



## Annual Report, INORMS Research Evaluation Group 2022

*2022 was the year in which Baron won a prestigious NSF Grant which incorporates a SCOPE workshop; in which the United Kingdom (UK) joint research funding bodies utilised SCOPE to redesign the UK research excellence framework; and in which Erica, Tanja & Laura won a contract to provide SCOPE workshops to Ghent University. It was the year in which we started earning our first consultancy income showing the value being placed on our work. 10% of respondents to the 2022 lis-bibliometrics survey said their institution's approach to responsible research assessment was based on SCOPE.*

*2022 was the year in which we were cited repeatedly in the EUA/Science Europe agreement on reforming research assessment, and INORMS REG Chair was elected vice-chair of the coalition on advancing research assessment which will provide us with further visibility. We also launched an international initiative called More Than Our Rank, which is garnering much traction and global support. Whenever rankings are mentioned, our work is discussed - as evidenced by our 2020 Nature piece receiving 40 citations in two years.*

### INORMS REG Chair becomes Vice-Chair of CoARA

The REG joined the EUA/Science Europe Coalition Towards Responsible Research Assessment, <https://coara.eu/>, and both SCOPE and our principles for university assessment were heavily cited by the final [Agreement](#). INORMS became early signatories to the Agreement.

We were delighted that our Chair, Elizabeth Gadd, was elected as a Vice-Chair of the new [Coalition on Advancing Research Assessment](#) (CoARA) Steering Board! The Coalition has over 400 global stakeholders and seeks to drive an ambitious programme of international research assessment reform. The INORMS REG were very proud to become one of the early signatories to the EUA Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment and to have joined the Coalition on Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA). The REG's work, including SCOPE and our Principles for Responsible University Assessment, were cited by the Agreement and we are very much looking forward to supporting the Coalition's ongoing programme of activity.

### More Than Our Rank promoted by Harnessing the Metric Tide report

We were thrilled to see the [Harnessing the Metric Tide](#) report published late last year. The report was co-authored by Professor James Wilsdon (Director of RORI), Professor Stephen Curry (Chair of DORA), and INORMS REG Chair, Lizzie Gadd. It revisited the findings of the influential Metric Tide report from 2015 and made further recommendations. One of these encouraged institutions to engage more responsibly with university rankings, including considering signing up to **More Than Our Rank**.

### Signatories

*More Than Our Rank* officially launched on 17 October with five pioneering early adopter institutions.

We're delighted to report that new signatories and supporters for the INORMS **More Than Our Rank** initiative are joining all the time. We are planning on running a Community Call for all those participating – and interested in participating – in More Than Our Rank, in March.

A diverse range of institutions are continuing to sign up. And we have statements from 10 supporting organisations. And those signing before 28 February 2023 will be designated as Early Adopters and their logos showcased on the webpage.

The group has developed a guide to encourage universities to sign up to **More Than Our Rank** with an overview of **Why** your institution should participate, and it address institution concerns.

<https://inorms.net/more-than-our-rank/>

## **SCOPE – generic and bespoke**

In addition to our ongoing awareness raising about the INORMS [SCOPE Framework](#) for responsible research evaluation at conferences all around the world, over the last year we have had the privilege of working with a number of universities to offer bespoke 'SCOPE' training in their home settings. This included supporting the University of Durham, UK, with the use of SCOPE to identify their research culture values, and Lancaster University, UK, with some work to responsibly evaluate open research. This year we are scheduled to work with universities in Canada, Belgium, and the UK with their implementations of SCOPE.

## **Cost-recovery SCOPE workshops**

The development of cost-recovery-based SCOPE workshops are going well. We have run two for Durham University, UK and have two planned for Lancaster University, UK in the Autumn.

## **Grant funding**

US National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant funding to support INORMS SCOPE workshop: INORMS REG member Dr Baron Wolf is the recipient of a \$325K NSF grant to explore "Research Analytics Using the Higher Education Research and Development Survey (HERD) to Impact Institutional Strategy". The grant includes funding for an INORMS SCOPE workshop to share and discuss best practice in evaluation design. Congratulations Baron! Read more about the grant [here](#).

## **Dissemination**

### **Articles, blog posts and podcasts**

#### **"University League Tables have no legs to stand on"**

Lizzie Gadd has partnered with Adrian Barnett, former lead of the Statistical Society of Australia, to issue a call to the Royal Statistical Society, American Statistical Association and Statistical Society of Australia via their professional journal, "Significance", to take a public stance on the statistical failings of the world university rankings for the benefit of the global HE sector. Read the article [here](#) (Publisher version). Or [here](#) (Accepted Manuscript).

Barnett, Adrian & Elizabeth Gadd. 2022. University league tables have no legs to stand on. *Significance*, 19 (4), 4-7. <https://rss.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/1740-9713.01663> ([Repository version](#) also available)

#### **Emerald Podcast Series on research evaluation, "Are you in?"**

Lizzie Gadd was one of three research evaluation commentators interviewed for a two-part podcast series run by Emerald Publishing called "Are you in? How close are we to reaching more responsible

research assessment across the globe?” She talks about the INORMS SCOPE framework and the ‘More Than Our Rank’ initiative. Listen to the podcasts [here](#).

Emerald Podcast Series. Are you in? How close are we to reaching more responsible research assessment across the globe? (parts 1 & 2) [Elizabeth Gadd talking about the INORMS work on responsible research evaluation.] <https://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/podcast-are-you-how-close-are-we-reaching-more-responsible-research-assessment-across-globe-parts-1>

- Gadd, Elizabeth. (2022). ‘More Than Our Rank’ reaches the places that league tables can’t. Research Fortnight. (17 October 2022) <https://www.researchprofessionalnews.com/rr-news-uk-views-of-the-uk-2022-10-more-than-our-rank-reaches-the-places-that-league-tables-can-t/>
- SRAI Shop Talk Podcast | Hot Topics in Research Administration – Episode 2 | [Baron Wolf talking about SCOPE](#)

### In the press

- Morrish, Liz. (2022) No More Big Lie. *Academic Irregularities Blog*. <https://academicirregularities.wordpress.com/2022/12/31/no-more-big-lie/> [Describes the INORMS More Than Our Rank scheme as “a fantastic initiative from actual practitioners”].
- Bredahl, Laura. (2022) “The Current and Evolving Landscape of Bibliometric Tools and Technologies”, *Library Technology Reports* vol. 58, no. 8 (November/December 2022). <https://doi.org/10.5860/ltr.58n8>. Describes the INORMS SCOPE Framework and states: “The work coming out of INORMS is crucial for a bibliometric practitioner to understand”.
- Rushforth, Alex, Marta Sienkiewicz, Sarah de Rijcke, Building knowledge infrastructure to support research assessment reforms: Dispatches from the Dutch Recognition and Rewards Festival 2022: <https://leidenmadtrics.nl/articles/building-knowledge-infrastructure-to-support-research-assessment-reforms-dispatches-from-the-dutch-recognition-and-rewards-festival-2022>[Reference to SCOPE framework]
- Research evaluation needs to change with the times. *Nature* 601, 166 (2022) doi: <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-022-00056-z> [Reference to SCOPE framework]

### REG Conference Updates

Several REG members have been successful in their submissions to present our work on SCOPE and More Than Our Rank at various international conferences including: ARMA (UK)?, CARA, EARMA, Nordic Workshop on Bibliometrics and Research Policy

### Membership update

The INORMS Research Evaluation Group is always looking to ensure all the INORMS constituent research management societies are represented.

We have new members:

Dr Corinna Lenhardt representing FORTRAMA,

Dr William Bramwell representing the Association of Commonwealth Universities.

Dr Erica Conte representing CARA

Dr Tee Boon Tuan, representing MyRMA (Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka).

### 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](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](mailto:e.a.gadd@lboro.ac.uk) or the

Deputy Chair, Tanja Strom, [tanja.strom@oslomet.no](mailto:tanja.strom@oslomet.no).