

Jozsef Kovacs: Authorship, performance assessment and publication ethics

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The assessment of one's research output is currently based on the quantity and quality of one's publications. Because publications are produced by authors, authorship is a key concept in performance assessment. In spite of its importance, explicit criteria of authorship have been formulated only relatively recently and little attention is paid, whether these criteria are obeyed by authors or not. The lecture tries to analyse the consequences of this low awareness of authorship problems to performance assessment and claims that it leads to the serious distortion of the widely used scientometric methods. It invokes the conceptual framework of Pierre Bourdieu's sociology, which shows that domination is carried out in most spheres of life partly with symbolic means, and the vague concept of authorship helps various forms of domination in academic life.