

# Publishing & Research Assessment: Research Policy Change

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TAM, Baku Higher Oil School  
Baku, April 25 to 26, 2024

- ❑ What has become the only reality in research assessment?
- ❑ Do we really need a change?
- ❑ What is offered as an option?
- ❑ Will the new way of doing research assessment be the optimal solution?

The features of present research assessment include:

**Emphasis on impact:**

(impact of research, both in terms of academic impact and broader societal impact)

**Use of metrics:**

(use of quantitative metrics, such as citation counts and h-indices)

**3.Open Science:**

(to make research data and results open and accessible to promote transparency and reproducibility)

Also:

**1. Collaboration:**

(greater emphasis on evaluating team science and interdisciplinary research)

**2. Altmetrics:**

(alternative metrics (altmetrics) to assess the impact of research, e.g. social media mentions and downloads)

**3. Peer review:**

(a key component of research assessment)

**4. Recognition of diverse outputs:**

(importance of diverse research outputs, such as software, datasets, and patents)

**5. Research integrity**

## What do researchers face?

Pressure not only to publish, but publish fast

Publish more and more

Chase the topics that are publishable

Avoid risk taking

Increases stress significantly

### How the publishing is affected?

- Increased number of journals
- More and more open science publishing
- Increase the cost for publishing
- Tremendous increase of published papers
- Even respected publishers are starting 'softening' criteria
- Increase of predatory journals
- Chasing researchers to publish

Pressure for impact of research

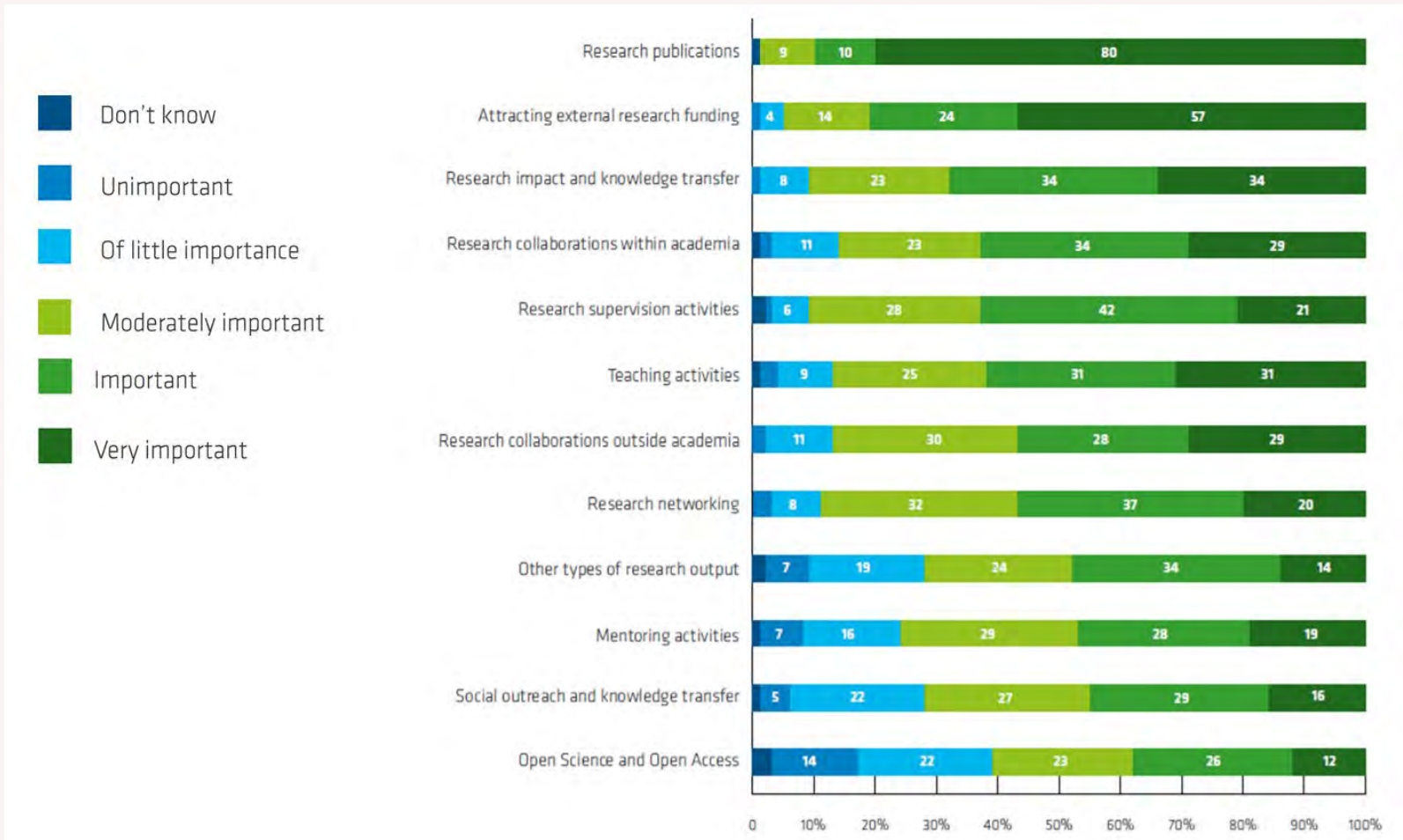
But is there (enough) interest  
what is the impact of publishing pressure  
on mental health of researchers?

# Publish or Perish

## Do we need a change?

### Research Assessment in the Transition to Open Science

2019 EUA Open Science and Access Survey Results



<https://eua.eu/resources/publications/888:research-assessment-in-the-transition-to-open-science.html>



# Do we need a change?

## Mid-career malcontentment

CAREER FEATURE | 31 May 2022

### Has the 'great resignation' hit academia?

A wave of departures, many of them by mid-career scientists, calls attention to widespread discontent in universities.

[Virginia Gewin](#)



Find a new job



Many mid-career scientists are leaving academia for greener pastures in industry. Credit: Adapted from Getty

### Nature's 2021 survey

Dissatisfaction with **current position**:

32% of early-career researchers

**37% of mid-career researchers**

32% of early-career researchers

Dissatisfaction with **opportunities for career advancement**:

17% of early-career researchers

**24% of mid-career researchers**

19% of early-career researchers

Dissatisfaction with **amount of time available for research**.

21% of early-career researchers

**34% of mid-career researchers**

28% of early-career researchers

Dissatisfaction with **organizational politics and bureaucracy**

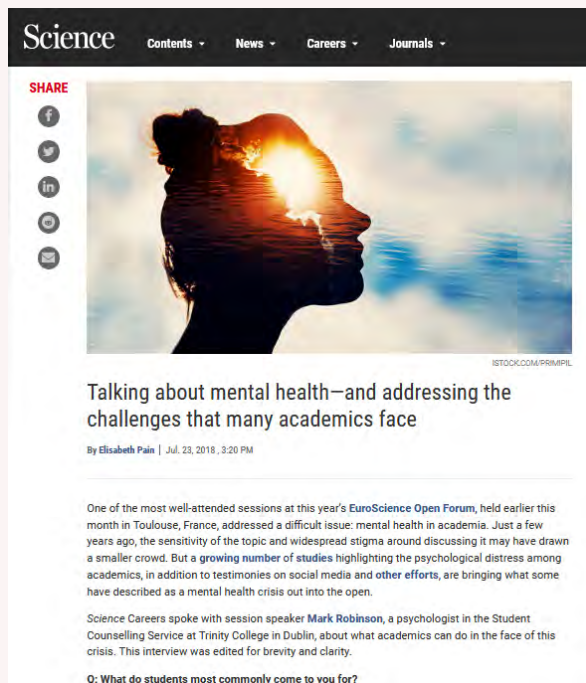
32% of early-career researchers

**41% of mid-career researchers**

# What is offered as an option?


## Raising Awareness

### Session at EuroScience Open Forum in July 2018 on “Raising Awareness of Researcher Mental Health”



Science Contents News Careers Journals

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### Talking about mental health—and addressing the challenges that many academics face

By Elizabeth Pain | Jul. 23, 2018, 3:20 PM

One of the most well-attended sessions at this year's EuroScience Open Forum, held earlier this month in Toulouse, France, addressed a difficult issue: mental health in academia. Just a few years ago, the sensitivity of the topic and widespread stigma around discussing it may have drawn a smaller crowd. But a growing number of studies highlighting the psychological distress among academics, in addition to testimonies on social media and other efforts, are bringing what some have described as a mental health crisis out into the open.

Science Careers spoke with session speaker Mark Robinson, a psychologist in the Student Counselling Service at Trinity College in Dublin, about what academics can do in the face of this crisis. This interview was edited for brevity and clarity.

**Q: What do students most commonly come to you for?**



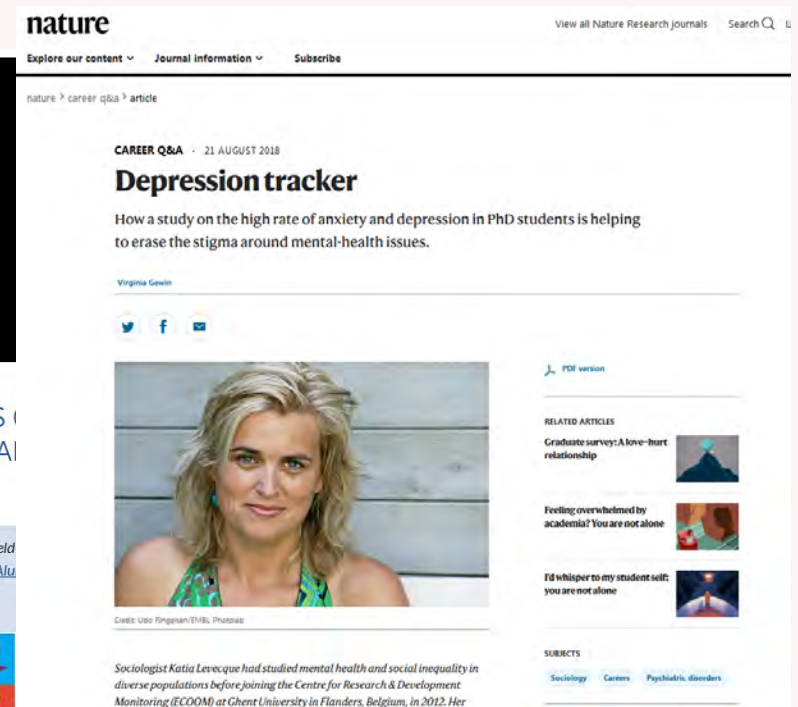
### CREATING AWARENESS OF RESEARCHER MENTAL HEALTH

2018 BRIAN CAHILL 1 COMMENT

part of a *Special Issue* highlighting sessions held July 2018) and proposed by the *Marie Curie Alumni* members.



Attend this session on 13<sup>th</sup> July at 17:00.



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### CAREER Q&A · 21 AUGUST 2018

## Depression tracker

How a study on the high rate of anxiety and depression in PhD students is helping to erase the stigma around mental-health issues.

Virginia Gavin



Credit: Uwe Fingrum/ETH, Photos

PDF version

RELATED ARTICLES

- Graduate survey: A love-hate relationship
- Feeling overwhelmed by academia? You are not alone
- I'd whisper to my student self: you are not alone

SUBJECTS

- Sociology
- Careers
- Psychiatric disorders

Sociologist Katia Leveque had studied mental health and social inequality in diverse populations before joining the Centre for Research & Development Monitoring (ECCOM) at Ghent University in Flanders, Belgium, in 2012. Her

# What is offered as an option?

## Max Planck PhDNNet



SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

### New case of alleged bullying rocks the Max Planck Society

Colleagues say empathy researcher Tania Singer created an atmosphere of fear at her lab

By Kai Kupferschmidt, in Leipzig, Germany

of the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences here—and one of

Tania Singer wants to show that meditation can make people more kind and caring.

tutes operate. MPG, which has an annual budget of €1.8 billion, invests heavily in recruiting top researchers from around the world, then gives them an unusual amount of freedom to run their labs. Some have suggested that creates the circumstances in which bullying can easily occur.

PhDnet, a network of Ph.D. students within MPG, said it would release a statement after *Science* went to press this week to propose ways to protect junior MPG scientists. The group will demand mandatory and regular leadership training sessions for anyone responsible for training early career researchers, for instance, and advisory committees to oversee Ph.D. theses, instead of just one senior scientist. Haakon Engen, a former lab member in Singer's group who now works at the University of Mainz, says he didn't have such a committee: "That's a really difficult situation to be in as it completely isolates you and puts you at the mercy of your [supervisor]."

An MPG spokesperson said the society could not answer questions about the scandals because both SI President Bill Hansson a week. But in a 7 August s knowledge it has been ti Singer case for more tha 14 July interview with C *Frankfurter Allgemeine* i said the Garching affai the society's procedures complaints did not wor concede that, and for ti improve it," he said.

Science

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"Max Planck directors have a scientific career behind them, but—to put it bluntly—they haven't necessarily learned how to lead people," Jana Lasser says. TIMOTHUS HELL

### Q&A: Doctoral students at Germany's Max Planck Society say recent troubles highlight need for change

By Kai Kupferschmidt | Aug. 15, 2018, 2:45 PM

This year, two cases of alleged harassment and bullying have rocked Germany's prestigious Max Planck Society (MPG), headquartered in Munich. In February, the news magazine *Der Spiegel* reported allegations against an unidentified researcher, and in June, BuzzFeed identified her as astrophysicist Guinevere Kauffmann at the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics in Garching, Germany. In the other case, *Science* last week reported on allegations that Tania Singer, director at the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences in Leipzig, Germany, created an "atmosphere of fear" at her lab and bullied and denigrated researchers there.

Home > News > Power abuse and conflict resolution

## Position Paper on Power Abuse and Conflict Resolution

PhDnet position paper by the [PhDnet Steering Group](#), August 2018

AUGUST 15, 2018

Power Abuse

As PhDnet we speak for the over 5000 doctoral researchers (DRs) currently associated with the Max Planck Society (MPS). Our primary goal is to advocate for the physical and mental health of DRs as well as the advancement of their careers. Furthermore we see ourselves as integral part of the MPS and want to help maintain its scientific excellence while striving to be an employer that acts in the best interest of all its employees.

# What is offered as an option?

## Mental health problems in PhD students



Work organization and mental health problems in PhD students, Katia Levecque et al., Research Policy, 46, 868, 2017

**Table 4**

Prevalence of common mental health problems in PhD students compared to three comparison groups: confidence interval (CI).

Source Year of survey	PhD students	Comparison group 1: Highly educated general population		
	SJR 2013 N = 3659	HIS 2013 N = 769 <sup>a</sup>		
	%	%	RR	CI
Felt under constant strain	40.81	27.47	1.38	(1.18–1.62)
Unhappy and depressed	30.30	13.60	2.09	(1.65–2.65)
Lost sleep over worry	28.33	18.13	1.62	(1.32–2.01)
Could not overcome difficulties	26.11	12.00	2.36	(1.82–3.06)
Not enjoying day-to-day activities	25.41	13.07	2.21	(1.74–2.82)
Lost confidence in self	24.35	7.95	3.48	(2.52–4.79)
Not playing a useful role	22.46	9.20	2.33	(1.73–3.15)
Could not concentrate	21.74	10.67	1.94	(1.48–2.54)
Not feeling happy, all things considered	21.15	11.11	2.15	(1.64–2.81)
Felt worthless	16.17	5.30	3.40	(2.29–5.07)
Could not make decisions	14.95	6.00	2.74	(1.87–4.02)
Could not face problems	13.36	4.27	3.69	(2.39–5.68)

## Do we need a change?

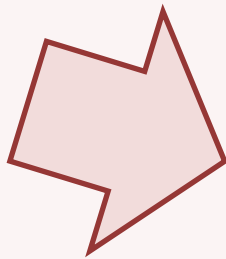
Overflow of journal and papers

Focus on quantitative indicators

High level of stress

Mental health and well-being negatively affected

Attractiveness of research and academic environments is fading



**We do need  
a change!**

# What is offered as an option?

## Broader context

A new European Research Area, 2020

A strategic framework for research and innovation

# What is offered as an option?

A new ERA for research and innovation



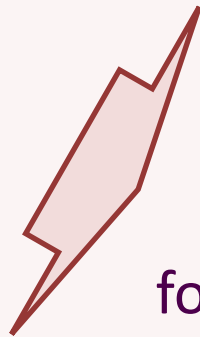
DG research and innovation



Developing Guiding principles for knowledge valorisation



Set of codes of practice



Code of practice  
for researchers on standardisation

# What is offered as an option?

## The new European Research Area

### ERA university sectorial coordination group



CESAER

AURORA

eua EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION



SPARC\* Europe

EuroTech Universities  
Excellence in Science and Technology

Yerun



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# What is offered as an option?

The new European Research Area

**ERA Policy Agenda 2022-2024**

**Action 3: Advance towards the reform the Assessment System for research, researchers and institutions to improve their quality, performance and impact**

## What is offered as an option?

### Core commitments:

- Recognise the diversity of contribution to, and careers in, research in accordance with the needs and nature of the research
- Base RA primarily on qualitative evaluation for which **peer review is central**, supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators
- Abandon inappropriate uses in RA of journal- and publication-base metrics, in particular, **inappropriate use of Journal Impact Factor (JIF) and h-index**
- Avoid the use of rankings of research organisations in RA

## What is offered as an option?

### CoARA Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment

Our vision is that the assessment of research, researchers and research organisations recognises the diverse outputs, practices and activities that maximise the quality and impact of research. This requires basing assessment primarily on qualitative judgement, for which peer review is central, supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators

# Will the new RA be the optimal solution?

Michael Murphy, President of the European University Association (EUA) said:

It is now time to go beyond existing declarations and define clearly what we want for the future of research assessment. Universities, researchers and all stakeholders need to choose how they want to be assessed and need to choose now.

Marc Schiltz, President of Science Europe, said:

‘Publish or perish’ and metrics have led us into a blind alley. Let’s start recognising the full breadth of value created by researchers.

**Çox sağ olun!**

**Thank you!**