

# Research rankings, outcomes measures and institutional classifications

## Value formation in the k-economy

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## Part-synchronized 'systems' of the emerging k-economy

### 1. Open source knowledge ecology

public goods, open expansionary dynamic driven by networked associationality

### 2. Positional knowledge order (status hierarchy of knowledge, institutions, credentials)

tends towards closure in form, mode of assigning value to (some) public goods  
in category 1 and so partly mediates relations between categories 1 and 3

### 3. Commercial knowledge markets

private goods, closed in form but expansionary dynamic driven by market forces,  
smaller than category 1

## K-economy assembly line



## Open source knowledge



## Knowledge as a global public good



**Paul Samuelson ...**  
public goods



**Joseph Stiglitz ...**  
knowledge as a  
global public good

## Knowledge flows 1



## Intellectual Property

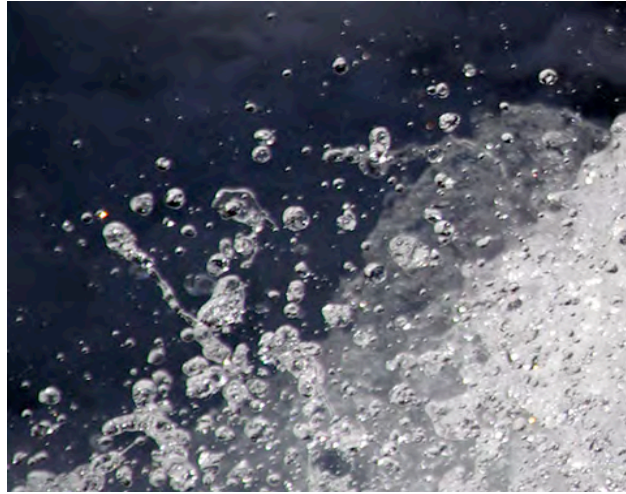


## OECD on 'Open Science'

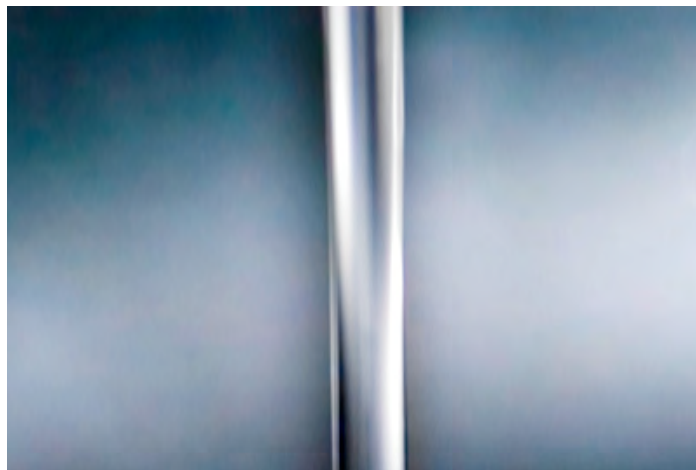
'The idea that stronger IPR regimes for universities will strengthen commercialisation of university knowledge and research results has been in focus in OECD countries in recent years... countries have developed national guidelines on licensing, data collection systems and strong incentive structures to promote the commercialisation of public research... Even though the policy issue of stronger IPR for universities is prominent, it contains a number of problems however. The most important of these is that commercialization requires secrecy in the interests of appropriating the benefits of knowledge, whereas universities may play a stronger role in the economy by diffusing and divulging results. It should be remembered that IPRs raise the cost of knowledge to users, while an important policy objective might be to lower the costs of knowledge use to industry. Open science, such as collaboration, informal contacts between academics and businesses, attending academic conferences and using scientific literature, can also be used to transfer knowledge from the public sector to the private sector.'

~ Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD (2008), *Tertiary Education for the Knowledge Society, Volume 2, 'Enhancing the role of tertiary education in research and innovation'*, p. 102.

## Knowledge flows 1



## Knowledge flows 2



## Disciplines in Jiao Tong 100, 2008

	PHYSICAL SCIENCE	ENGINEERING	LIFE SCIENCE	MEDICINE	SOCIAL SCIENCE	TOTAL
<b>United States</b>	59	49	62	61	77	308
<b>United Kingdom</b>	9	7	11	12	11	50
<b>Canada</b>	2	6	5	6	7	26
<b>Germany</b>	7	1	6	6	0	20
<b>Japan</b>	7	7	3	2	0	19
<b>Netherlands</b>	1	3	2	5	4	15
<b>Switzerland</b>	3	2	4	2	0	11
<b>Australia</b>	1	3	4	3	1	10
<b>Israel</b>	4	2	2	2	0	10
<b>China</b>	0	9	0	0	1	10
<b>Sweden</b>	2	3	2	2	0	9
<b>France</b>	5	2	1	1	0	9
<b>Belgium</b>	0	2	3	2	1	8
<b>Italy</b>	2	3	0	1	0	6
<b>Denmark</b>	2	1	1	1	1	6
<b>South Korea</b>	1	3	0	0	0	4
<b>Singapore</b>	1	2	0	0	1	4
<b>others</b>	1	2	1	3	1	8

## Knowledge flows 1



Q.

How is it then that the chaotic open source flows of knowledge, which have no evident tendency to predictability, let alone to equilibrium,

become reconciled with a world of unequal nations and steep university hierarchies, economic markets, and institutions that routinely require stability and control in order to function?

A.

In the k-economy, public good knowledge flows are vectored by a system of status production.

This assigns value to knowledge, and arranges it in ordered patterns.

The new system for assigning ordered values to knowledge ('k-status') includes

- league tables and university rankings in research (to be mediated by institutional classifications)
- publication metrics and citation metrics
- journal hierarchies
- other comparative measures such as learning outcomes

## Part-synchronized 'systems' of the emerging k-economy

### 1. Open source knowledge ecology

Public goods, open dynamic expansion driven by networked associationality

### 2. Positional knowledge order (status hierarchy of knowledge, institutions, credentials)

Tends towards closure, medium that interprets value of public goods in 1, mediates relations between categories 1 and 3 *some* of the time

### 3. Commercial knowledge markets

private goods, closed in form but dynamic expansion driven by market forces

## Antinomy of the k-economy in higher education

Traditional status competition in universities is framed by closure, by the absolute scarcity of status, by one dominant circuit of knowledge

Open source ecology is characterized by many heterogenous circuits of knowledge, by hyper-abundance, by dissemination without limit

(Industry will source innovations from both 'ordered knowledge' and 'knowledge without value')

## Reflexivities of the k-order

Test comparisons according to their potentials for ~

- self-determination and heteronomy (of national systems, languages/cultures, institutions ,agents)
- diversity and variety
- upward movement on the basis of merit?
- engagement with 'stakeholders' and meeting of social needs
- creativity and path-breaking innovation

## R is for rankings



## M is for metrics

of publication and citation



## C is for classifications

This film has advertising approval. Check the classification closer to the release date.

**M** Recommended for mature audiences

**G** General

**MA 15+** Not suitable for people under 15. Under 15s must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian. RESTRICTED

**PG** Parental guidance recommended

**R 18+** Restricted to 18 and over. RESTRICTED

*Ludwig Classifications*

- Type 1: Generalized thinning with discrete areas of alopecia in the frontal and crown vertex area.
- Type 2: Global diffuse thinning without discrete areas of alopecia.
- Type 3: Frontal temporal recession typically seen in male pattern alopecia.
- Type 4: Scarring alopecia.
- Type 5: Medical and hormonal causes (usually not surgically treated).

## A (HELO) is for learning outcomes



## Lines of action

- clean comparisons that are transparent, free of self-interest, sound social science
- inclusive comparisons on the global scale, that permit a broad range of missions and institutional cultures, sustain self-determination, support genuine creativity
- comparisons that foster universal improvement
- comparisons and performance measures that encourage intellectual innovation

Between the k-order and open source, create a

**plurality of rankings and  
multiplicity of indicators**

The optimum comparisons meet the double test of:

- provision of transparent information
- generation of improvement in outcomes