

Does Conflict of Interest Distort Global University Rankings?

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00:15:51 MOUSUMI MUKHERJEE: Good evening Igor & Simon from India!

00:16:20 Ruwayshid Alruwaili: Good evening to everyone from Saudi Arabia

00:16:54 Igor Chirikov: Hi everyone! <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/8hk672nh>

00:17:07 mutia Alnimrat: Good evening from Jordan

00:25:50 julien jacqmin: Hi. Although I'm belgian. But let's say french is a good approximation :-)

00:26:48 MOUSUMI MUKHERJEE: Hi Julien, could you please share the link to your article?

00:27:44 julien jacqmin:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09645292.2021.1918642>

00:28:13 MOUSUMI MUKHERJEE: Thank you Julien!

00:28:40 julien jacqmin: for a free post print:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/351110733_Do_ads_influence_rankings_Evidence_from_the_higher_education_sector?sg=QoQsYHANS4ts2CZgS35DplfRfVrrFdny8bRktNpcLyZXY5W4Ka8VksEXj0f3gHL7Axo8Ogtwzkj4LGCR5DdEGF5gymitjjO4uukGvEsm.TsBdDp8eQRxORoX3zoB3Opr8szOBV52Xa0Nk31JR7jkhulGdhKK-7wSy5a8z8giueeQpSRDpznzOePOxgYz7HCA

00:30:12 MOUSUMI MUKHERJEE: Thanks a lot for sharing free researchgate link

00:39:53 Simon Marginson: It is time now to start thinking about your questions and statements for the webinar. Post your thoughts in the Chat!

00:41:54 Simon Marginson: Thousands of people follow the results of this ranking. It shapes their lives. Do you think that conflict of interest, and inflated data, are a problem?

00:42:19 Ruwayshid Alruwaili: My first question is this is a correlation effect does it imply a causal occurrence ?? 2- Is it possible that these universities "really" benefitted from consultancy discussions and "improved?"

00:43:03 Simon Marginson: We know that rankings have a major impact in decisions about international education and feed into university selection of faculty, and even criteria for determining skilled migrants

00:43:10 MOUSUMI MUKHERJEE: Why do you think that there isn't much difference w.r.to THE compared to QS?

00:43:57 Miguel Antonio Lim: Thank you - fascinating work Igor! Could you speak a bit more about what are the other possible indicators where QS/any ranker has the ability to be sympathetic to a differences in reporting? Is the change in faculty-student ratios a 'robust' result? Thanks.

00:44:55 Soyoung Lee: What a striking findings! Thanks for your presentation. What impact would you like for your research to have on students in higher education? And how much would this finding from Russian institutions manifest other countries' cases?

00:45:25 MOUSUMI MUKHERJEE: do you have plans to look at other metrics in addition to faculty-student ratio?

00:45:51 Johnny Rich: Would you say the bias exhibited is undeliberate (badly designed systems) or an instance of corruption (immoral and/or illegal activity)?

00:46:24 David Law: You have referenced QS and THE. The third major agency that many people (including scholarship bodies in several countries) pay attention to is ARWU (Shanghai Consultancy). Do you have any comments about ARWU please?

00:46:28 Yusuf Ikbal Oldac: Did you have a chance to look at other rankings in your research? Can we say that some are more objective than others. Or could it be that the others might have different "soft spots"?

00:46:36 philip altbach: How should rankings be used? If at all?

00:47:06 Eva Hildebrandt: Thank you so much for this inspiring presentation.

Universities usually have to decide between a high score in the faculty-student Ratio or a good score in the faculty-citation rate since both scores are weighed against the number of academic staff.

Did you observe how the citation score of the Russian universities developed that you included in your studies? Did it stay the same? Went down/up?

00:49:44 Akiyoshi Yonezawa: I echo Eva's point. Is it true that a university tends to report same faculty and student numbers both to QS and THE?

00:49:48 Rosemary Deem: I suspect there is a continuum of the ways that universities use to influence rankings from buying the rankers' other services to spending time understanding how the rankings work (former more common for QS, latter for THE), so everyone is trying to manipulate the outcomes, in search of talented students and academics. It's not so easy to see how we can wean universities off their enthusiasm for rankings

00:55:55 Julien Jacqmin: More a comment than a question: the key issue is that QS is judge and party as in the Enron scandal. Back then, audit and strategy were done by the same firm. Since then, legislations across the world have created a barrier between the two (the two activities are even split completely in the US and the UK). The problem is that QS is active on a world scale and there is no global governance body for the higher education sector to set up rules...

00:57:14 Barni Homden: Thank you for this great session :)

01:03:59 Judith Eaton: Why do we think that rankings measure quality?

01:05:52 Rosemary Deem: Multi rank (EU) ?

01:06:26 CGHE Webinars: Thank you for joining us today. A recording of this session will be on the CGHE site tomorrow morning: <https://www.researchcghe.org/events/cghe-seminar/does-conflict-of-interest-distort-global-university-rankings/>

01:06:48 Miguel Antonio Lim: Thank you for all the comments. (Not always comfortable with the spirit of constant self promotion but because this may be relevant). I've written a piece coming out soon in Ellen Hazelkorn's Research Handbook on University Rankings. This shows the different business lines of the THE and, in a way, shows that the same organisation provides data analysis and also branding and consulting services. They have emphasised that there are walls that separate the editorial content of THE and the business/consulting side. But just to be clear that the whole organisation has the same owner and has a 'related' (my argument) business model.
[https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/en/publications/the-business-of-university-rankings\(69d5e9df-6230-41de-b8db-71a5c7c3ac5d\).html](https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/en/publications/the-business-of-university-rankings(69d5e9df-6230-41de-b8db-71a5c7c3ac5d).html)

01:07:13 CGHE Webinars: Our next webinar, 'The Girton/Newnham Debate: Two Ideas of Equality in 19th Century Women's Higher Education', will be on Tuesday. You can register here: <https://www.researchcghe.org/events/cghe-seminar/the-girtonnewnham-debate-two-ideas-of-equality-in-19th-century-womens-higher-education/>

01:07:26 Miguel Antonio Lim: Lim MA (2021, in press) The Business of University Rankings the Case of the Times Higher Education in Hazelkorn E (2021)

01:07:50 Miguel Antonio Lim: Thanks again, Igor

01:08:29 Parth Sarwate: This is a fantastic talk that are raising many key issues. Thank you. And, wonderful to get many of the key thinkers and researchers to participate. Shows how important this issue is. Thanks a lot, Igor and Julien for your papers.

01:15:08 MOUSUMI MUKHERJEE: Thank you CGHE, Simon and Igor for presenting a provocative paper and steering this discussion. I will need to take leave now.

01:16:12 Jelena Brankovic: Thanks, Igor, for the great talk (and for the study)!

01:16:57 Johnny Rich: I did something similar publishing a ranking on April 1st in the UK in 2009(?) using criteria like ease of entry requirements, average student debt, drop out rates.

price of beer in the student bar, cost of accommodation and various other things. Unsurprisingly, it bore little resemblance to other rankings.

01:17:09 Adesanya M. Alabi: Thank you so much, Ignor

01:18:16 John W: Thanks, CGHE, Simon , Igor, for the great talk

01:18:52 David Law: What about researching the QS stars system wrt to change in the rankings over time?

01:19:17 Soyoung Lee: Amazing talk!

01:19:19 Maria Antonieta Vega Castillo: Thank you very much, brilliant

01:19:24 Johnny Rich: Thanks so much for doing such excellent and worthwhile work.

01:20:21 Parth Sarwate: Really enjoyed the talk. Thank you.

01:20:49 Eva Hildebrandt: Thank you Igor, greetings from Munich!

01:21:01 Julien Jacqmin: Thanks very much Igor!