

Authorship in Academia

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Researchers' status in academia is primarily determined by reputation. This reputation is applied in hiring, promotion and funding decisions, as well as performance evaluations (Weingart, 2005). Perhaps, one of the single most important factors for establishing a reputation is authorship, ideally of an article published in a high-ranking journal. The journal article is often an essential part of bibliometric based research assessment, and we use the article features (citations, references, authors, publishers etc.) to multiple kinds of analysis. The growing tendency in academia to demand and use individual bibliometric research assessment increases the need for an examination and discussion of academic authorship (Gläser & Laudel, 2007). Hence, the aim of this study is to investigate how researchers perceive and utilize authorship in academia.

The case study is based on interviews of 43 Danish researchers from six universities in Denmark conducted in the period October 2013–February 2014. We interviewed 8–12 researchers from each of the four main academic research areas; Humanities, Social Sciences, Health & Life sciences and the Science & Technologies. These interviews included questions about collaboration, authorship and publishing. We found that how researchers perceive and utilize authorship varies across departments and research fields, and that there are different perceptions of what justifies a co-authorship.

Gläser, J., & Laudel, G. (2007). The Social Construction of Bibliometric Evaluations. In R. Whitley & J. Gläser (Eds.), *The changing governance of the sciences : the advent of research evaluation systems* (Vol. 26). Dordrecht, the Netherlands: Springer.

Weingart, P. (2005). Impact of bibliometrics upon the science system: Inadvertent consequences? *Scientometrics*, 62(1), 117–131.