

Google translated blog post of 17 July 2020 by

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<https://jaroslawpluciennik.com/2020/07/17/szkielko-i-oko/>

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Measures, numbers, parameters in science are important, but not the most important. This is even more evident in a world of crises. Pandemic and the quality and reliability of research and open access are important topics.

Yesterday, on July 16, 2020, a very important work was published on the evaluation of the work of scientists "Principles of the evaluation of Hong Kong scientists: supporting the integrity of research". Lead author is David Moher, an Irish epidemiologist and researcher at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI), where he is also director of the Center for Journalology and Canada's EQUATOR Center. He is also an associate professor and head of university research at the University of Ottawa. He is quoted extremely frequently.

← **David Moher**
1,354 Tweets



⋮ 🔔 **Following**

David Moher
@dmoher
Journalology
📍 Ottawa, Canada 📅 Joined February 2009
618 Following **2,027** Followers
👤 Followed by Open Science MOOC, Chris Chambers, and Open Science

Twitter account by David Moher, author of this article

[Moher, David, Lex Bouter, Sabine Kleinert, Paul Glasziou, Mai Har Sham, Virginia Barbour, Anne-Marie Coriat, Nicole Foeger, and Ulrich Dirnagl. The Hong Kong Principles for Assessing Researchers: Fostering Research Integrity. PLOS Biology 18, No.7 \(Jul 16, 2020\): e3000737.](#)

The published rules for the evaluation of scientists are also important for Poland, inter alia, because not only in Poland there is a dominant view that the most important are evaluation parameters such as citation and presence in highly scored journals. And equally important is scientific integrity, measured precisely by these principles, the formulation of which took several years for David Moher's team. But these rules are crowned with the long process of opening up science, which was initially the domain of fascinatees, but now, in the light of the rules adopted by the overwhelming number of funders, it applies to every scientist and is not just a matter of an additional hobby of sharing one's own achievements for free with the whole world. The Hong Kong Principles have evolved from drafts distributed to 700 participants at WCRI (6th World Conference on Research Integrity). The later version, sent after the conference

in June 2019, attracted the attention of over 100 people. The conference was organized by CODE (Code of Conduct for Editors), an association founded by Mike Farthing (Gut), Richard Smith (BMJ) and Richard Hortoan (The Lancet) in April 1997.

Indicators of responsible research practices

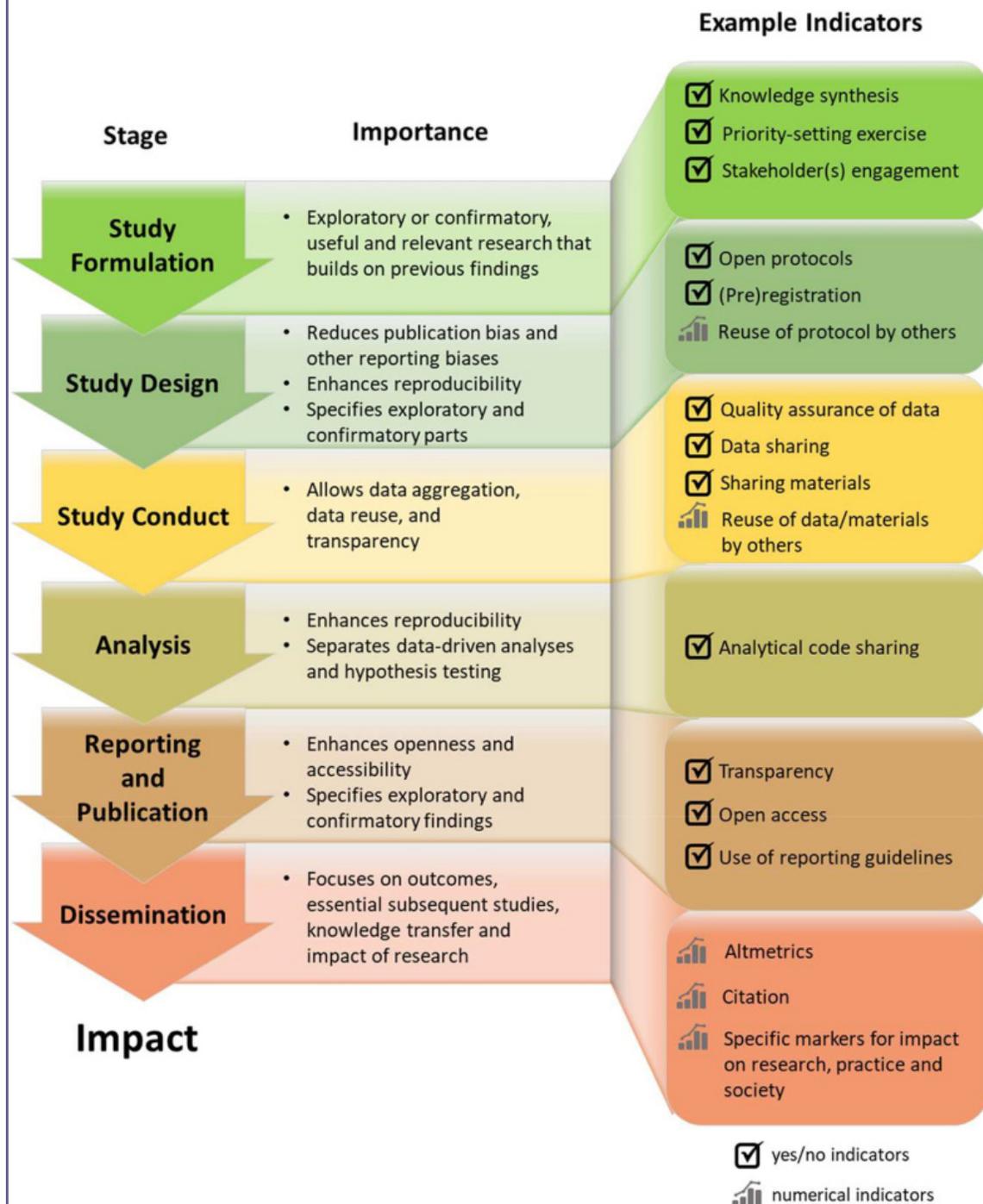


Table with indicators of responsible research practices from the quoted article by Moher's team

It is against this background that one needs to look at the commitment to open access of publications and research materials, which is visible in the Hong Kong Principles adopted at the conference, which can be approved and implemented in all institutions, regardless of their financial condition. This applies to funders, editors and publishers of books and periodicals, and universities around the world.

As Jim McCluskey writes on July 17, 2020 : "Haydn wrote 107 symphonies and Beethoven wrote only nine - although most of us can hum at least one of Beethoven's songs, few can recall any of Haydn's songs. This is basically the problem with using numbers to measure the unique value of something as complex as what emerges from the human imagination. "

Hence the support for initiatives such as the 2012 DORA San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment.

The rules published by Moher's team (there are five) highlight factors that are too often overlooked in the evaluation of the work of scientists based on measures and parameters such as scored publications, citation indexes or the amount of research grants. Mohair states that "quantitative criteria are easy to measure, do not give the full picture of the rigor of scientists' work or their contribution to research and society."

Principle 1: Assess researchers for responsible practice from concept to completion, including research idea development, research design, methodology, execution, and effective dissemination.

Rule 2: Value accurate and transparent reporting of all studies, regardless of their results.

Rule 3: Value open science practices (open research) - such as open methods, materials and data.

Rule 4: Appreciate a wide range of research and fellowships such as replication, innovation, translation, synthesis, and meta-data.

Principle 5: Appreciate a range of other contributions to responsible research and research, such as peer review of grants and publications, mentoring, support and knowledge sharing

The Hong Kong principles emphasize the value of open access - to methods, materials and data, as well as publication - and various forms of research, including replication, innovation, translation, synthesis and metadata. They also emphasize the importance of peer review, mentoring, assistance and knowledge sharing.

In this context, the question of what research data is for the humanities is a big challenge for me. It seems to me that a broad discussion is needed on this. As a scientist who has recently also dealt with qualitative research, I cannot help but notice that reliability in this respect would require, for example, Bronisław Malinowski to publish his "Argonauts", but it would not be enough to include wonderful field photos of Malinowski surrounded by the natives, it would also be necessary to publish his hidden for a long time journal ... This is a real challenge. And the question is whether our institutional repositories are really ready to receive this mass of data in the form of notes, photos, videos, sounds ...



Photograph of Bronislaw Malinowski surrounded by natives, an example of combining in scientific activity the publication of not only research results, but

also photographic documentation of research in the field (photo on the rights of CC, wikipedia. Picture of Bronislaw Malinowski with natives on Trobriand Islands. Between 10.1917 and 10.1918. Source London School of Economics Library Collections. Author unknown, probably Billy Hancock, pearl fisherman on Triobrianda islands)

Just today also prof. Monika published an appeal on Facebook to young scientists not to trust too much quantitative measures.

She wrote:

“Some Polish scientists, especially young ones, expect that parameterization will in some way objectify work at the university, that their effort will be noticed and appreciated thanks to the existence of objective measures. Soon they will learn that these hopes are extremely vain. Perhaps they are finding out about it right now.

The parameters were created for management (and administration). It is not surprising that management boards use them for their own purposes, in their own way. Therefore, it is normal practice to "drain points" - a scientist with a large number of points is hired, entered in the appropriate lists, and then the employee becomes marginalized, discouraged or even mobbed (so that he does not gain too much environmental power and threaten their position). It should be added that management boards do not lose anything in this way, because publications almost always come in waves, that is, for "points" obtained in one year you work for about 5 years (or more, if qualitative research). The phases are more or less like research (when writing less), writing, rewriting, posting, rejecting, changing, finally accepting. So, such an interception of an employee, consuming him or her and expulsion costs the employer nothing, it is pure profit for the management board (after five years they will no longer be at the university - academic managers with the "greatest successes" make sure that they move after a maximum of 5 years further). (there is one proven method of self-defense for the publication phases - phase-shift co-authorship, but in Poland the system strongly discourages it). Polish academy boards know all this as well as boards from other countries. Yes, we have authorities at many universities interested in building the environment rather than "achieving success" - and I predict that at the end of the calendar year we will be able to see very clearly which are the rectors, deans, institute directors. If we keep our minds present, we should use this knowledge immediately to strengthen the legitimacy of these people / colleges. And reducing the legitimacy of the others. We still have this opportunity and we should spend the next six months gaining more knowledge about it.

For those frightened by this news, I offer good advice - be sure to learn management and you will know such things before they destroy your CV, health and self-esteem!

And yes, there are better management methods, more suited to the organizational form of the university. It is imperative that we learn management. "

The Hong Kong Principles can be signed by individual researchers and institutions: <https://wcrif.org/guidance/hong-kong-principles>

I signed the declaration as the 112th person [HERE](#)