Responsible Metrics and Multilingualism: A review of evolving Asian perspectives

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In recent years, many academic institutions and research bodies in Europe and the United States have been vigorously debating the need for the 'responsible use of metrics' in research assessment exercises. Such deliberations have resulted in a slew of initiatives such as the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA, 2012), The Leiden Manifesto for Research Metrics (2015) and Responsible Metrics (2015).

Despite the critical importance that such initiatives have for research and academic learning, Asian universities and research institutes have thus far demonstrated little interest in pursuing the metric and excellence debate. Social sciences and humanities (SSH) research, in particular, faces further challenges in terms of multi-lingual research outputs. Consequently, through INORMS, we have proposed that such gaps need to be addressed. We have therefore proposed that a panel discussion on such concerns be carried out that will involve panelists from both Asian and European institutions who will discuss the idea of responsible metrics for achieving excellence goals in academia with a special reference to SSH. This comparative perspective, we hope, will not only deepen our understanding of the role of metrics but also bring forward the unique challenges that confront Asian universities and institutes in their quest for realizing academic excellence.

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