



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

PhD Models for Economics, Territory & Finance

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Research and Publication Strategies (in Economic Geography)

“What sorts of institutional conditions produce what kinds of geographical knowledges?” (Castree 2006)

Research and publication strategies

- WHAT TO PUBLISH
- WHERE
- HOW MUCH
- WHEN
- WITH WHOM
- HOW...

- ... WHY

You



(your supervisor...)



The 'public'



The 'state-of-the-art'

WHAT

SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR THE THESIS: The PhD research can be submitted as either a **'book'**, or in the form of at least three research **articles**. The articles must be submitted before the end of the 3rd year to international peer-reviewed scientific journals that are indexed by the [Web of Science](#)¹ and/or [Scopus](#), and should have passed the first stage of review with at least major revisions; if such review is not completed yet, the supervisor should guarantee that the article(s) is solid enough to be publishable, and this must be confirmed by the external reviewers. Coherence among the chapters/articles is compulsory in any case. A proper 'book' is preferable only when the research takes an overtly monographic approach to a specific topic. In both cases, the **submission** of articles to scientific journals is strongly recommended, and should be attempted as soon as possible. In order to maximise the possibility to extract publishable articles from the thesis, while minimizing the risks and lengths of submitting articles to scientific journals, the suggested format for the thesis is that of a **hybrid**: a book including, normally, an introduction, one or two chapters that outline how the thesis approaches the topic, its theoretical and methodological framework, at least three chapters that are also publishable/published as stand-alone research/empirical articles, and a concluding chapter.

Source: PhD guidelines, Economic Geography Curriculum..

WHAT

Journal articles

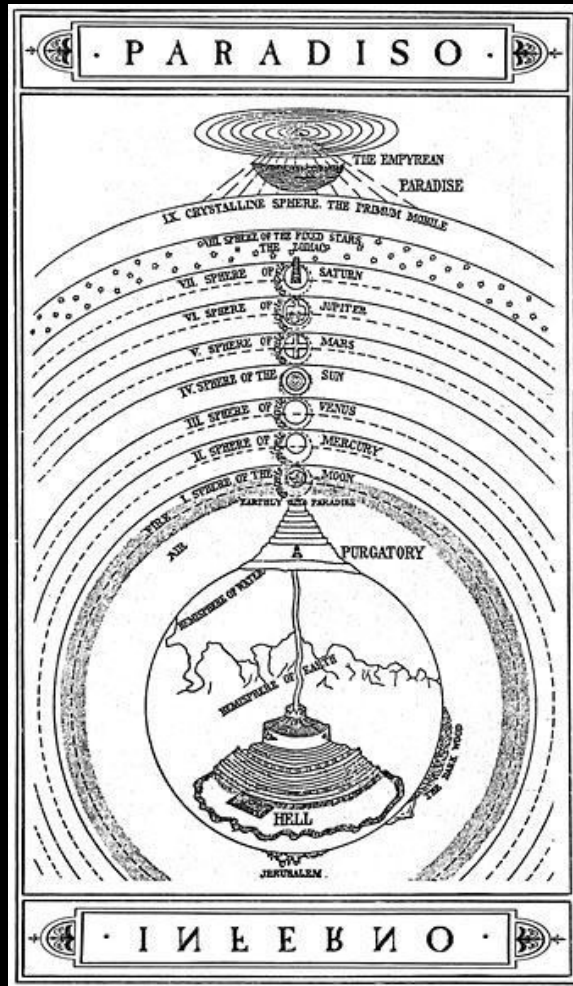
“...must be classifiable as either **research articles** – presenting original empirical analyses and/or original processing of research materials – or **review articles**, understood as critical reflections on specific research themes or authors*. In both cases, manuscripts must demonstrate a sound methodological design and an adequate engagement with the relevant international literature, and must propose an original and significant contribution to the advancement of scholarly debate from a conceptual, theoretical, methodological, or applied perspective. Accordingly, research articles should not be limited to the mere presentation of case studies or analytical results, and review articles should not consist solely of a summary or descriptive cataloguing of sources” (Rivista Geografica Italiana).

Commentaries, book reviews, forums, etc.

Books..: monographs, edited books

Book chapters

Double blind peer-review



Accepted as it is

Minor revisions

Major revisions

Revise & Resubmit

Submit elsewhere

Rejection

Desk rejection

Scientometrics and bibliometric indexes

Institute of Scientific Information (ISI, Philadelphia, 1960 -> Web of Science, Clarivate) | Impact factor



“An essential core of journals forms the literature basis for all disciplines, and most of the important papers are published in relatively few journals... Our mission is to identify that core..”
...and to measure its “impact factor”

IF = (selected) journal's citations per year (articles published in the previous two years) / total articles published in the year

Science Citation Index (1960) | Social Sciences Citation Index (1973) | Arts and Humanities Citation Index (1975) | Emerging Sources Citation Index (2005)

Other bibliometrics

Elsevier's SCOPUS (2004)

$$\text{CiteScore} = \frac{\text{Citations in a given year to documents published in the previous 4 years}}{\text{Documents published in those same 4 previous years}}$$

The screenshot shows the Elsevier SCOPUS interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Search', 'Sources', 'SciVal', and buttons for 'Create account' and 'Sign in'. Below this, the 'Subject area' is set to 'Geography, Planning And Development'. A message states 'CiteScore 2025 has been released'. The 'Filter refine list' section shows '1,197 results'. The 'Display options' section includes checkboxes for 'Display only Open Access journals' and 'No minimum selected'. The main results table shows the following data for the top result:

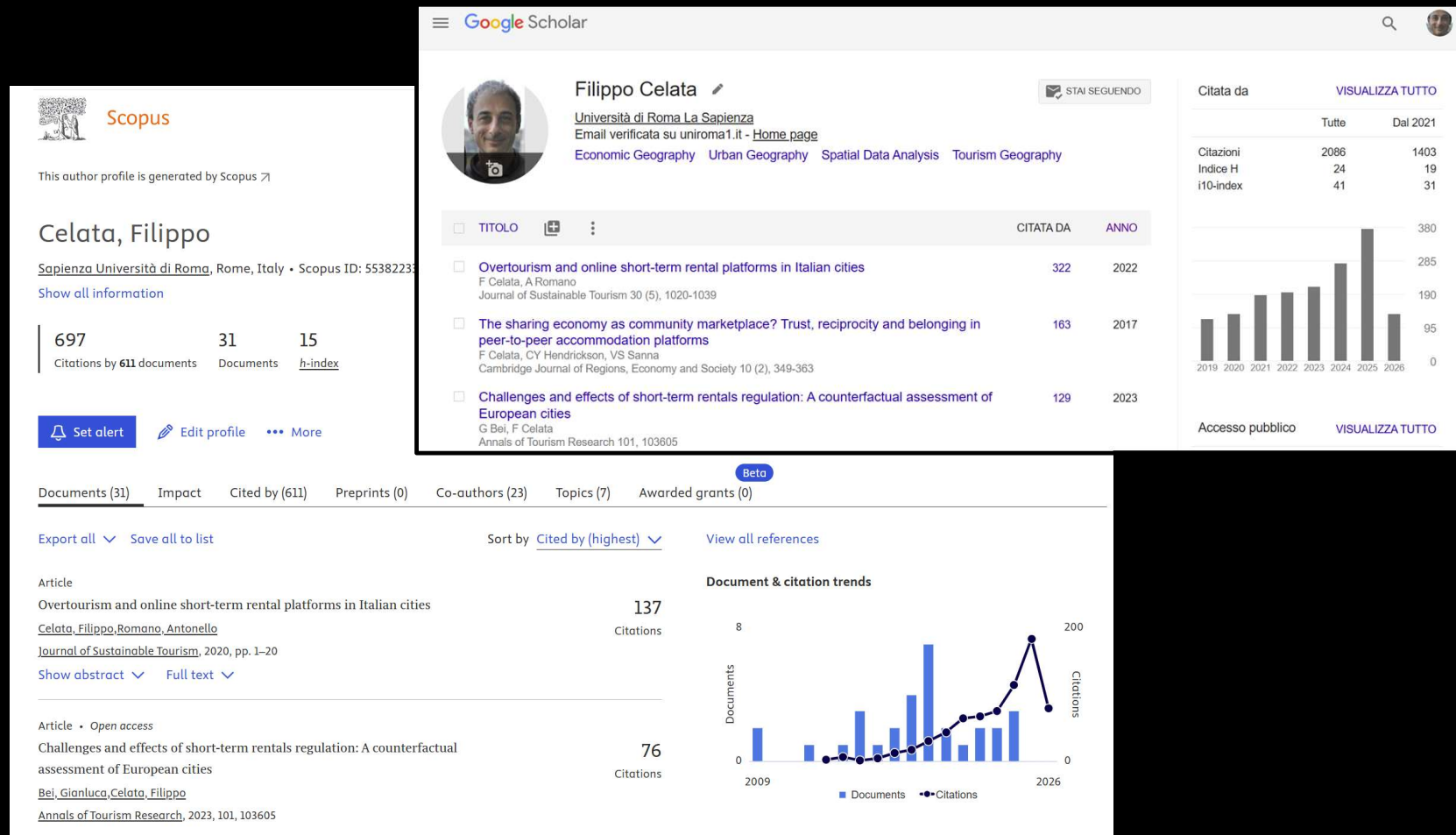
Source title	CiteScore	Highest percentile	Citations 2022-25	Documents 2022-25	% Cited
1 Nature Sustainability	44.1	99% 1/876	27.076	614	92

Scopus, subject area: 'geography, planning and development' = **1,197 journals**

WOS, category 'geography': **87 journals** (+ 'urban and regional planning': 42 + 'development studies': 76 = 205 journals)

..ever expanding universe: approx. 50,000 peer-reviewed journals (+2,5% yearly)

Individual bibliometrics...



H-INDEX: the maximum value of h such that the given author/journal has published at least h papers that have each been cited at least h times.

(Institutional) lists of 'excellent' journals

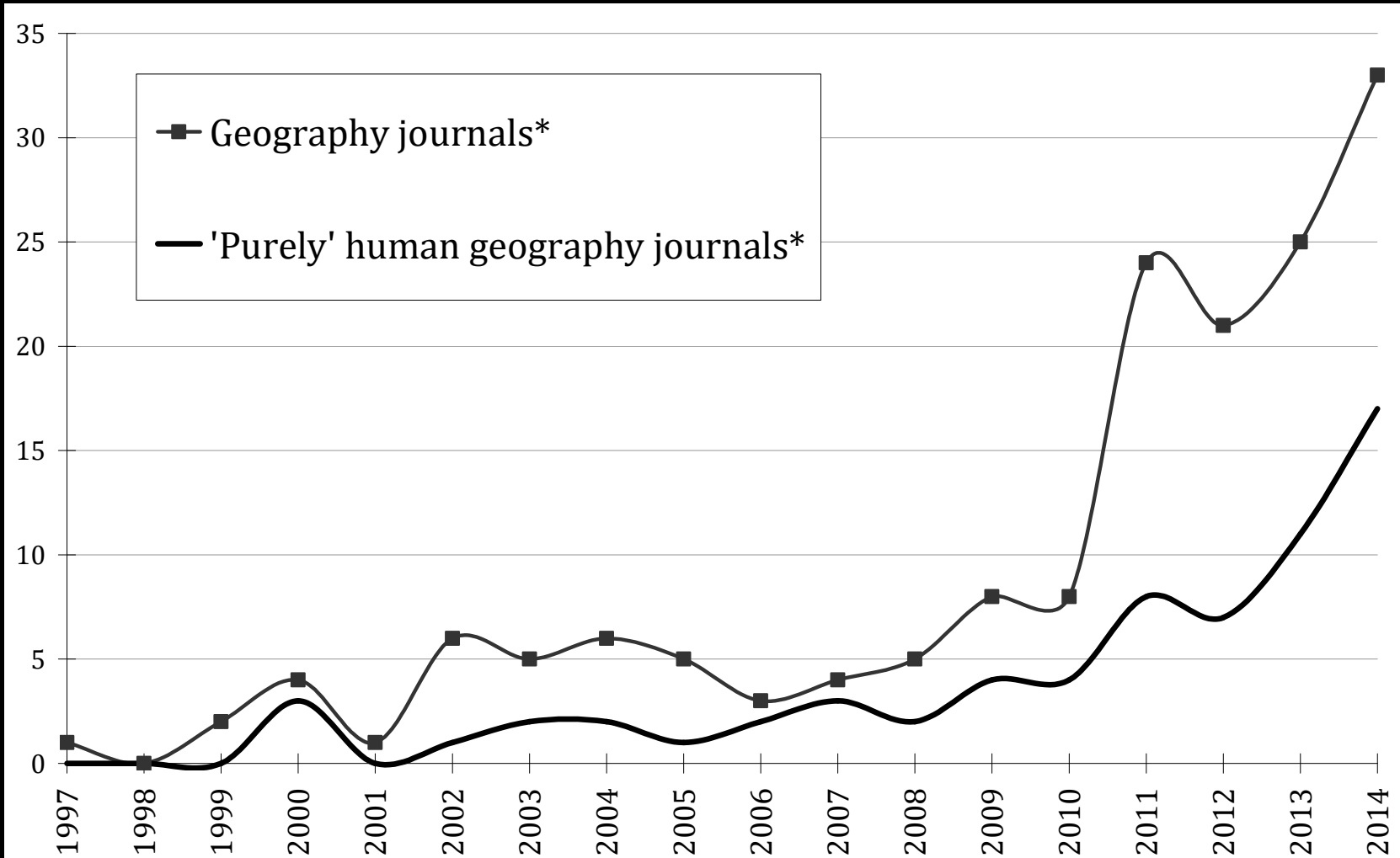
Ex.: Italy/ANVUR 'Class A' journals, since 2012 ('geography': 259 journals + 'scientific journals', area 11: approx. 9,200 journals)



Elenco delle riviste di Classe A per i Settori Concorsuali dell'Area 11 - pubblicato il 05/06/2026

TITOLO	ISSN	11/A1	11/A2	11/A3	11/A4	11/A5	11/B1	11/C1	11/C2	11/C3	11/C4	11/C5	11/D1	11/D2
20 & 21	2649-664X	A	A	A	A									
20 & 21	2649-6100	A	A	A	A									
20 CENTURY BRITISH HISTORY	0955-2359	A	A	A	A									
@TIC	1989-3477													A(2021)
AAD - ARGUMENTATION ET ANALYSE DU DISCOURS	1565-8961							A	A	A	A	A		
AB IMPERIO	2164-9731	A	A	A	A									
AB IMPERIO. STUDIES OF NEW IMPERIAL HISTORY AND NATIONALISM IN THE POST-SOVIET SPACE	2166-4072	A	A	A	A									
ACADEMIA	2241-1402												A	A
ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT LEARNING & EDUCATION	1537-260X												A	A
ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT LEARNING & EDUCATION	1944-9585												A	A
ACM TRANSACTIONS ON COMPUTATIONAL LOGIC	1529-3785							A	A	A	A	A		
ACME	1492-9732						A							
ACTA ANALYTICA	0353-5150							A	A	A	A	A		
ACTA ANALYTICA	1874-6349							A	A	A	A	A		
ACTA BIOTHEORETICA	0001-5342							A	A	A	A	A		
ACTA BIOTHEORETICA	1572-8358							A	A	A	A	A		
ACTA GEOGRAPHICA SLOVENICA	1581-6613						A(2022)							

Articles by scholars affiliated to Italian universities in 'top' geography journal, 1997-2014



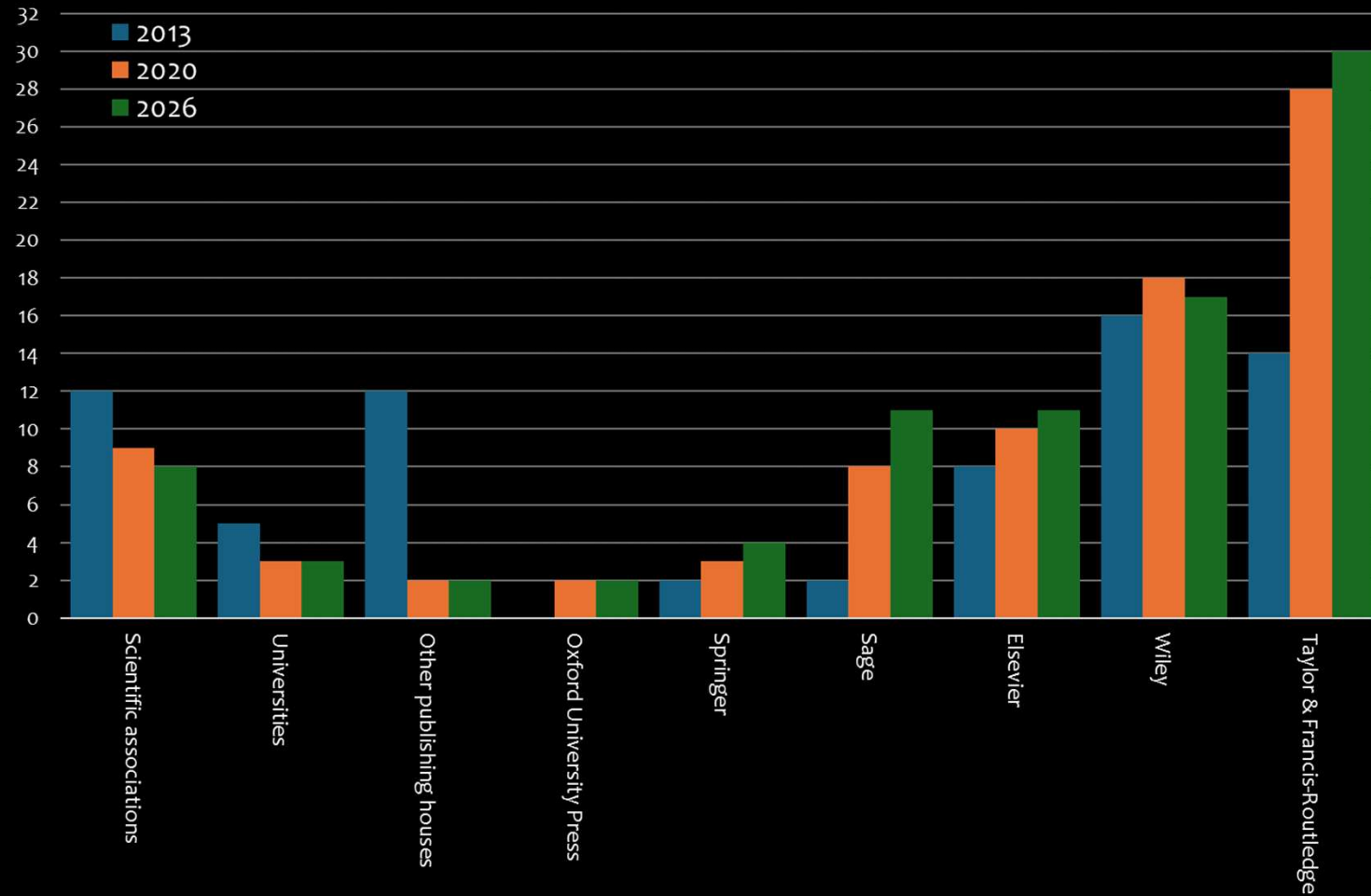
Scopus* AND WoS AND Class A journal in geography, 2025

JOURNAL	CiteScore	Ranking	Publisher
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE	19,2	9	ELSEVIER
COMPUTERS, ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN SYSTEMS	17,3	11	ELSEVIER
ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY	15,9	13	TAYLOR & FRANCIS
PROGRESS IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY	14,9	15	SAGE
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SCIENCE	10,9	38	TAYLOR & FRANCIS
DIALOGUES IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY	10,2	47	SAGE
ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING A	10,2	49	SAGE
APPLIED GEOGRAPHY	10,0	52	ELSEVIER
JOURNAL OF TRANSPORT GEOGRAPHY	10,0	53	ELSEVIER
GEOPOLITICS	9,6	60	ROUTLEDGE
POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY	9,1	64	ELSEVIER
TRANSACTIONS OF THE INSTITUTE OF BRITISH GEOGRAPHERS	7,9	86	WILEY
URBAN GEOGRAPHY	7,4	96	ROUTLEDGE
ANNALS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GEOGRAPHERS	7,3	100	ROUTLEDGE
JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY	7,1	105	OXFORD UNIV PRESS
ANTIPODE	7,0	107	WILEY
TERRITORY, POLITICS, GOVERNANCE	6,6	121	ROUTLEDGE
CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIES/GEOGRAPHIES CANADIENNES	6,6	123	WILEY
ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING C: POLITICS AND SPACE	6,3	134	SAGE
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY	6,1	143	ROUTLEDGE
CARTOGRAPHY AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE	5,7	161	TAYLOR & FRANCIS
CHILDREN'S GEOGRAPHIES	5,5	170	ROUTLEDGE
MOBILITIES	5,3	184	ROUTLEDGE
ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING D: SOCIETY AND SPACE	5,1	191	SAGE
AREA	4,8	207	WILEY
TIJDSCHRIFT VOOR ECONOMISCHE EN SOCIALE GEOGRAFIE	4,7	212	WILEY
POPULATION, SPACE AND PLACE	4,6	215	WILEY
GEOGRAPHICAL REVIEW	4,5	228	TAYLOR & FRANCIS
JOURNAL OF MAPS	4,0	260	TAYLOR & FRANCIS
SPACE AND CULTURE	3,9	266	SAGE
PROFESSIONAL GEOGRAPHER	3,5	301	ROUTLEDGE
LANDSCAPE RESEARCH	3,5	305	ROUTLEDGE
EMOTION, SPACE AND SOCIETY	3,3	314	ELSEVIER
NORSK GEOGRAFISK TIDSSKRIFT-NORWEGIAN J. OF GEOG.	3,3	321	ROUTLEDGE

* Top
400

The market...

Number of WoS Journals per publisher, 'geography', 2013-2020-2026



Scopus NOT WoS NOT Class A in geography

Class A journals in geography that are not in Scopus nor in WoS

Interdisciplinarity: urban studies, housing studies, environmental studies, regional studies, disaster studies, planning, development...

Italianity: Rivista Geografica Italiana, Bollettino della SGU, Archivio di Studi Urbani e Regionali, Annali Memotef... ... Bollettino dell'AIC, Geotema, Geostorie, Semestrale di s. e r. in g., Documenti Geografici...
... J-Reading ('Didactics'), Geography Notebooks, ... Geoprogress...
... Africa, Archeomatica, Finanza, Capitale Culturale, Medit...

Anti-anglofonism: french (5), spanish (2), german, belgian, austrian, slovak, baltic, czech, swiss, hungarian, african... geographical journals

Misteries.. (ex. Archeomatica, Finanza, Capitale Culturale, Medit, Quantrade, Revista De Filosofia, Shima)

‘What sorts of institutional conditions produce what kind of academic subjects’?

The local hero



The national champion



The Anglophile or anglo-verted



Transnational/multi-level academic citizenships

'Thresholds' for the 'Abilitazione scientifica'

Non bibliometric disciplines

SC/SSD	SETTORE CONCORSALE	I Fascia			II Fascia		
		Numero articoli e contributi 10 anni	Numero articoli classe A 15 anni	Numero Libri 15 anni	Numero articoli e contributi 5 anni	Numero articoli classe A 10 anni	Numero Libri 10 anni
11/B1	GEOGRAFIA	18	3	1	12	2	1
13/A1	ECONOMIA POLITICA	15	6	0	5	3	0
13/A2	POLITICA ECONOMICA	21	5	0	12	4	0
13/A3	SCIENZA DELLE FINANZE	15	5	0	6	4	0
13/A4	ECONOMIA APPLICATA	27	4	0	13	2	0
13/A5	ECONOMETRIA	15	10	0	9	4	0
13/B1	ECONOMIA AZIENDALE	19	1	1	7	1	1
13/B2	ECONOMIA E GESTIONE DELLE IMPRESE	24	2	2	11	1	1
13/B3	ORGANIZZAZIONE AZIENDALE	24	2	1	9	1	1
13/B4	ECONOMIA DEGLI INTERMEDIARI FINANZIARI E FINANZA AZIENDALE	12	1	1	6	1	1
13/B5	SCIENZE MERCEOLOGICHE	36	2	0	27	1	0
13/C1	STORIA ECONOMICA	20	1	1	3	1	1
13/D1	STATISTICA	25	7	0	13	5	0
13/D1-SECS-S/02	STATISTICA	15	3	0	8	2	0
13/D2	STATISTICA ECONOMICA	18	4	0	10	3	0

Bibliometric disciplines

Numero articoli 10 anni	Numero citazioni 15 anni	Indice H 15 anni
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Evaluation criteria for publications in Italy



Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca

Criteri valutazione pubblicazioni scientifiche:

- **originalità, innovatività e rilevanza** di ciascuna pubblicazione.
- **congruenza** ... con il settore disciplinare per il quale è bandita la procedura, o con tematiche interdisciplinari correlate;
- rilevanza scientifica della **collocazione editoriale** di ciascuna pubblicazione **e sua diffusione** nella comunità scientifica.
- determinazione analitica ... dell'**apporto individuale** ... nel caso di ... lavori in collaborazione [**'WHIT WHOM'**...]
- **consistenza complessiva** della produzione scientifica del candidato, l'intensità e la continuità temporale della stessa...

Publications number (12) and typologies

Beware of predators...

BEALL'S LIST OF POTENTIAL PREDATORY JOURNALS AND PUBLISHERS

[PUBLISHERS](#)
[STANDALONE JOURNALS](#)
[VANITY PRESS](#)
[CONTACT](#)
[OTHER](#)

Potential predatory scholarly open-access publishers

Instructions: first, find the journal's publisher – it is usually written at the bottom of the journal's webpage or in the "About" section. Then simply enter the publisher's name or its URL in the search box above. If the journal does not have a publisher use the [Standalone Journals](#) list.

All journals published by a predatory publisher are potentially predatory unless stated otherwise.

Original list

[GO TO UPDATE](#)

This is an archived version of the Beall's list – a list of potential predatory publishers created by a librarian Jeffrey Beall. We will only update links and add notes to this list.

Last updated December 31, 2016

Update

Here we include publishers that were not originally on the Beall's list, but may be predatory.

Last updated December 8, 2021

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 research their possible ethical/publishing problems, and a recent article discussing the

Useful pages

List of journals falsely claiming to be indexed by DOAJ

DOAJ: Journals added and removed

Nonrecommended medical periodicals

Retraction Watch

Flaky Academic Journals Blog

List of scholarly publishing stings

Conferences

Questionable conferences [archive]

How to avoid predatory conferences

Flaky Academic Conferences Blog

Evaluating journals

Journal Evaluation Tool

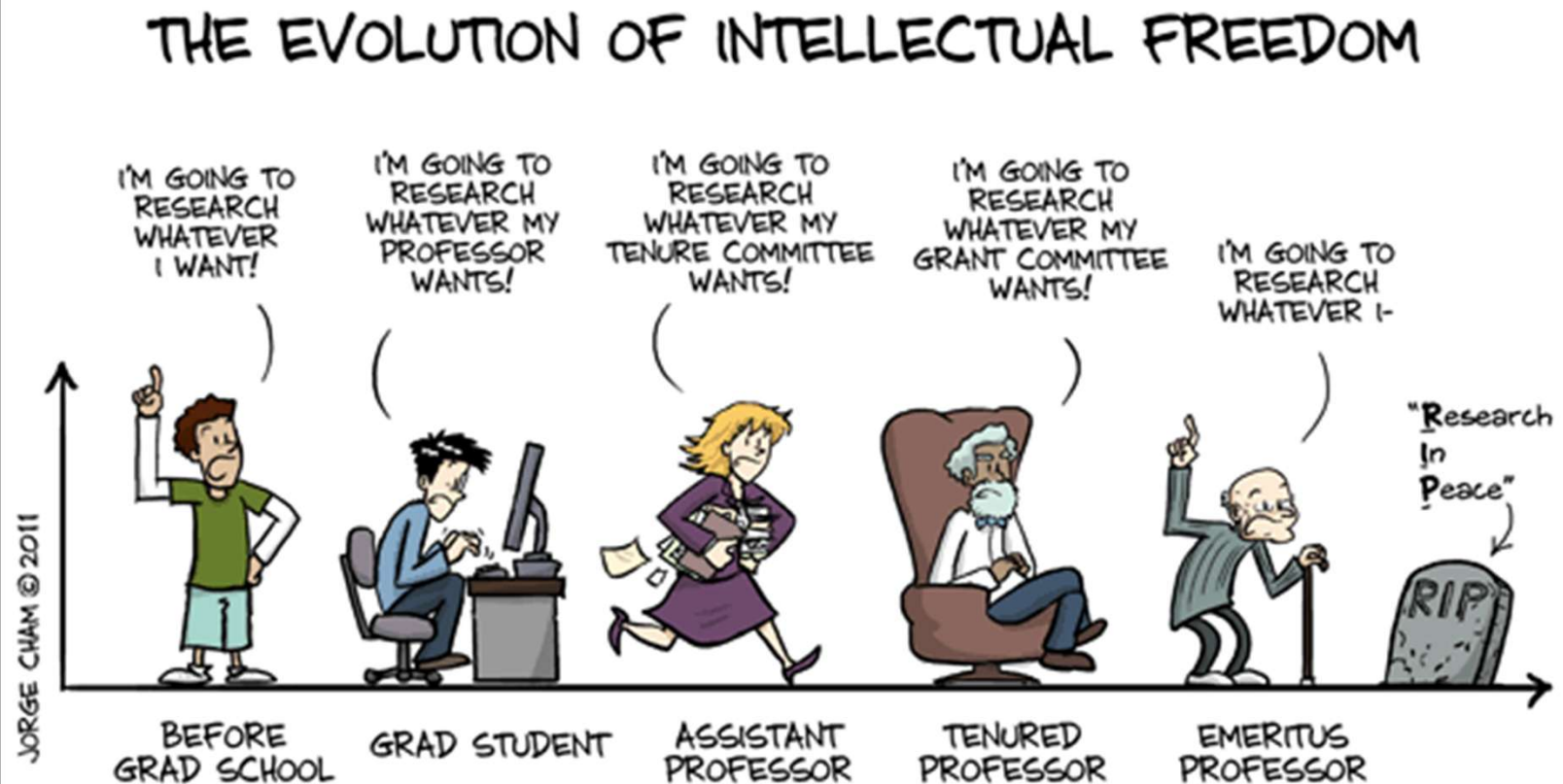
 **unsustainability**
#APCjournalsNoThanks

‘What sorts of institutional conditions produce what kind of academic subjects’?

Publish or perish?



Costituzione italiana (1948), Articolo 33: "L'arte e la scienza sono libere e libero ne è l'insegnamento"...



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