

How to identify peer-reviewed publications? Open identity labels in scholarly books publishing

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The story behind our research question

Translated title:
*Two aspects
of communication.
Foundations
of Communication
History*



ABSTRACT. Kulczycki Emanuel, *Dwa aspekty komunikacji. Założenia komunikologii historycznej* [Two aspects of communication. Foundations of Communication history]. Poznań 2015. Adam Mickiewicz University Press. Seria Filozofia i Logika nr 119. Pp. 283. ISBN 978-83-232-2924-7. ISSN 0083-4246. Text in Polish with a summary in English.

In this book, I demonstrate the conditions under which we can examine the past communication phenomena. Therefore, it consists of considerations within the scope of the methodology of humanities and philosophy of communication. This means that the subject of my research is both communication itself as well as how it is analyzed. I write about two aspects of "the same" communication, i.e., about the media and about our collective representations. So, I describe how it is possible to write the history of ways of thinking about communication. My analysis results in a catalogue of assumptions, i.e. philosophical conditions for communication history.

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

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

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Finland



Flanders

Three main attributes of these formalized labels:

- (1) a label is an evidence that peer-review was conducted,
- (2) a peer-review process was controlled by a publisher,
- (3) a publisher archived all documents and reviews.

Moreover, these labels are used as a **delineation criterion** („was this book peer-reviewed or not?”) in the research evaluation system.

Our main research question

Can the open identity label (i.e. disclosing reviewers' names) used for scholarly book publications be understood as a form of the peer-review label and used as a delineation criterion?



Open identity label
Poland

social practice



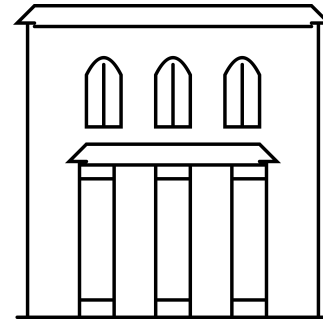
Peer-review label
Finland and Belgium

formal procedures



What method we have
used to address our
research question

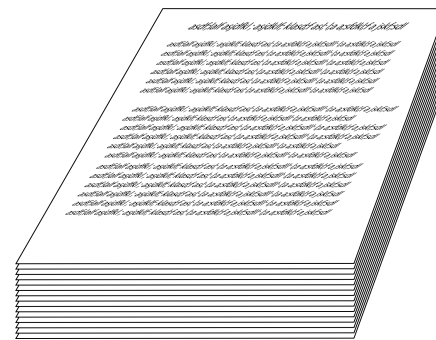
Firstly, we interviewed publishers and asked them how they conduct peer review



Publishers

15 university publishers
5 commercial publishers

Secondly, we have randomly chosen single-authored monographs published by these publishers



Monographs

Fourthly, we sent survey to the reviewers of these monographs and asked them about the peer-review.



Authors

Thirdly, we sent a survey to the monograph authors and asked them about the peer-review



Reviewers

**Finally, we have integrated
the qualitative and quantitative data to address
our research question.**

Data sources

Source:

National Library
in Poland

To secure the anonymity, we selected
20 of 40 the biggest* publishers
*at least 330 scholarly books per 4-year period

Semi-structured
interviews

Source:

Polish research
evaluation system

600 single-authored monographs
published in the 2013–2016 period

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

Anonymous
online survey

600 authors

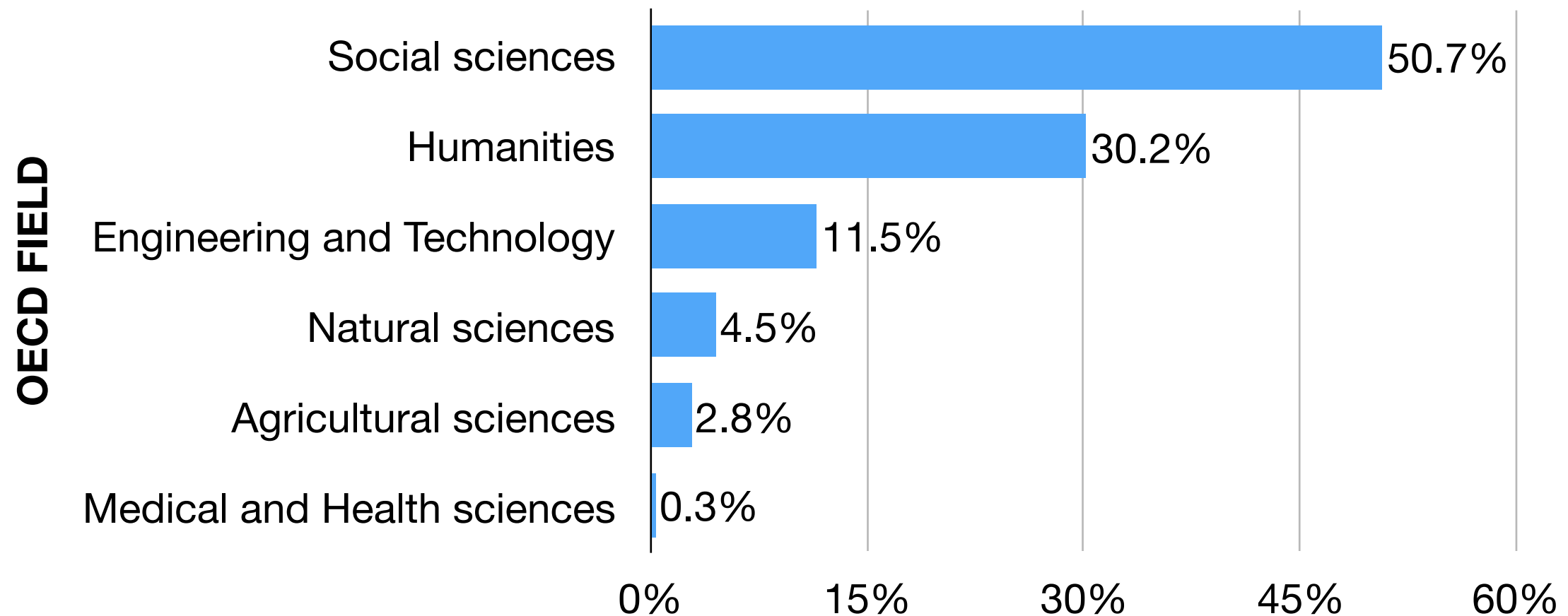
882 reviewers

Anonymous
online survey

Source:

Editorial pages of monographs

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



94% of monographs were written in Polish

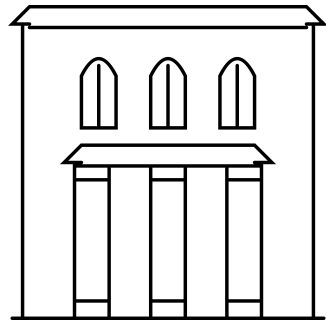
Results

Interviews

Surveys

The profile of Polish academic publishers

The results from interviews



- ▶ University publishers publish the authors mainly from (“their”) universities.
- ▶ 2/3 of publishers provide the evaluation criteria for reviewers.
- ▶ All publishers send the reviews to the authors.
- ▶ 3/4 of publishers expect a written answer from authors.
- ▶ The main aim of presenting reviewers’ names is to confirm that monographs were peer-reviewed.

Authors

33% of authors completed the questionnaire

- ▶ The authors confirm that the peer-review was conducted.
- ▶ The authors confirm that they received reviews which were reliable.
- ▶ 3/4 of the authors had to change a manuscript after the peer-review but only 1/3 of them had to prepare the answers to the reviewers.



Reviewers

28% of reviewers completed the questionnaire

- ▶ The reviewers confirm that they were competent to review this specific book.
- ▶ The majority of publishers do not ask reviewers (who accepted manuscripts for a publication) for permissions to disclose their names.
- ▶ The publishers very often do not specify any criteria for review.
- ▶ A half of the reviewers did not receive a response to their reviews.



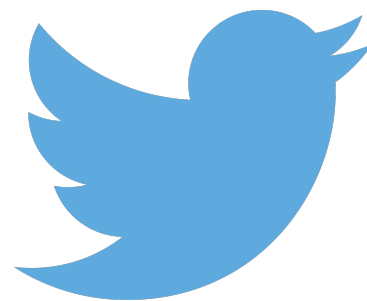
Conclusions

- ▶ Disclosing reviewers' names is a part of the actual peer-review procedure of scholarly books.
- ▶ Publishers' claims have been confirmed both by authors and by reviewers.
- ▶ An [open identity label](#) can be used as a criterion for delineating peer-reviewed scholarly publications.
- ▶ An [open identity label](#) is a type of the peer-review label similar to the Finnish and Flemish instruments.
- ▶ Labels should be used not as the only one but rather as one of many indicators in book evaluation systems.

Thank you

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