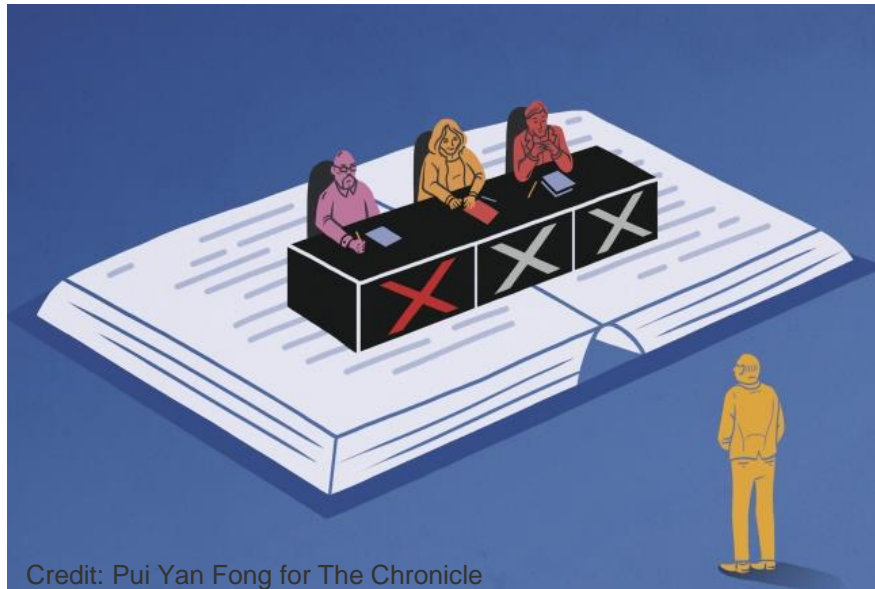


Transparency and integrity of peer review

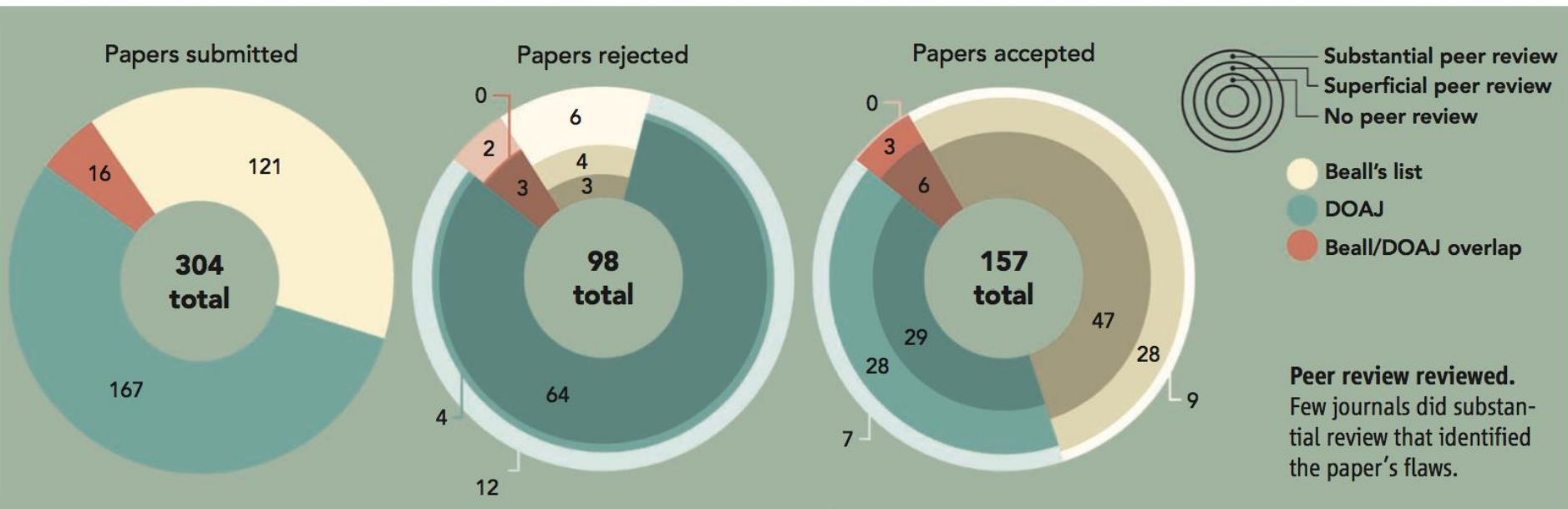


Credit: Pui Yan Fong for The Chronicle

Jelte M. Wicherts



Some worrying results (1)



Some worrying results (2)

Science Home News Journals Topics Careers



Thomas Rendleman/Pexels

SHARE



75



Australian dog serves on the editorial boards of seven medical journals

May. 24, 2017

Some worrying results (3)



NATURE | COMMENT



Predatory journals recruit fake editor

Piotr Sorokowski, Emanuel Kulczycki, Agnieszka Sorokowska & Katarzyna Pisanski

22 March 2017

An investigation finds that dozens of academic titles offered 'Dr Fraud' — a sham, unqualified scientist — a place on their editorial board. Katarzyna Pisanski and colleagues report.



PDF



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Subject terms: Publishing · Ethics



A particular problem with (novel) OA journals

Gold Open Access (OA) journals often charge authors and can increase revenue by accepting many articles.

Biased or substandard peer-review processes will not stand full scrutiny by the community.

Hence, transparency concerning the peer-review process can be seen as indicator of good practice.

Lack of transparency

- ✓ Vague criteria cannot be used to reject manuscripts, possibly leading to low thresholds for acceptance.
- ✓ Lack of information on decision-makers and procedures allows papers to be reviewed by a single peer (or by none) and be accepted by an editorial assistant who often works for the publisher (COI!)
- ✓ Lack of information on who acted as reviewers and yearly rejection rates impedes assessment of who did the reviewing and quality thresholds

QOAM: Rating transparency

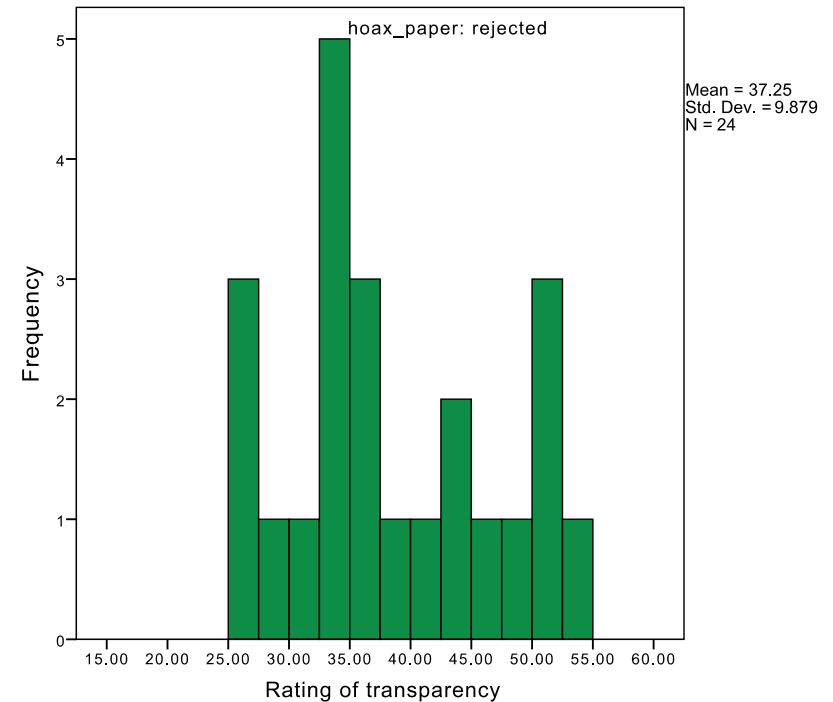
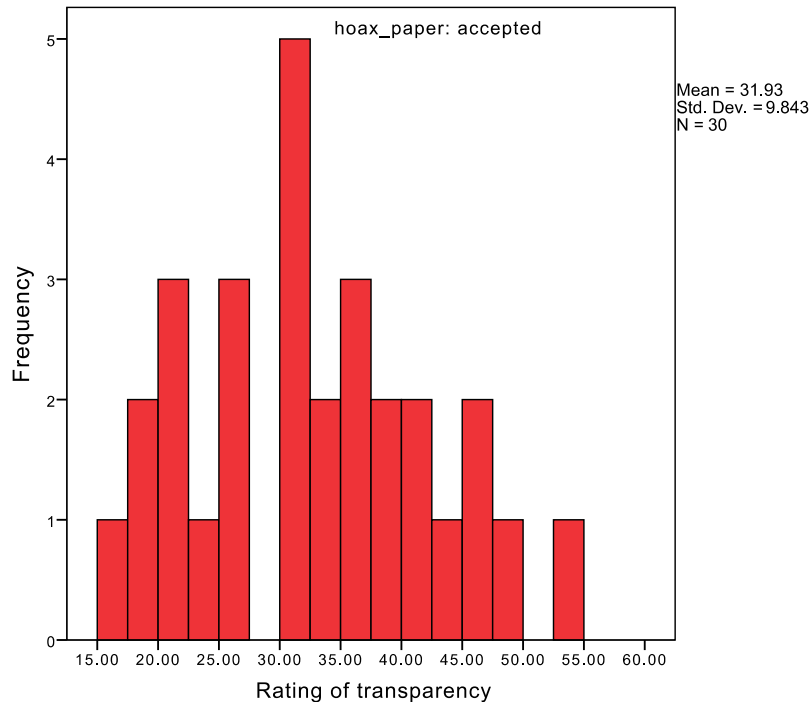


1. Easy to use
2. Transparent scoring rules
3. Acceptable criteria
4. Broadly applicable
5. Psychometrically homogeneous

QOAM: Some results

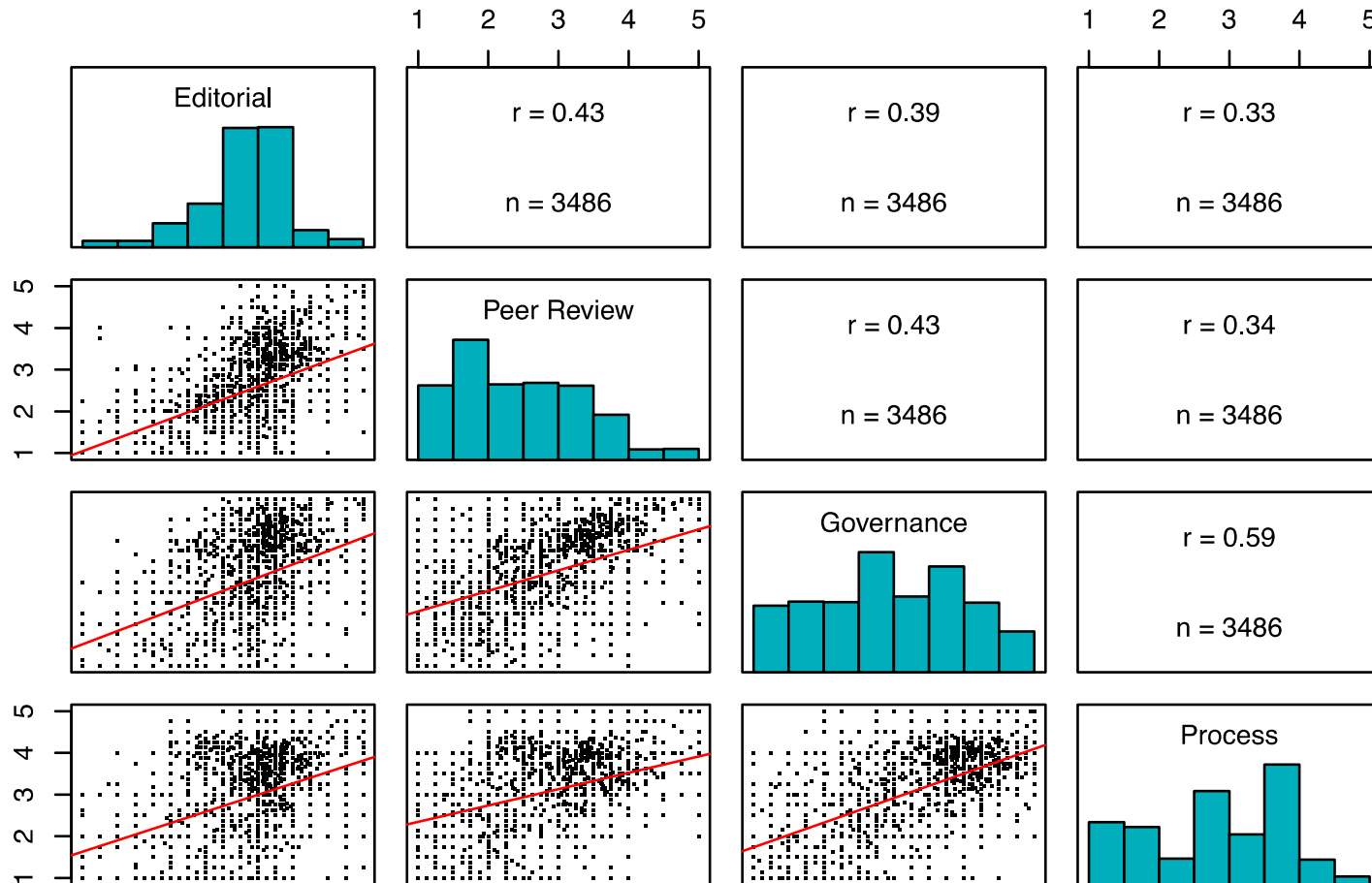
- Ratings of transparency of the peer-review system by different stakeholders are internally consistent and show adequate inter-rater reliability.
- Transparency ratings of 92 established journals by authors predict ($r = .48$) author-rated quality of the review process at these journals
- Ratings of transparency could predict whether a journal was earmarked as “predatory” by Jeffrey Beal.
- Transparency ratings predict journals’ Impact Factor

QOAM predicts rejection of hoax paper



Source: Wicherts, J. M. (2016). Peer review quality and transparency of the peer-review process in open access and subscription journals. *PLOS ONE*, 11, e0147913.

Operational data from QOAM



Valuation scores


Score Card

Valuation
3.0

Valuation Score for this journal:

3.0

By [Reinoud Bootsma](#)

Frontiers in Psychology 

ISSN: 1664-1078
Publisher: Frontiers Media
Language:
Disciplines: psychology

Valuation

☒ I have published an article in this journal less than a year ago

☐ I am an editor of this journal (If 'Yes', please tick the box)

The editor of the journal is responsive.

☐ 1: Absent ☐ 2: Poor ☒ 3: Moderate ☐ 4: Good ☐ 5: Excellent

The peer review of the journal has added value.

☐ 1: Absent ☐ 2: Poor ☒ 3: Moderate ☐ 4: Good ☐ 5: Excellent

I would recommend scholars to submit their work to this journal.

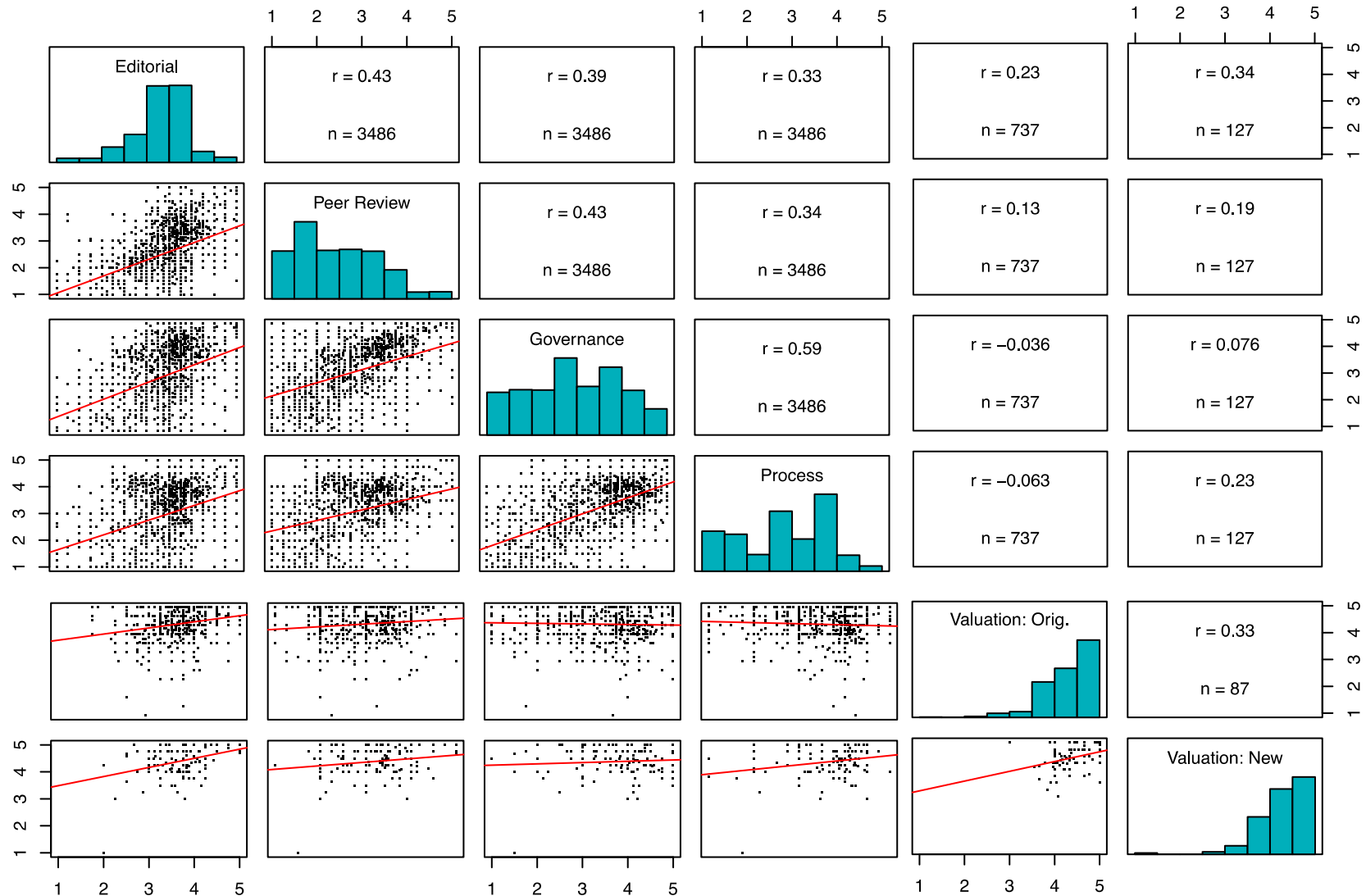
☐ 1: Absent ☐ 2: Poor ☒ 3: Moderate ☐ 4: Good ☐ 5: Excellent

I would deem this journal good value for money

☐ 1: Absent ☐ 2: Poor ☒ 3: Moderate ☐ 4: Good ☐ 5: Excellent

Additional comments

Predicting valuation by authors

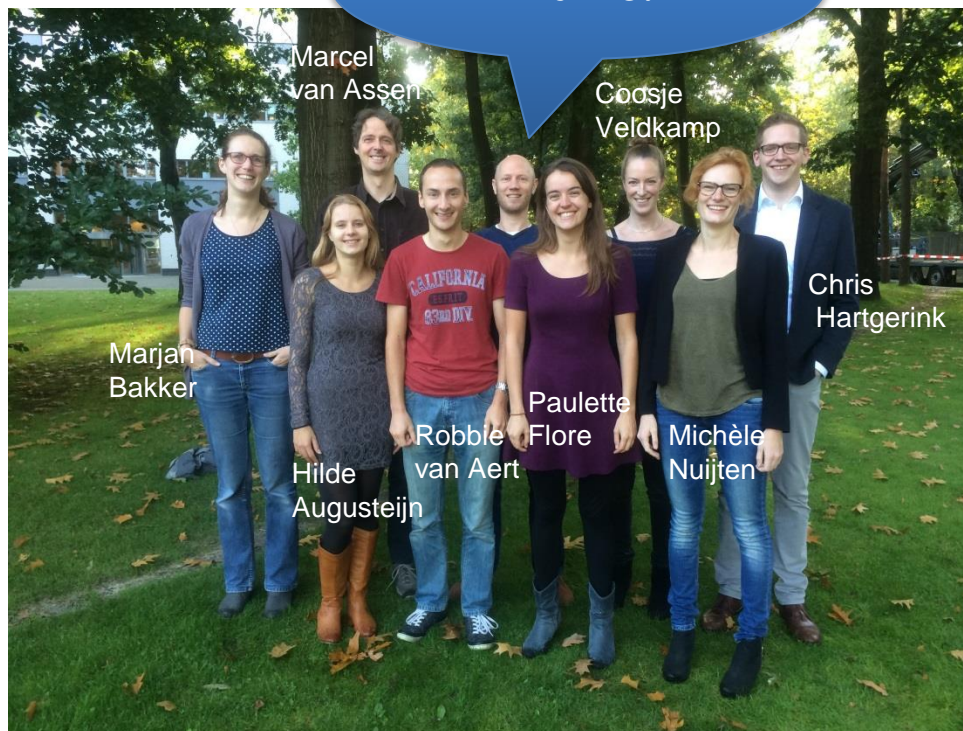


Conclusions

- QOAM allows various stakeholders to rate the transparency and rigor of (OA) journals
- QOAM subscales are homogeneous (reliable) and show good convergent and predictive validity
- Although many other factors predict quality of peer review of academic journals, QOAM can be used to separate the wheat from the chaff of OA journals

Metaresearch.nl

Thanks!



European Research Council



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