Ethics, Epistemology, and Scholarly Communication

How Epistemic Injustice Emerges throughout the Scholarly Communication Lifecycle

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Outline

- 1. Intro to epistemic injustice
- 2. How epistemic injustice emerges in scholarly communication
- 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

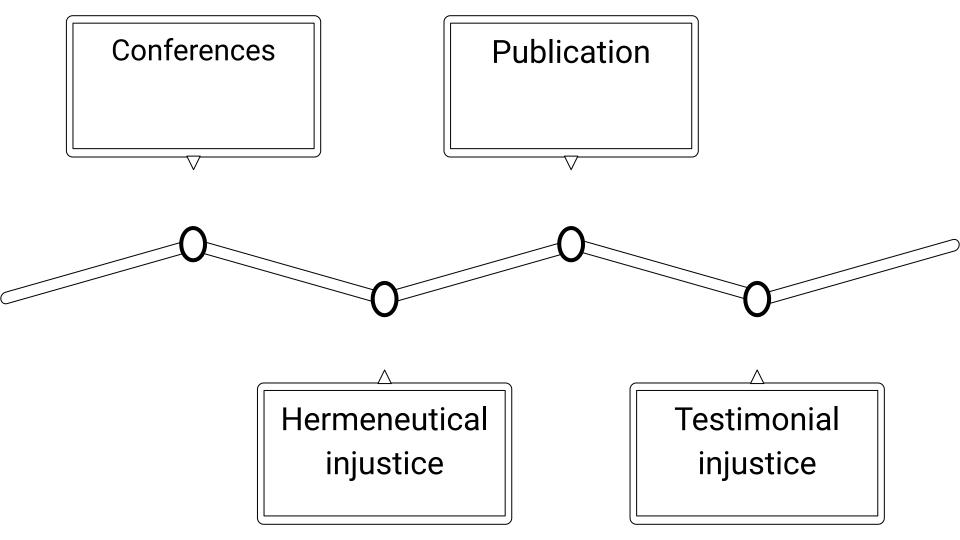
Epistemic injustice & scientific inquiry

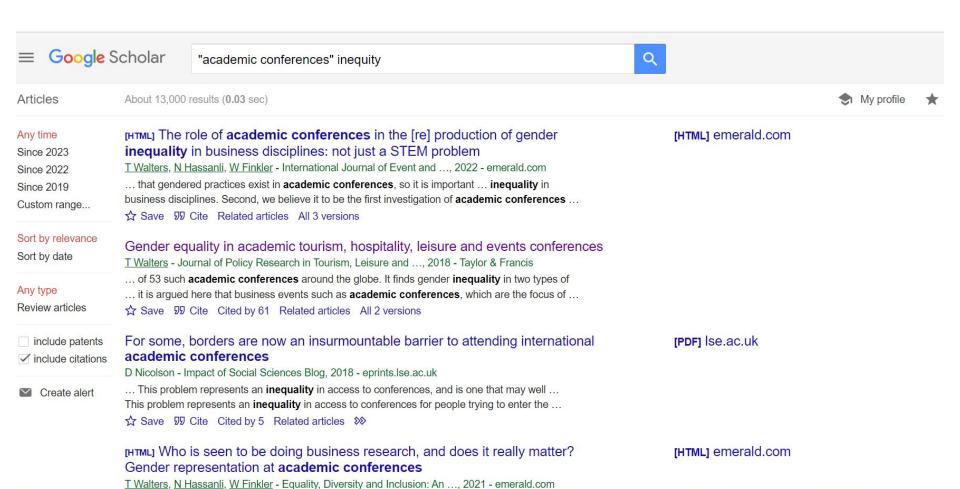
- 1. One of the most socially complex forms of knowing
- 2. Due to social nature, bias and stereotypes can have influence
- 3. Social injustices can push science in directions that create more injustices

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...





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**



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Editorial Published: 11 February 2020

The good, the bad and the rude peer-review

Oligopoly of Academic Publishers Profits from Open



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

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