

# Bibliometric profiling of monograph authors in the Social Sciences and Humanities

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## Abstract

Research on the scholarly communication system has shown the continued adherence of many academic scholars to the monograph as a publication type of choice. During the last few decades, there has been a marked persistence in the writing and reading of monographs by many scholarly communities in humanities' fields, and this spite of technological and organizational changes within academia (Cronin & La Barre, 2004; Cronin, 2003; Hicks, 2004; Williams, Stevenson, Nicholas, Watkinson, & Rowlands, 2009; Engels, Ossenblok, & Spruyt, 2012). There is, however, little formal knowledge on the precise intellectual and academic-institutional contexts in which monographs are written. At the Nordic Workshop 2014, we will present a method of contextualizing the scholarly monograph by bibliometric means. This will consist of a contrastive analysis of the publication output for the years 2000-2012 of, on the one hand, SSH authors from Flanders (Belgium) who have written monographs, and, on the other, of their colleagues who have no monographs in their publication portfolio's. We ask which factors are in the end determinant for writing monographs: (sub-)disciplinary epistemic cultures, the intellectual embeddedness of a book in a larger body of academic work, or individual publication strategies and career-paths. To conclude, we reflect on the position of the monograph in the output-based research funding models used both in Flanders and the Nordic countries.

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