss the development of more comprehensive data sources and more proper indicators that might improve the visibility and competitiveness of the humanities.