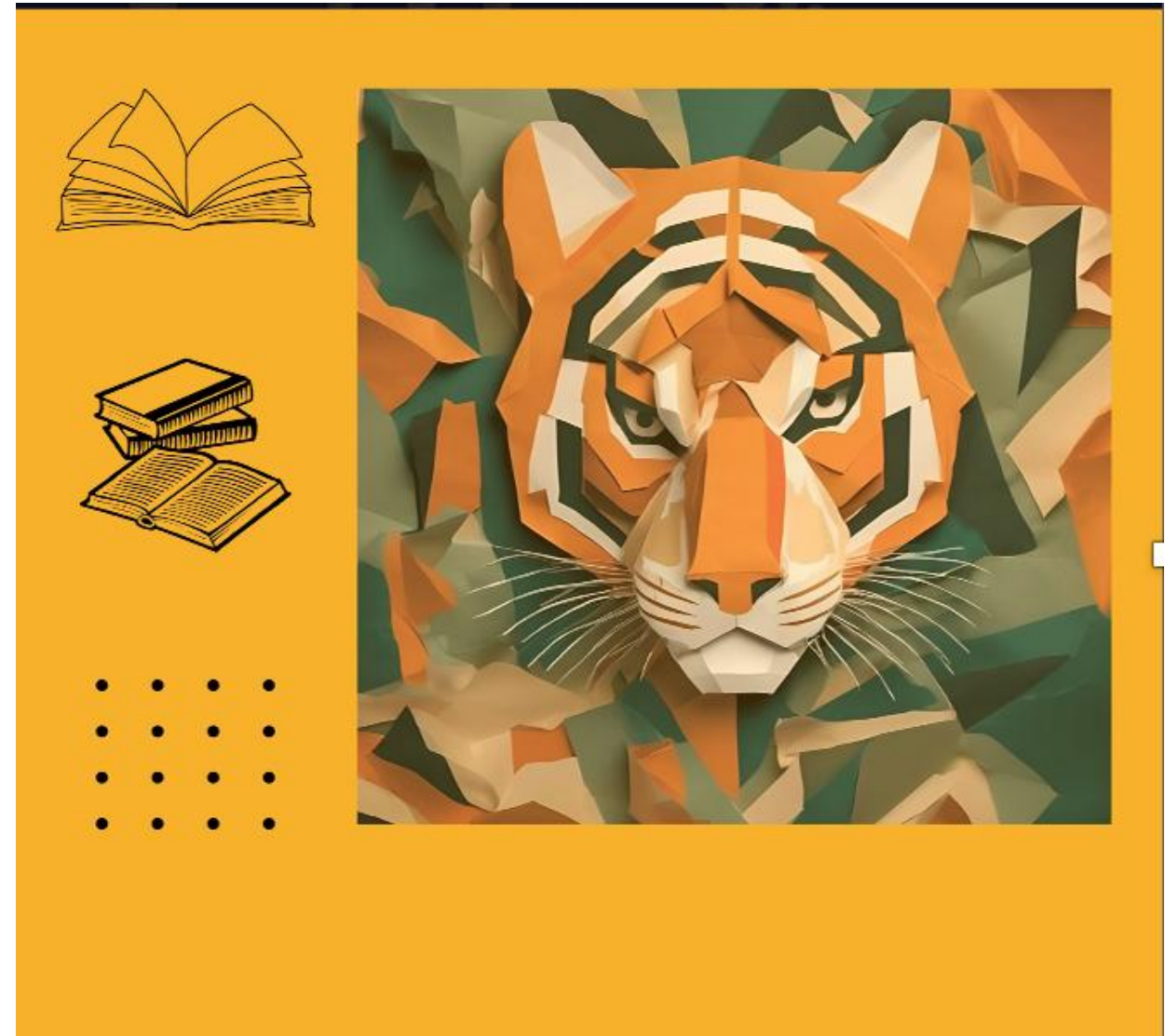


Predatory journals' impact on research ethics and integrity

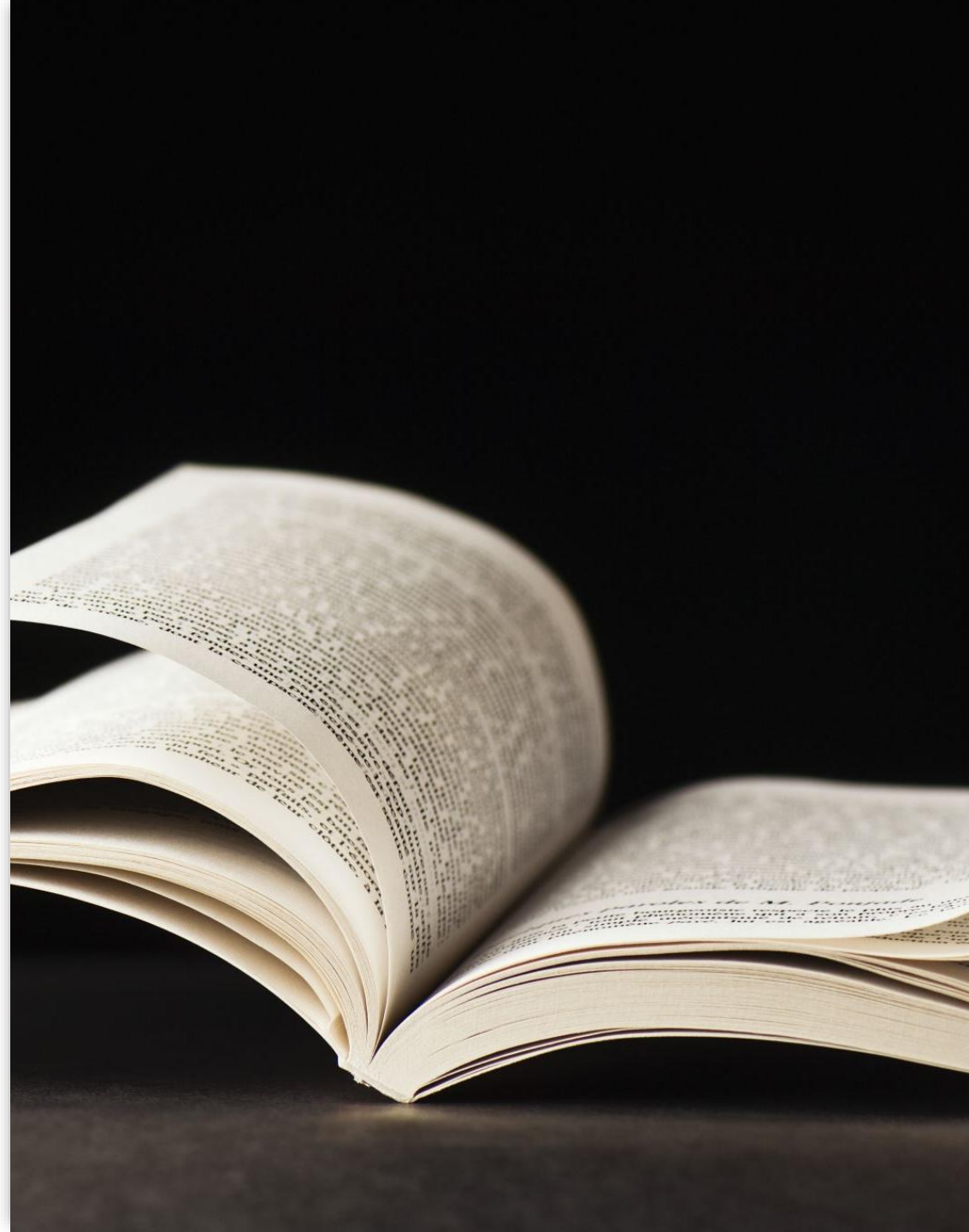
Rita Faria
School of Criminology – University of
Porto
CIJ – Interdisciplinary Research Center on
Crime and Justice



- Preferred topic of research: research misconduct and fraud
- Changing topic
- Is there a relationship between fraudulent science and predatory publishing practices (PPP)?
- And what is the impact of PPP on the quality and reliability of science?
- Context of commodification of science and the high-value market placed on scientific publications
- The turn to Open Access and Article Processing Charges
- Current risks and threats to research integrity, including in Criminology
- Predatory publishing in connection to other (cyber)crimes and disinformation



- 18th century: publication = to make something public (incl. classes)
- 19th century: publications = published papers in academic publishers
- Books, edited books, academic journals
- Aim: to disseminate knowledge for science users
- Submitted to critical/peer review
- Used to assess scientists' performances and their institutions
- A "measure of unit", a "currency" (Latour) of research



- “publish or perish”
- The importance of metrics and of bibliometric indexes

*“Today (...) publication is no longer necessarily evaluated through reading by people but, in some contexts, through **markers connected to the publication (though external to it), such as the impact factor of the journal where it is published or the number (...) of the citations it receives (...) or article metrics on platforms** like Academia.edu and ResearchGate (...)”* (Biagioli & Lippman, 2020, p. 4)

- risk: content and quality of paper is no longer being assessed, but rather external circumstances and quantitative metrics (e.g. rankings, bibliometric metadata, etc) are used to evaluate quality
- Migration from exact sciences’ model to the social sciences and humanities

Benefits of Open Access



Check out work being conducted at ENOC - European Network for Open Criminology





- **Gold:** immediately OA in publisher's website; Creative Commons license; publisher will ask for APC (article processing charges)

Example:

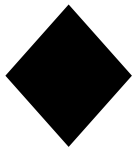
- [Nature](#) - The APC to publish Gold Open Access in Nature is £9190.00/\$12690.00/€10690.00.



- **Green:** OA at an institutional repository; available version may pre-print, draft without reviews, or version after review accepted to be published; embargoes may apply; no APC

Examples:

- [CrimRXiv](#)
- [Preprints](#)



- **Diamond:** immediate AO of papers in their final version; no APC .

Examples:

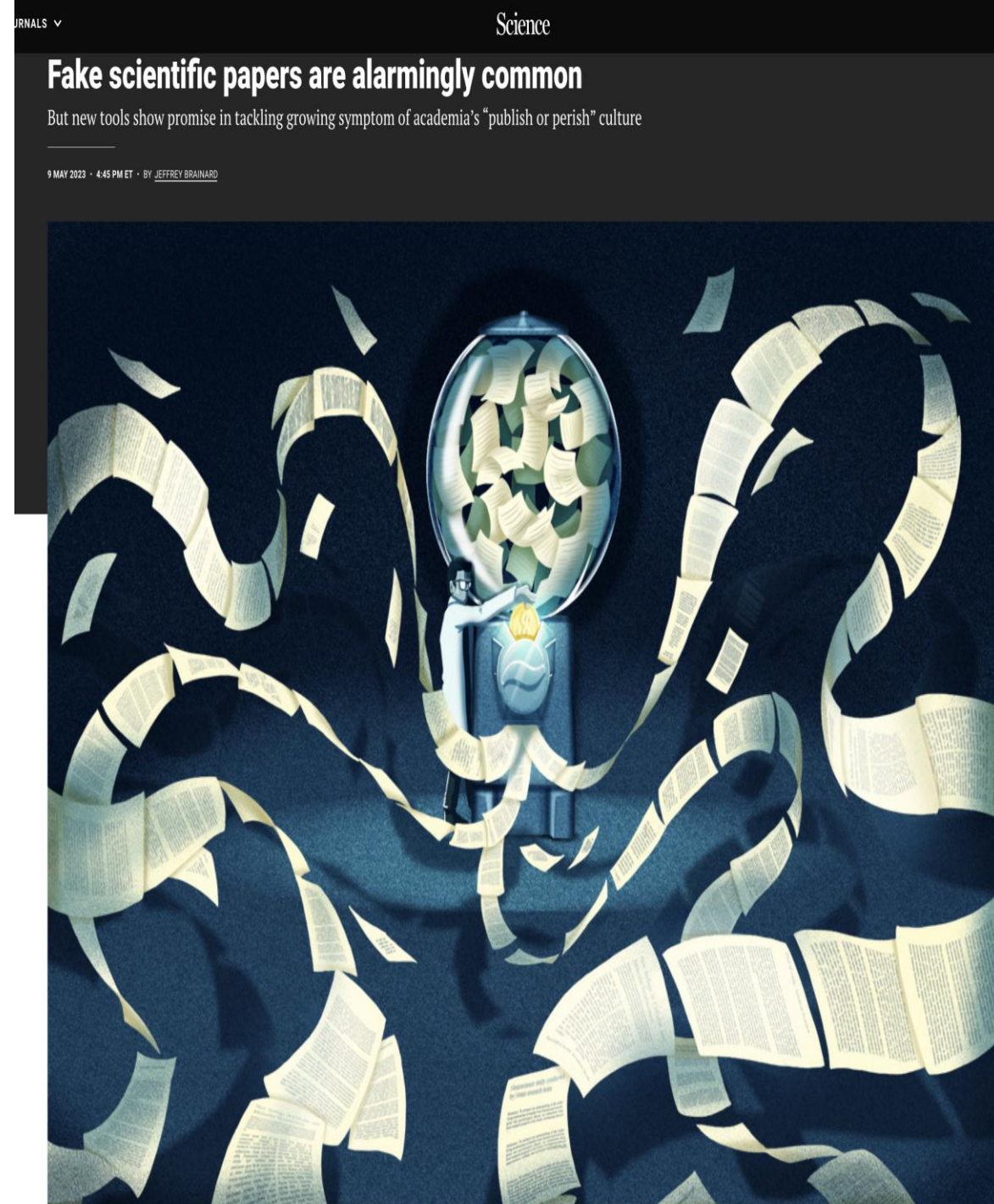
- [The Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice and Criminology](#)
- <https://doaj.org/>



Current risks to
science

- **Paper mills:**

- Papers written by AI which do not have correspondence with real research carried by scientists
- Selling authorship of papers that may or may not correspond to actual research
- Peer review and editor rings: research behind paper may or may not be real; but review and editorial work are fake
- Special issues are organized where content and authorship is controlled to guarantee authorship and referencing
- Money is charged to scientists
- Journals are flooded with such papers, affecting their turnover process
- The [process](#) has been documented



- **Predatory journals in OA**

10. Falling Prey to Predatory Journals

“Predatory publishing...refers to the systematic for-profit publication of purportedly scholarly content... in a deceptive or fraudulent way and without any regard for quality assurance.”¹

Commonly co-occurring features¹:

- Hidden or unclear author fees;
- The lack of quality peer review of articles by experts in the field;
- The guarantee of acceptance and/or very fast publication times (e.g. within one week or 48 hours).

Check the following for warning signs of “fake” journals:

- Website
- Journal Name
- Peer Review Process
- Ownership & Management
- Editorial team/contact information
- Author fees
- Process for resolution of research misconduct
- Direct marketing



MV Kiang
@mathewkiang

Predatory journals are the mentors I need in 2020. Hoping I'm doing well. Recognizing my eminence. Impressed by my work. Confident I can rapidly produce another outstanding manuscript. Looking forward to my reply.

Be the International Epidemiology Journal of America to somebody.

2:33 AM · 2020-08-25 · [Twitter Web App](#)

¹https://publicationethics.org/sites/default/files/cope_dd_a4_pred_publishing_nov19_screenaw.pdf

- Spamming / phishing
- Hijacking websites of legitimate /established journals
- Fake profiles of authors and editors
- Identity theft of editorial board members and/or editorial teams
- Fake statements about IF, COPES and other ethical compliance guidelines, peer review process, etc.
- Disinformation and/or fraudulent science



Red flags

SPAM Dr. S R DESHMUKH



IJHSSI Journal <noreply@pageranktechs.com>

sáb 23-11-2024 12:19

Para: Rita Faria

Responder a todos

Para ajudar a proteger a sua privacidade, parte do conteúdo desta mensagem foi bloqueada. Para reativar as funções bloqueadas, clique aqui.

Para mostrar sempre o conteúdo deste remetente, clique aqui.

International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention

Call for Papers (November 2024 Issue)

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IJHSSI is peer reviewed International Journal which publishes paper online as well as print version. IJHSSI is indexed in major indexing like EBSCO HOST, CABELL's library, ULRICH web, Jour Info etc.

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Subject Category: Humanities and Social Science

IJHSSI follows the rapid publication process.

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Last Date for paper Submission: **30 November 2024**

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Please submit your paper through <http://www.ijhssi.org/online-submission.php>

Email id : invention.publish@gmail.com

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Daniel Harrison <daniel@openaccessreaserchgroup.com>

qui 21-11-2024, 12:39

Rita Faria ✕

O remetente da mensagem pediu um recibo de leitura. Para enviar um recibo, [clique aqui](#).

Dear Doctor,

Best wishes of the day.

“This is a follow up email regarding submissions. We have not received your response yet so we take liberty to remind you again. Please respond to this email and let me know your decision.”

-
We are pleased to extend our warmest invitation to you to submit your valuable research.

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Your expertise and contribution to the field of research has been highly recognized and we believe that your research work will greatly benefit our readers and the scientific community as a whole.

Regards,

Daniel H

Editorial Manager

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Call for Appointment of Editorial Advisory Board Members *Current Forensic Science*

Dear Dr. R. Faria,

The journal *Current Forensic Science* is currently recruiting Editorial Advisory Board Members. Considering your contributions in the field, and based on your published article entitled "Undernutrition and obesity are associated with adverse clinical outcomes in hospitalized children and adolescents with acute pancreatitis";, we feel that your field of interest is related to the field of the journal. We would like to propose your name for this position and seek your permission to communicate with you further on this matter.

The responsibility of the Editorial Board Member is:

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Victor Rodrigues Fernandes <victorfernandes@up.pt>

ter 22-10-2024 23:54

Para: Rita Faria ↗

Responder a todos | ▼



Transferir

Hi, Rita. Yes, this is my work email address, and I used to work as an editor of that journal, but I have not been connected to it recently.

Best!

Victor

...

On Tue, Oct 22, 2024, 07:29 Rita Faria <rfaria@direito.up.pt> wrote:

Dear Victor, hope you are well.

I just found your name as member of the editorial board (<https://ojs.wiserpub.com/index.php/AIE/about/editorialTeam>) of the journal Artificial Intelligence Evolution (<https://ojs.wiserpub.com/index.php/AIE/>). I know of the journal because I got an email with an invitation to publish.

Can you please confirm me this is you and tell me more about the journal?

Thank you,

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Greetings from /Sports/ Editorial Office. This is Elsa Qiu, Managing Editor of /Sports/. View the detailed information of this journal at: <https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sports>

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Important Notes:

Receiving Papers for	:	Volume 06; Issue no 02
Submission Deadline	:	January 31, 2025
Paper Acceptance Report Due on	:	In 7 to 14 days after Submission
Publication Date	:	February 11, 2025

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KEY DATES

Submission Deadline for Volume 1, Issue 1: December 25, 2024

Notification of Acceptance: January 15, 2025

Publication Date:

January 30, 2025

HOWEVER, ARTICLES WILL BE ACCEPTED ROUND THE YEAR.

ARTICLE PROCESSING CHARGES (APCS)

The International Journal of Justice and Police Sciences is committed to making research freely accessible to all. To cover publication and journal management costs, APCs are set as follows:

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But is there a list of [predatory journals?](#)

Not so easy to tell apart. E.g MDPI

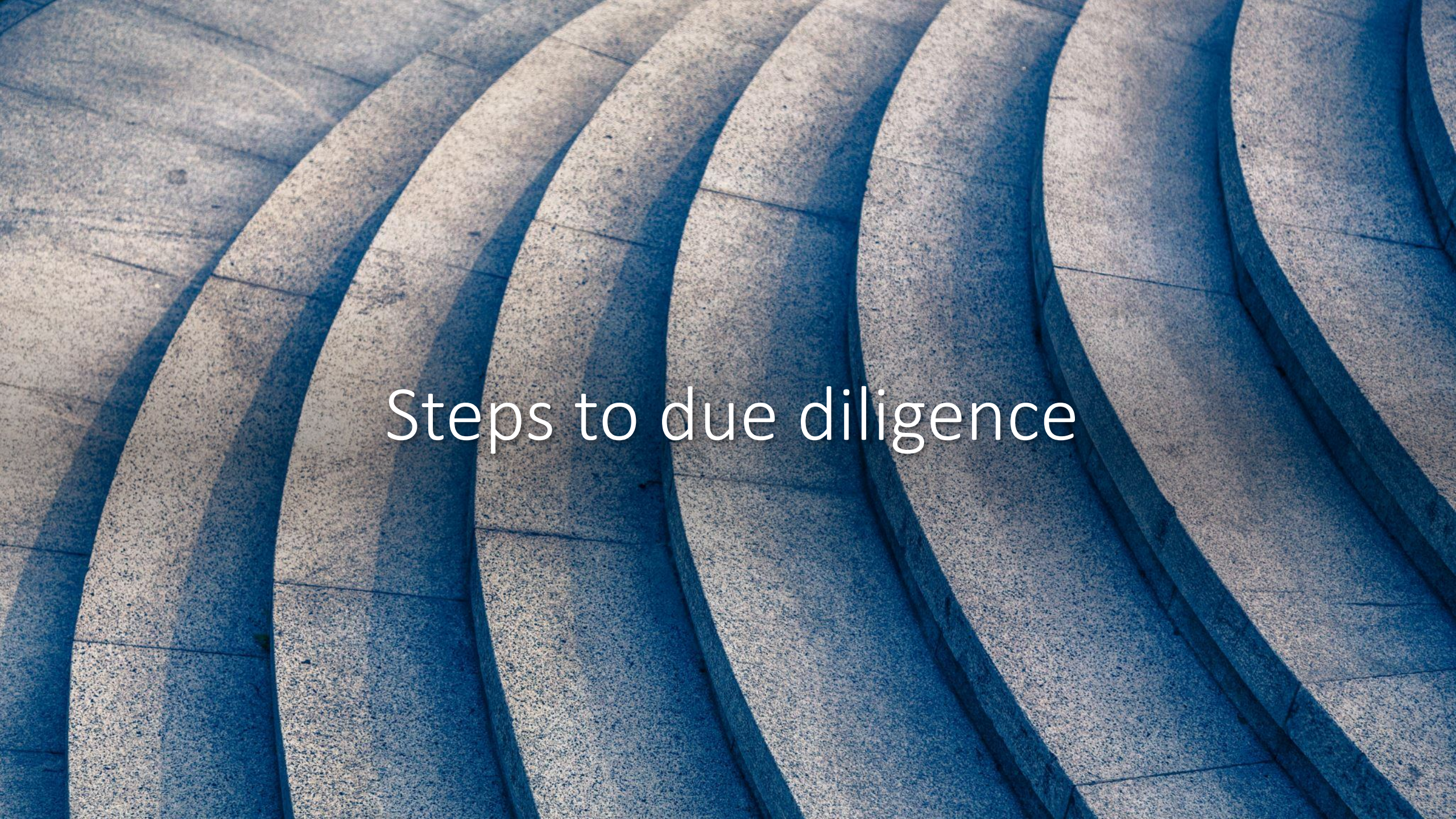
Excluded – decide after reading

- Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute (MDPI) – I decided not to include MDPI on the list itself. However, I would urge anyone that wants to publish with this publisher to thoroughly [read this wiki article](#) detailing their possible ethical/publishing problems, and [a recent article](#) discussing their growth.

Universities may include transformative agreements with editors to benefit from lower APC, including MDPI

Some make the case that MDPI (and Frontiers, for instance) are becoming established and quality publishers





Steps to due diligence

- The quality and legitimacy of the journal and/or editor
- The truthfulness of statements (e.g. IF, peer review quality)
- Quality content (including the topic, methods, language, references)
- Relevance of previously published authors/editors: are they known to the research topic? Are there public, available CVs of them?
- The Business model: does it use aggressive marketing strategies? May I decide not to pay APC and not have the publication in OA?
- Are non-institutional contacts being used? Does the website look legit? Or is the submission platform a general one (e.g. googleforms)?
- Is the journal well established in my field? Is it in an unrelated topic? Or in an extremely broad area?
- Do I know anyone who has published there? How was their experience? How was the peer review process?
- May I contact the Editor in Chief via official channels to ask for clarifications?



No clear evidence
that predatory
journals publish bad
/ fraudulent science



Countries from
Global South and/or
lower scientific
production may use
predatory journals
to overcome
hegemonic
publication systems
from the Global
North



Difficult to separate
predatory journals from
established ones due to
aggressive marketing
strategies and high APC



Science evaluation
systems play a role
in pushing authors
to use predatory
publication practices



There are different
epistemic
communities and
scientific traditions,
e.g. Law vs. Biology
(e.g. peer review
practices)



Dear Rita Faria,

Thank you for your recent submission. As you continue your research journey, you may want to re-familiarize yourself with [open access \(OA\) publishing options at Springer](#).



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[OA agreements](#)

Future steps



To elucidate the relationship between evaluation systems and (questionable) publishing practices, accounting for the contextual processes of labelling practices as questionable



Combines systematic review, quantitative and bibliometric methods to identify (changing) publishing practices associated with evaluation systems, together with qualitative methods to understand the motivations for these practices in six national systems: Germany, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, India, and Brazil.



Including looking for moral panics on PPP, labelling on those who decide to publish, structural conditions of for-profit scientific publishing; connection to disinformation and research fraud



[Global Publishing:](#)



Thank you
rfaria@direito.up.pt

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