
The Antiphysical Review

Founded and Edited by M. Apostol

164 (2009)

ISSN 1453-4436

Clarifications on ISI and all that

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Professor U. requests the scientific publications be assessed not by the scientific experts but according to their number of citations (the “impact factor” coined by Thompson-Institute for Scientific Information-Philadelphia-ISI). Due to another old grudge he placed a huge cross right on the path that leads to the Department of Physics of the Bucharest University. Recently, he counted some ramble words in about fourteen books and found out that their frequency of occurrence obeys Zof’s law (just like many other things). Because he takes pride on all these achievements, he seeks skin lickens - impostors of the Romanian physics - the engineers of the Romanian Physics - to surround him. As he is a member of the romanian academy he finds them plenty. He also says that despite all this he caused “innervations” of many and is happy about this.

Professor U.,

You did not cause any “innervation” with your “scientometric essays”, but rather a deep sadness, a big harm; and a huge impiety and blasphemy when you put the cross in that place. It may very well be that the statistics work only for crowds, as you admit, but in this case why are you forcing them on those you call “singularities”? This type of abuse has lead to the criminal fascist extermination of scientific elites and to the subsequent fill of the “vacant positions” in science with some bunch of idiots who have destroyed the research institutes, the science and the research. Their name is always ending in “ache”, for instance Demolish-ache, Pampal-ache. Any petty impostor confects itself easily an impeccable ISI publication list and propping on it he pushes himself up to professor, academician or whatever position this poor fool dreams of.

Do you find it useful for science to produce an endless set of the same publications with the same Hamerican co-authors and rife with false or falsified experimental data and numerical calculations, with aberrant mathematics - not to mention their physics and chemistry? Anything but science! Do you also find it useful for science that the very authors are incapable to deliver a public discourse on their fabulous ISI publications, that they, themselves, are incoherent and do not comprehend a word of them because these publications are incomprehensible? Can’t you see that these crooks are embarrassed with their own publications, are ashamed with them? What else can account for their despicable fawning, arse kissing, their absolutely unconditioned offering of their backs in all their splendor; for their sycophancy, delation, machination - which you seem to hold in such high esteem? Are not all these evils caused by this demi-semi-scientists? Do you find it natural for these snuffles, lispers, wry-mouthed stammers, burrers, sexual dwarfs or bulimic giants, after becoming successful ISI publication authors overnight, to wave their lists with ISI “scores” and claim to be appointed as directors or academicians (and their claim to be immediately fulfilled as we live in an “eminently agricultural” country)? Do you find it natural that my PhD student may never have the opportunity of becoming a senior researcher III since he published in 6 years only

2 papers – which happen to have tremendous scientific value? Who assesses the scientific value of the publications? Well, I was expecting for scientists like yourself to do that, but as I can see you too have abdicated in favour of ISI. If you cannot and do not want to proceed otherwise, why are you pushing “ideas” into other people’s minds? Or, perhaps, that’s precisely the point? Why don’t you simply admit, in all honesty, “I don’t know, I can’t, I don’t want” ? Can you see clearly, now, the harm you have done? Can you see what a bad thing is to wear an academician hat too big for your head ?

Do you find it natural for a shrimp of a ministress of research and education to be, beside minister, deputy and university rector and professor and the boss of all women and men rectors, based on a few papers published in the Romanian Journal of Chemistry” aka “The Romanian paper of the stray cattles”? Hence, following in her footsteps an infernal series of macabre idiots. The nowadays scientific publications are facing a huge crisis, they do not know which way to go and what to do to save their “souls”; do you know that posters and T-shirts printed with scientific papers are sold today by the scientific publishing houses? Any catchy trick with a scientific look is adopted and used, as in case of the inverse power law. Thus your Google search results may be explained.

Are you taking pride on ISI? Then listen to this piece of our “popular folklore” :

“ ‘Cause a smart one noticed me once / I keep laugh stupidly since/ When I’ll also see my arse/
To this life I found the sense”.

Your passion for such sort of things is cute, but when you see the harm it is causing you should personally and publicly intervene to put things right. Write another essay, this time on Beauty and Good, as anyone can write about evil, ugly and stupid things. Let’s see if you can.

With all hope, MA

(And with all my friendship, you should stop counting those ramble words and to not proceed further by counting either "the Wallachian voivodes or the Romanian rivers", not even if all these together may be considered as an inverse power).

(Tranlated from Romanian Antiphys. Rev. 161 by Iulia Negoitza).