

Presentation and Publication Patterns in International Vanity Conferences in Education: Research on Research Quality

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Definition: Vanity Conferences in Education

Brooks (2009) identified various characteristics of questionable academic conferences:

- Combinations of broad conference subject fields that include proposal submission categories for research
- Calls for Proposals guarantee paper publication with presentation proposal submission
- Conference registration fee must be paid for a paper to be published in conference proceedings.
- Conference registration, paper presentation and publication are combined in one fee.
- Additional fees for multiple presentation proposals
- The organization convenes several conferences each year on a range of academic disciplines.

Research Questions

Two research questions guided this study:

1. What demographic characteristics (number of authors, employing institutional types, faculty rank or administrator title) characterize publication patterns in proceedings of international conferences similar to characteristics of vanity conferences?
2. What are the primary methodological approaches used in research publication proceedings similar to characteristics of vanity conferences?

Abstract question: What are implications of publications resulting from international education research conferences similar to characteristics of vanity conferences for the quality of academic staff productivity and education research?

Methodology

- Collected random samples of 10 conference proceedings publications on various topics in the field of Education from each of 17 conferences with characteristics similar to vanity conferences (N=170)
- Descriptive data analyses on author demographics:
 - faculty academic disciplines, ranks, and countries
 - administrator titles or work units
 - proceedings publication title
 - research methods employed

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RESULTS

Number of conference publications analyzed	N=170	
Number of conference publications authors	N=264	
Average number of authors per publication	N=1.76	
Institutional control of authors' affiliations:		
Public control	90%	
Private	10%	
Institutional location of authors' affiliations:		
U.S.	29%	
Other countries (AU, TK, SLO, SAU, GDR)		71%

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RESULTS

Faculty conference publication authors 89% N=235

Academic ranks of faculty conference publication authors:

Contingent	0.3%	N=15
Visiting Lecturer	0.3%	N=8
Instructor	18%	N=42
Assistant Professor	18%	N=42
Associate Professor	24%	N=57
Full Professor	27%	N=63
Department Chair	3%	N=8

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RESULTS

Administrator conference publication authors	11%	N= 21
Organizational units of administrator conference publication authors:		
Academic Dean	2.3%	N=7
Student Affairs	2.3%	N=7
K12 Educational Technology Coordinators	2.3%	N=7
Independent Researcher Authors	3%	N=8

Research methods used in research conference proceedings publications:

Quantitative methods	29%	N=43
Qualitative methods	0%	N=0
Mixed methods	1%	N=1
Academic Essay	Vander Putten 2017 World Conference on Research Integrity	71% N=106

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CONCLUSIONS:

- Academic staff cultural capital and socialization
- Presentations and proceedings publications bolster their annual review and tenure files, salaries
- Institutions have already provided implicit financial support to the sponsoring organizations
- Wide range of Education-related topical areas eligible for vanity conference proposal submission.

Is this the future of Vanity Research Conference Proceedings?

