How Epistemic Injustice Emerges throughout the Scholarly Communication Lifecycle

Emily Cox | NC State University
Outline

1. Intro to epistemic injustice
2. How epistemic injustice emerges in scholarly communication
3. Examine two aspects of scholarly communication (conferences and publication) as epistemically unjust events
A quick primer

*Ethics:*
What is the right/wrong action?

*Epistemology:*
Theory of knowledge

*Epistemic Injustice:*
When we are wronged as knowers
**A quick primer**

**Epistemic Injustice:**

**Testimonial injustice:**
Credibility deficits that members of subordinated groups experience due to social prejudice.

**Hermeneutical injustice:**
Gap in collective interpretive resources puts someone at an unfair advantage when it comes to making sense of their social experience.
Epistemic injustice & scientific inquiry

1. One of the most socially complex forms of knowing
2. Due to social nature, bias and stereotypes can have influence
3. Social injustices can push science in directions that create more injustices
Epistemic injustice & scholarly communication

1. Disseminating research outputs is socially complex
2. Due to social nature, bias and stereotypes can have influence in research communication
3. Social injustices can push scholarly communication in directions that create more injustices
A (small) scholarly communication timeline...
The role of academic conferences in the [re] production of gender inequality in business disciplines: not just a STEM problem

T Walters, N Hassani, W Finkler - International Journal of Event and ... 2022 - emerald.com

Gender equality in academic tourism, hospitality, leisure and events conferences


For some, borders are now an insurmountable barrier to attending international academic conferences

D Nicolson - Impact of Social Sciences Blog, 2018 - eprints.lse.ac.uk

Who is seen to be doing business research, and does it really matter?

Gender representation at academic conferences

T Walters, N Hassani, W Finkler - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: An ..., 2021 - emerald.com
Gap in, or exclusion of, collective interpretive resources puts some attendees at an unfair advantage when it comes to making sense of their conference experience.

Conferences → Hermeneutical injustice
The good, the bad and the rude peer-review

Andreas F. Mavrogenis, Andreas, International Orthopaedics

How to challenge Anglocentricity in academic publishing

By Ingrid Piller, May 11, 2022, 150 Comments, 5 min read

US- and UK-based scholars dominate linguistics

Global academic knowledge production is dominated by the Anglosphere. In Linguistics, for example, scholars based in the USA and UK produce more academic publications than scholars

Authors’ names have ‘astonishing’ influence on peer reviewers

A Nobel prizewinner is six times more likely than someone less well known to get a thumbs-up for acceptance, finds study.
Credibility deficits that *marginalized scholars* experience due to *publication* prejudice

**Publication → Testimonial injustice**
Questions to consider & thank you!

1. What biases and stereotypes in scientific inquiry are reflected and perpetuated in scholarly communication?
2. How do injustices within scholarly communication create more inequity for those interested in the research process?
References

Slide 4:

Slide 5:

Slide 10:

Slide 11:
https://www.languageonthemove.com/how-to-challenge-anglocentricity-in-academic-publishing/

https://sparcopen.org/event/inequities-of-article-processing-charges-how-the-oligopoly-of-academic-publishers PROFITS FROM OPEN ACCESS/

https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00264-020-04504-1

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-03256-9

Slide 12: