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Phenomenology of Bibliometrics in Tourism Research

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Phenomenology of Bibliometrics in Tourism Research

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Metrics have been an important strategic management tool employed to measure and improve productivity in Fordist-inspired industrial production systems. The application of metrics was largely unknown in higher education until the 1990s. However, as neoliberal public management of universities has taken hold across the globe, governments have re-positioned higher education away from being a public good towards a mass, marketized model of production and consumption. Not surprisingly, a range of rapidly devised and quite often poorly conceived metrics have been introduced in an attempt to drive improved performance and efficiencies. This presentation focuses on bibliometrics as one measure of research performance.

The majority of studies on bibliometrics in tourism research are quantitative or discursive accounts of the structural impacts of the metricisation of tourism academia. However, in this presentation we discuss how the metricisation of tourism research has everyday and embodied implications. By coining the term 'phenomenology of bibliometrics', we seek to focus greater attention to three analytic dimensions that can be used to understand the implications of this 'bibliometric turn: 'Coping with bibliometrics', 'Embodying bibliometrics' and 'Transferring bibliometrics'. Consequently, this presentation offers a radically different epistemological and methodical framing around which studies on impact factors in tourism research can be addressed.