

INORMS Research Evaluation Group 2023 Activity Report

Report for the INORMS Council

Growing pushback against the University Rankings

Global ranking reports promote More Than Our Rank

- Global interest in rethinking the rankings continues as the [European University Association announced](#) at the EUA Annual Conference that they would be developing some guidelines on engaging with the rankings. This followed a [keynote speech](#) by INORMS REG Chair, Elizabeth Gadd, where she described how the rankings were having a perverse impact on the HE sector. The Guidelines have now been [published](#) and they recommend that institutions sign up to the INORMS REG's [More Than Our Rank](#) initiative.
 - Universities of the Netherlands (UNL) have published [a report on university rankings](#). As part of its recommendations, they encourage organisations to sign the [More Than Our Rank](#) initiative.
 - The United Nations University International



Institute for Global Health published a report on the Coloniality and Biases of the Global University Rankings this year, followed by a separate statement with recommendations for all stakeholders. This also recommended that institutions signed the More Than Our Rank Initiative.

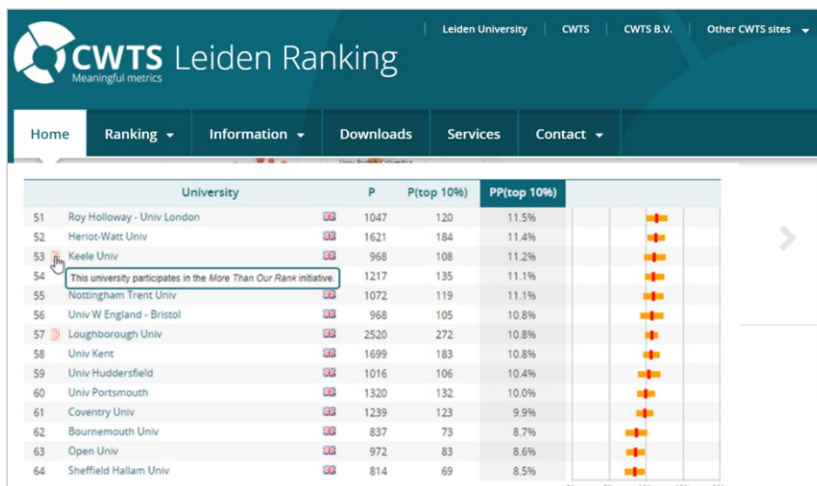
Invitations to engage internationally on rankings

- Both the Dutch Rankings Expert Group and the INORMS Research Evaluation Group are increasingly being invited to speak to national Rectors' conferences about the problems with the rankings and how we might address them. REG Chair, Elizabeth Gadd, has spoken at rectors conferences in Catalunya and Germany (November 2023). A speaking engagement with the Swiss University Rectors is scheduled for February 2024.
- INORMS REG, the Dutch Rankings Expert Group, CoARA and the CWTS Leiden Ranking ran a Special Session at the 2023 STI Conference on 27 September entitled 'University Rankings: Accept, Amend, Avoid'.
- Erica Conte presented on More Than Our Rank to the Canadian Association of Research Administration (CARA) National Conference, and about both MTOR and SCOPE at the CARA Unite International Virtual Symposium.
- Will Bramwell presented the More Than Our Rank Initiative at the INORMS 2023 Congress in South Africa in June.

The development of More Than Our Rank

- More Than Our Rank signatories continue to grow slowly with a total of 16 signatories.
- The CWTS Leiden Ranking and the INORMS More Than Our Rank initiative announced a new partnership September 26th 2023, aimed at highlighting the accomplishments of universities beyond what is captured in university rankings.

By partnering with the INORMS More Than Our Rank initiative, the Leiden Ranking highlights



University	P	P(top 10%)	PP(top 10%)
51 Roy Holloway - Univ London	1047	120	11.5%
52 Heriot-Watt Univ	1621	184	11.4%
53 Keele Univ	968	108	11.2%
54 This university participates in the More Than Our Rank initiative	1217	135	11.1%
55 Nottingham Trent Univ	1072	119	11.1%
56 Univ W England - Bristol	968	105	10.8%
57 Loughborough Univ	2520	272	10.8%
58 Univ Kent	1699	183	10.8%
59 Univ Huddersfield	1016	106	10.4%
60 Univ Portsmouth	1320	132	10.0%
61 Coventry Univ	1239	123	9.9%
62 Bournemouth Univ	837	73	8.7%
63 Open Univ	972	83	8.6%
64 Sheffield Hallam Univ	814	69	8.5%

that, notwithstanding any value that rankings may have, institutions are so much more than their rank. <https://www.leidenmadtrics.nl/articles/the-leiden-ranking-goes-beyond-ranking>

- In addition to a series of community calls in March 2023, the REG have organized a successful MTOR Spotlight Session to discuss the University of Utrecht's withdrawal from the University Rankings. More Spotlight Sessions are scheduled for 2024. See the recordings of all these events here: <https://inorms.net/more-than-our-rank-community-calls/>
- A preliminary analysis of narratives from the eight first More Than Our Rank signatories was presented in a [poster](#) at the 28th Nordic Workshop on Bibliometrics and Research Policy in Sweden.

The spread of SCOPE!

- The SCOPE Framework is spreading across the global as more institutions learn about this approach. Below are the places that have held in-person or virtual SCOPE workshops along with our INORMS-REG members to date:



- Part of the group has written a scholarly journal article. This article introduces the SCOPE framework for responsible research assessment (RRA) developed by the International Network of Research Management Societies' (INORMS) Research Evaluation Group (REG) and situates it within the sector-wide drive towards more meaningful and robust research evaluation practices. It is now available in preprint, and has had one review (accept decision) to date:
<https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.140810.1>

SCOPE Workshops

- The INORMS Research Evaluation Group is regularly invited to facilitate workshops on the SCOPE process to support planning and conducting an evaluation responsibly. This year we delivered our first in-person workshops at the University of Ghent, Belgium, and the University of Turku, Finland, as well as running events at the University of Alberta, Canada, Northumbria University and Lancaster University in the UK. In addition, the Group is also now being consulted on the review of existing evaluations – the ‘E’ of SCOPE! – to support organisational learning around the principles of responsible research assessment.



SCOPE Use Cases

- The University of Turku, Finland, has based their [Policy for Responsible Assessment for Research and Researcher](#) on SCOPE.
- The UK Committee on Research Integrity is basing the design of their research integrity indicators on SCOPE, with REG Chair acting as consultant.
- The UK Joint HE Funding Bodies named SCOPE as their preferred framework for the design of some research culture indicators for use in the next Research Excellence Framework exercise.
- We are happy to be able to report on new cases on how SCOPE can be used:
 - University of Surrey (2023). Use of SCOPE to develop open research indicators (<https://osf.io/v9wm8>)
 - Bhattacharjee Suchirapidta, Moumita Koley & Jahnab Bharadwaj (2023). Workshop on Research Assessment Practices in Indian Funding Agencies. Journal of Science Policy & Governance. Vol 22, 1, 2023. (<https://doi.org/10.38126/JSPG220110>)
 - University of Leeds (2023). Using SCOPE to select metrics to track improvements in Research Culture: Interim reflections. (<https://sway.office.com/TKBsP05v1E1VOLaN>)
- And, as learning more about the different ways SCOPE is being used is extremely useful for the REG, we have invited the community and everyone who has used or knows of someone who has used SCOPE to take the [VERY SHORT SURVEY](#). We are collecting the data so that we can visualize the use of the tool.

SCOPE Conferences

- INORMS REG member Baron Wolf (University of Kentucky, United States) has been awarded a \$149,535 (USD) forum grant from the National Leadership Grant Program of the National Institute of Museum and Library Services

(<https://www.imls.gov/grants/awarded/lg-254850-ols-23>). This two-day, in-person forum titled *Responsible Research Evaluation Forum: Implementation of the SCOPE*



Framework was developed and submitted by a sub-group of the INORMS-REG, the University of Kentucky, and Virginia Tech. This meeting will be the first of its kind to bring the SCOPE framework to the United States where research managers, librarians, and data scientists will come together to learn and apply the framework. We are excited about this

opportunity to bring several of the INORMS REG members to the U.S. to help deliver this in-person event. The forum will take place March 13-14m, 2024, more information about this in-person meeting can be found here:

<https://evaluationforum.uky.edu/>.

SCOPE Presentations & Talks

- Laura Himanen and Tanja Strøm presented 'SCOPE: a tool for responsible research assessment' at the EARMA Conference in April.
- Tanja Strøm presented SCOPE and the group's work for the Ethics and Research Integrity Officer Network (**ERION**) (network within EARMA) in Stockholm in May.
- INORMS REG also ran an extended session of using the SCOPE Framework at the INORMS 2023 Congress in South Africa in June.
- The INORMS REG Chair Elizabeth Gadd and vice-Chair Tanja Strøm gave a keynote at the ENLIGHT-RISE workshop 'Responsible evaluation of research and researchers' on September 19. **ENLIGHT** is an alliance of ten European universities.
- Elizabeth Gadd gave a keynote on SCOPE also at the 2023 STI Conference held in Leiden on 27-29 September.
- Baron Wolf was awarded a Global Research Fellowship from the National Council of University Research Administrators. Part of this fellowship included attending the International PURE Conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia in October 2023. As a speaker at this event, Baron included references and highlights of both the SCOPE Framework and More than Our Rank Initiative. In addition, Baron travelled to Loughborough, England to meet in-person with Elizabeth Gadd to work on workshop planning, forum planning, and additional collaborations related to the work of the INORMS REG.

New members

- This year we have been pleased to welcome:
 - Ms Maryke Hunter-Husselmann, representing SARIMA. Maryke is the Director: Research Information and Strategy at the Division for Research Development (DRD), Stellenbosch University (SU).
 - Dr Reingis Hauck, representing FORTRAMA. Reingis is the is the director of the research and innovation services at Leibniz University Hannover, Germany.

- The group comprises research managers from 13 international Research Management Societies and Associations representing countries such as the UK, Norway, the US, Canada, China, Japan, Australia, Finland, Denmark, Malaysia and South Africa
- We are still keen to involve a wider range of INORMS members in the REG. If your RMA is NOT represented, please do put out a call within your RMA to solicit a representative member.