



inorms

Research Evaluation Working Group

Meaningful, responsible & effective
research evaluation

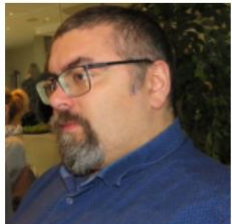
Dr Elizabeth Gadd

Overview

- ▶ Who we are
- ▶ What we want to do
- ▶ Why we want to do it
- ▶ How we're doing it
- ▶ Work-packages
- ▶ Outcomes to date
 - ▶ Tangible
 - ▶ Intangible
- ▶ What next?

Who we are?

Baldvin Zarioh



Hirofumi Seike



Dr Baron Wolf



Anne Albinak



Laura Beaupre



Justin Shearer



**Aline Pacifico
Rodrigues**



Dr Patricia Smit



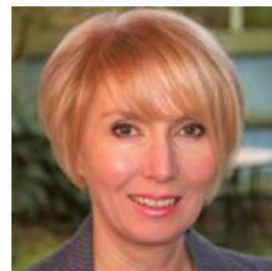
Tanja Strøm



Laura Himanen



Dr Elizabeth Gadd



What we want to do?

- ▶ Consider how best to ensure that research evaluation is meaningful, responsible and effective.

Why we want to do it

- ▶ Research is a global endeavour
- ▶ Research evaluation is also a global practice
- ▶ Many poor practices (university rankings, inappropriate use of journal metrics, skewed individual researcher evaluation) are global problems and require global solutions
- ▶ Individual countries simply cannot address them alone
- ▶ The INORMS REWG is an attempt to provide a united global voice

How we're doing it?

- ▶ Ten colleagues allocated to 2 sub-groups
 - ▶ Rankings - led by Justin Shearer (ARMS)
 - ▶ Senior Manager Briefings - led by Laura Himanen (Fin-ARMA)
- ▶ Wider INORMS-RES-EVAL@jiscmail.ac.uk discussion list
- ▶ All encouraged to act as ambassadors within own countries
- ▶ All responsible for two-way links between INORMS REWG & national RMS
- ▶ All responsible for presenting at own national conferences
- ▶ Lots of support from ARMA!!

Workpackage 1: Rating the rankers

- ▶ University rankings have global power
- ▶ Self-appointed
- ▶ Answer to no-one
- ▶ And yet:
 - ▶ Funders use them to decide who to fund
 - ▶ Credit-rating bodies use them to sway investments
 - ▶ Students use them to decide where to study
 - ▶ Academics use them to plan their careers
- ▶ Does this lead to meaningful, responsible & effective research evaluation?

Tackling the problem: Criteria for rating the rankers

- ▶ Available at: <https://inorms.net/activities/research-evaluation-working-group/>
- ▶ Five key themes:
 - ▶ General approach
 - ▶ Governance
 - ▶ Methodologies
 - ▶ Indicators
 - ▶ Usability
- ▶ Consultation open 22 May - 10 June 2019
- ▶ Outcomes will inform methodology for rating the rankers

What makes a fair and responsible university ranking?
Draft criteria for comment

Introduction

The International Network of Research Management Societies (INORMS) established a two-year Research Evaluation Working Group (REWG) in 2018. It consists of representatives from a range of global member research management societies all seeking to work towards better, fairer and more meaningful research evaluation. One of the group's two areas of focus is the burgeoning influence of University Rankings on the behaviours of universities despite often poor methodological approaches and practices. The purpose of this work-package is to consider what we, as an international group of research managers, think the characteristics of a fair and responsible University Ranking should look like. The idea is to then 'turn the tables' on the rankings and rate them against our agreed criteria. We are now seeking feedback on our draft list of characteristics, particularly around:

- 1) Whether the characteristics, as written, make sense to you?
- 2) Are there any characteristics you think are missing?
- 3) What you think are the priority and non-priority characteristics?

Please note that at this stage, we are not considering *how* these characteristics might be assessed, only whether they are desirable. The references in brackets lead to texts that *inspired* these principles, they are not direct quotations.

The consultation is open until Monday 10 June and feedback can be emailed to either INORMS-RES-EVAL@jiscmail.ac.uk (if you are a member) or directly to the Rankings Sub-Group leader, Justin Shearer, on shearer.j@unimelb.edu.au

We look forward to hearing from you!

Lizzie Gadd, INORMS REWG Chair

1. General approach

- **Profiles not rankings.** Accepts that higher education and research organisation are complex, multi-faceted entities and provide a facility by which their range of strengths can be displayed. (BP)
- **Measure against mission.** Accepts that different universities have different missions and provides a facility by which universities can be assessed against their own goals. (LM, BP, Blank, Shen)
- **One thing at a time.** Does not combine indicators to create a composite metric. (YG1) (CWTS)
- **Provides context.** Provides a link out to further qualitative and contextual information about the university being ranked (LM).
- **Damage limitation activity.** Recognises and proactively seeks to limit the systemic effects of rankings. (LM, Adam)
- **No unfair advantage.** Makes every effort to ensure the approach taken does not discriminate against organisations by size, disciplinary mix, language, wealth, age and geography.

Workpackage 2: Briefing Senior Managers

- ▶ Responsible research evaluation discussions are often held by middle-managers, practitioners or academics
- ▶ Those with the most influence over responsible research evaluation practice are very senior leaders
- ▶ Hard to access senior leaders; difficult to ‘train’
- ▶ No readily available materials by which leaders can be briefed

Briefing materials for senior managers

- ▶ Set of powerpoint slides with notes
 - ▶ Short version (20 minutes)
 - ▶ Longer version (60 minutes)
- ▶ Can be adapted to different settings
- ▶ Translated into as many languages as we can
- ▶ Better decision making through responsible research evaluation (VCOS model)
 - ▶ What do you Value?
 - ▶ Context-based evaluation
 - ▶ Options for evaluating (quantitative & qualitative)
 - ▶ Sense-check
 - ▶ Review

Outcomes

- ▶ A lot of interest in rankings work
 - ▶ Invitation to speak to UK Forum for Responsible Research Metrics
 - ▶ Connection with LIBER Metrics Group
 - ▶ Good response to consultation
- ▶ Sharing best practice
- ▶ Feeling the experiences of international colleagues
- ▶ Building international community
- ▶ Presentations forthcoming at:
 - ▶ RMAN-J (Japan)
 - ▶ SRA (USA)
 - ▶ ARMS (Australia)
- ▶ Spoken at: NARMA (Norway) & ARMA (UK)

What next?

- ▶ Working Group set to run until June 2020
- ▶ Lots more work to do!
 - ▶ International Group on Journal Indicators - expressed interest
 - ▶ Plan S - Responsible Metrics element requires Research Manager input
 - ▶ Science of Science work - James Wilsdon recognises role for co-production with research managers and information specialists
- ▶ Should we continue as an International SIG?
- ▶ Should there be an INORMS International symposium on university rankings?

Thanks for listening

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