The citation impact of German sociology journals and the validity of scientometric evaluations

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Science linkages focused on star scientists in the life and medical sciences in Japan. Paper-paper citations peak at a 4-year average, while the corresponding lag for paper-patent trajectories are unpredictable in the long-term.

Merton’s (1968) Matthew Effect is frequently cited by network analysts as an example of preferential attachment. Secondly, doing so has the potential to transform methods for social studies of science, small-group research, and inform leadership and scientific knowledge production from micro-social processes to algorithmic constructs (e.g., the various rankings) cannot be inferred for the groups to which these records belong (here: the journal where the papers were published). Finally, algorithmic constructs (e.g., the various rankings) cannot be used for policy or management purposes without validation or specification of statistical error.

The Citation Impact of German Sociology Journals and the Validity of Scientometric Evaluations  
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We analyze the citation impacts (‘cited’) and citation practices (‘citing’) of sociological journals which publish in German, and discuss drawbacks of using the journal impact factor (IF) to assess the quality of these journals. Whereas journal impact factors measure short-term (2-year) impacts at research fronts, sociological literature moves slowly in terms of citations: the median age of citations to sociology journals is mostly longer than ten years. Citation in a field without a research front may indicate codification with a different dynamics. For example, Merton’s (1968) Matthew Effect is frequently cited by network analysts as an example of preferential attachment. Secondly,