Publish or Perish
Perceived Benefits versus Unintended Consequences

Imad A. Moosa, Professor of Finance, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Australia

Imad Moosa’s thought-provoking book explores the contemporary doctrine that plagues the academic sphere: the principle of publish or perish. This book identifies the pressures placed upon academics to either publish their work regularly, or suffer the consequences, including lack of promotion, or even redundancy.

‘I know of no other work on the subject that collates and curates such a vast armamentarium of depressing, condemning data. Yes, to read this book is to be presented with example after astonishing example of situations that make the reader question, ultimately, how knowledge—which is, after all, what is at stake—manages to advance in the current academic environment. Across ten chapters, averaging eighteen pages, Moosa lays out his compelling evidence.’
– Steven E. Gump, Journal of Scholarly Publishing

“‘Publish or perish’ is the most significant of all the pressures on young academics. It underpins success with research grants, outreach, impact, prize-winning, promotion and job-security. It distorts incentives by prioritising some research outputs, such as “four-star” papers, over others, such as monographs. Here at last is a book that explains how this oppressive system developed, what sustains it, and where it is likely to lead. It is an indispensable survivor’s guide to modern academia.’
– Mark Casson, University of Reading, UK

‘Professor Moosa brings his analytical skills and extensive research experience to bear on, in this case, the evolution of academic and scientific research. His lucid writing and analysis explains the growth of and contradictions in the “publish or perish” research model, illuminated by striking examples from finance, chemistry, medicine and many other disciplines. He demonstrates how this model has actually been detrimental to research. The book is essential reading for researchers and research granting bodies in all countries.’
– Greg O’Brien, La Trobe University, Australia

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2018 232 pp Paperback 978 1 78897 587 2 £20.95 £16.76 $31.95 $25.56
2018 232 pp Hardback 978 1 78643 492 0 £80.00 £72.00 $120.00 $108.00
Elgaronline 978 1 78663 493 7

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