

INORMS REG Annual Report 2021



Introduction

The INORMS Research Evaluation Group (REG), previously known as REWG, was established in 2018. This international group has been meeting regularly over the last three years and was tasked to work on best practices in the field of responsible research evaluation. To this end, group members representing the research management societies that make up INORMS have focussed their attention on two work-packages. The first seeks to draw attention to the burgeoning influence of the [Global University Rankings](#) on the behaviours of universities, and to consider how they might be made fairer and more responsible. It has done so by developing a method for rating the global rankings in accordance with community best practice criteria. The second seeks to guide senior university leaders and practitioners in the adoption and practice of responsible research evaluation. To this end it has designed the [SCOPE framework](#) for, and a series of 'five arguments' for engaging senior leaders with, responsible research evaluation.

The group is chaired by Dr. Elizabeth Gadd, Head of Research Operations, University of Glasgow (UK) and Tanja Strom, Senior Advisor, Department of Research and Development at Oslo Metropolitan University (Norway) is Deputy Chair. Additional members include: Aline Pacifico Rodrigues, Sociedade Beneficente Israelita Brasileira Hospital Albert Einstein (Brazil); Dr. Baron Wolf, University of Kentucky (USA); Dr. Fang Xu, Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); Hirofumi Seike, Tohoku University (Japan); Justin Shearer, The University of Melbourne (Australia); Laura Beaupre, University of Guelph (Canada); Laura Himanen, Tampere University (Finland); Marianne Gauffriau, IT University of Copenhagen (Denmark); and Dr. Xiaoxuan Li, Chinese Academy of Sciences (China).

The INORMS Research Evaluation Working Group was initially extended for one year until June 2021 in order to further test and develop their SCOPE model for responsible research evaluation. In 2021 the INORMS REG became an ongoing sub-group of INORMS and changed its name by removing the word 'working' from the title, to reflect its new status.

We plan to revisit our purpose and terms of reference on a rolling annual basis and will continue to be steered by INORMS Council's view as to the currency and agency of our work.

Group membership is via nomination from INORMS member organisations.

A growing network/group

In 2021 we further increased our international footprint by collaborating with stakeholders like funders, institutions, organisations, projects and publishers to contribute to the work towards a reform of the research assessment system.

Members of the INORMS REG have run a number of SCOPE workshops for different institutions all over the world based on the five-step SCOPE framework.

The SCOPE Framework (see below) continues to be workshopped by the group in a number of different settings. We also regularly hear reports of its adoption (unmediated by INORMS REG) by institutions and individuals in their own evaluative settings. Very excitingly, it is being used as the framework by which Research England are reviewing the UK REF as part of the Future Research Assessment Programme (FRAP). Five case studies showing the adoption of SCOPE by various institutions are now available on the REG web pages. We continue to expand our networks by contributing to global events and initiating discussions with like-minded global organisations.

The group continues to seek partners from a range of different stakeholders who would be interested in hosting a SCOPE workshop to develop a responsible evaluation approach for a specific business process. It could be re-thinking recruitment criteria, consider how to fairly assess engagement with open research, or to develop some new Key Performance Indicators for research.

Allied Organisations

- Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) <https://sfdora.org/>
- Humane Metrics Initiative (HumetricsHSS) <https://humetricshss.org/>
- [Latin American Forum for Research Assessment \(FOLEC\)](#)
- Metrics Project Brazil <https://metricas.usp.br/>
- European Universities Association
- Research management societies and associations members of [INORMS](#)

Tools and services

SCOPE Framework for Research Evaluation

Over the past year the Group have partnered with a range of funders, institutions and publishers to apply SCOPE to a series of real-life evaluation problems with the aim of testing the model. The guide draws on the learnings of these explorations, many of which have been included as case studies. The aim of the guide is to assist any organisation seeking to design a responsible research evaluation.

Emerald Publishing partnered with us to produce a formal guide to SCOPE, including a slide deck and poster. This will greatly assist the formalisation and dissemination of the framework and will help those seeking to apply SCOPE in an unmediated way. The newly published guide is now available as an open resource under a CC-BY licence.

The SCOPE framework for responsible research evaluation comprises of five stages:

1. **START** with what you value
2. **CONTEXT** considerations
3. **OPTIONS** for measuring
4. **PRODE** deeply
5. **EVALUATE** your evaluation

This content is available online, including one-page summaries in various languages, and is available for no charge.

The following resources available on SCOPE explain the model in more detail:

- [SCOPE Full Guide](#)
- [SCOPE One-Page Overview](#)
- [SCOPE Poster](#)

In addition to the SCOPE guide, additional materials have been developed including fuller case studies using the framework from a variety of international contexts including research universities, publishing companies, and funding agencies. More information and materials can be found online here: <https://inorms.net/research-evaluation-group/>.

The REG has been offering webinars to give participants hands-on guidance on how to run a value-led evaluation using SCOPE. The webinars are tailored on a case-by-case basis to ensure that the participants will be able to utilize what they learn in planning and organizing evaluations in their own contexts.

The INORMS Research Evaluation Group has been invited to facilitate workshops for institutions and organisations, using the SCOPE framework to as a mechanism to develop responsible research evaluations, and as a training framework.

SCOPE Case Studies

- [University of Glasgow – Evaluating Support for the Careers of Others](#)
- [Emerald Publishing – Evaluating the diversity of editorial boards](#)
- [Danish universities – use of SCOPE in interviews with Danish HE Leaders](#)
- [Oslo Metropolitan University – use of Sinorms-scope-case-study-uk-he-funding-bodies-finalCOPE in Masters program](#)
- [UK Higher Education Funding Bodies – Using SCOPE to design a new national research evaluation system](#)

Rankings

The REG has been active in highlighting the problems involved in global university rankings in terms of responsible research evaluation (for more on this, please visit our www-pages: <https://inorms.net/rethinking-global-university-rankings/>). Problems with rankings are shared with many other actors, and now we are discussing possible alternatives with several stakeholders. One initiative we are exploring is 'Much more than our rank' (proposed [here](#)) which would allow institutions to describe, almost in the form of a 'Narrative CV', the contribution they make to scholars, society and scholarship, much of which is not captured by the Global University Rankings.

Articles and blog posts

- Gadd, Elizabeth, Richard Holmes & Justin Shearer. (2021) Developing a method for evaluating global university rankings, *Scholarly Assessment Reports*, 3(1), p.2. <https://www.scholarlyassessmentreports.org/articles/10.29024/sar.31/>
- Gadd, Elizabeth. (2021) Mis-measuring our universities: why global university rankings don't add up. *Frontiers in Research Metrics and Analytics*. <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/frma.2021.680023/full>

News items

- INORMS Research Evaluation Group Releases Guide to SCOPE Framework for Responsible Research Evaluation. (10 December 2021). Baron G Wolf <https://www.srainternational.org/blogs/srai-news/2021/12/08/inorms-research-evaluation-group-releases-guide-to>
- INORMS Guide aims for more responsible research evaluation. (22 November 2021) Mico Tatalovic <https://www.researchprofessionalnews.com/rr-news-world-2021-11-inorms-guide-aims-for-more-responsible-research-evaluation/>
- Editorial – 'Research managers are essential to a healthy research culture. (7 July 2021) <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-01823-0>

- University leaders urged to take a stand against rankings (16 March 2021) Fiona MacIntyre. <https://www.researchprofessionalnews.com/rr-news-uk-universities-2021-3-university-leaders-urged-to-take-a-stand-against-rankings/>
- Measure what matters: ranking universities in the age of a pandemic. (4 March 2021) Goda Naujokaitytė <https://sciencebusiness.net/covid-19/news/measure-what-matters-ranking-universities-age-pandemic>

Mentions

- European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, Towards a reform of the research assessment system : scoping report, Publications Office, 2021, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/707440>
- Bregt Saenen, et al. Open Science in university approaches to academic assessment: Follow-up to the 2020-21 EUA Open Science survey. Research Report. Brussels: European University Association, 2021. <https://eua.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?id=3416>
- DORA. Resource: The SCOPE Framework: A five-stage process for evaluating research responsibly. Sfdora.org. <https://sfdora.org/resource/the-scope-framework-a-five-stage-process-for-evaluating-research-responsibly/>
- Emerald publishing. News & press releases. INORMS Research Evaluation Group releases guide to SCOPE framework for responsible research evaluation. <https://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/news-and-press-releases/inorms-research-evaluation-group-releases-guide-scope-framework-responsible>
- Responsible research assessment faces the acid test. Nature. 2021 Jul;595(7868):471-472. doi: [10.1038/d41586-021-01991-z](https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-01991-z). PMID: 34290433.
- CWTS Leiden Ranking. Responsible use. <https://www.leidenranking.com/information/responsibleuse>
- CWTS. News. CWTS publishes the Leiden Ranking 2021. <https://www.cwts.nl/news?article=n-s2t274&title=cwts-publishes-the-leiden-ranking-2021>
- Henriikka Mustajoki, Janne Pölönen, Kathleen Gregory, Dragan Ivanović, Valerie Brasse, Joonas Kesäniemi, Elina Koivisto, Elina Pylvänäinen (2021): Making FAIRer assessments possible. Final report of EOSC Co-Creation projects: "European overview of career merit systems" and "Vision for research data in research careers". <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4701375>

- Miedema, Frank. (2021, 30 September). Open Science and academic recognition and rewards: A vision from Utrecht University. [paper] for Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/news/files/eclac_-_open_science_at_uu.pdf
- Global Research Council Conference (2021). Responsible Research Assessment. Global Research Council (GRC). Conference Report 2021. https://www.globalresearchcouncil.org/fileadmin/documents/GRC_Publications/GRC_RRA_Conference_Summary_Report.pdf
- IATUL Research Impact Things. A self-paced training program for IATUL libraries. Thing 9: Rankings. <https://iatulimpactthings.info/thing-9-rankings/>
- Transition to Open Science, Frank Miedema Vice Rector Research, Utrecht University Chair UU Open Science Program https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/news/files/eclac_-_open_science_at_uu.pdf
- Inorms guide aims for more responsible research evaluation, <https://www.researchprofessionalnews.com/rr-news-world-2021-11-inorms-guide-aims-for-more-responsible-research-evaluation/>
- Stoy, Lennart, & Maes, Elisa. (2021). Driving assessment reform through collaboration – the approach of the EUTOPIA European University. The EUTOPIA European University is implementing a process to reform research assessment based on the INORMS SCOPE Framework for Research Evaluation. Open Science Fair (OSFAIR2021). Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5517459>
- Ruth's Rankings (2021). Ruth's Rankings 47 Part 2: The quest continues for new ranking metrics for universities. <https://librarylearningspace.com/ruths-rankings-47-part-2-the-quest-continues-for-new-ranking-metrics-for-universities/>
- Pölönen, Janne (2021, 21 October). Helsinki initiative on multilingualism in scholarly communication. [Paper] NORDICOM webinar. <https://nordmedianetwork.org/content/uploads/2021/10/nmnwebinarpolonen.pdf>

Conference papers

Date	Conference / Event Name	Presenters	Title
November 2021	NWB2021	Marianne Gauffriau, Lone Bredahl, Tanja Strøm, Laura Himanen	Using SCOPE to investigate research evaluation practices at Danish universities work in progress.
October 2021	ARMA Conference	Elizabeth Gadd	Playing the Rankings at their own game?
September 2021	LATMetrics (https://latmetrics.wordpress.com/)	Elizabeth Gadd & Aline Pacifico	SCOPE: Responsible Evaluation In Practice
July 2021	Focus on Open Science Chapter XIII	Elizabeth Gadd	Value-led research evaluation: a practical guide for Open Research
May 2021	INORMS 2021	Laura Beaupre, Lone Bredahl, Elizabeth Gadd, Laura Himanen, Aline Pacifico, Hirofumi Seike, Justin Shearer, Tanja Strøm, Baron G. Wolf,	Changing the world of research evaluation: the work of the INORMS Research Evaluation Working Group
May 2021	UCL Open Science Event	Elizabeth Gadd	COUNTERproductive? The role of metrics in the advancement of open science.

April 2021	Bibliometrics and Research Impact Community Conference, Canada	Laura Beaupre and Justin Shearer	<u>Working towards meaningful, responsible and effective research evaluation.</u>
March 2021	NARMA Conference	Laura Himanen and Tanja Strøm	<u>If our metrics are not shaped by our core values, our values will be distorted by our metrics.</u>
February 2021	Metricas Project Brazil	Aline Pacifico and Elizabeth Gadd	<u>SCOPE method for responsible research evaluation</u>

Looking forward to 2022

Activity: We are developing a training course to equip participants to run value-led evaluations using SCOPE. The course will run via a series of three webinars and will allow participants to apply the principles of SCOPE to plan and develop a real-life evaluation in their own contexts. The first course is planned to take place in September. More information will follow!

Outreach and engagement

We will continue to submit abstracts to conferences and bid for funding, contribute to discussions, accept invitations to various projects and processes at institutions or organizations.

Developing partnerships

And we will seek to expand our partnership base and continue the dialog with with our existing partners.

Get involved

Become an active part of the INORMS Research Evaluation Group.

Visit our webpage to keep informed of our work <https://inorms.net/research-evaluation-group/>

Follow INORMS REG on twitter https://twitter.com/INORMS_REWG?s=20

Get in touch with us if you have any questions, are interested in finding out more, or want to send us your feedback.

Contact the group by reaching out to the Chair, Dr. Elizabeth Gadd,

e.a.gadd@lboro.ac.uk or the Deputy Chair, Tanja Strom, tanja.strom@oslomet.no.

The REG is available for additional workshops and program development in the use of SCOPE.