

THE TRIUMPH OF QUANTITIES OVER QUALITY: TOWARDS UNETHICAL RESEARCH?

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After failing to square the circle via a rational number, bean-counters focused their efforts in quantifying Quality, by mistaking it for trivial intensive quantities and bypassing the Experts' views. This, in conjunction with digital age and internationalization, contributed to a paradigm shift in modern research, from extrovert intellectual merit serving science and broader impacts serving humanity, to introvert self-recognition serving the research community itself. Citation metrics and on-line databases are proliferating and replacing quality expertise in research assessment, and leading to pathologies such as publication salamization, "citation lobbies", misappropriation of intellectual property and booming incidence of research integrity breeches. This constitutes a second step down the "ethics ladder"; it is the aim of this work to attribute such phenotypical shift away from traditional modesty culture inherent to research, to certain ego-gene features in the academic genotype.