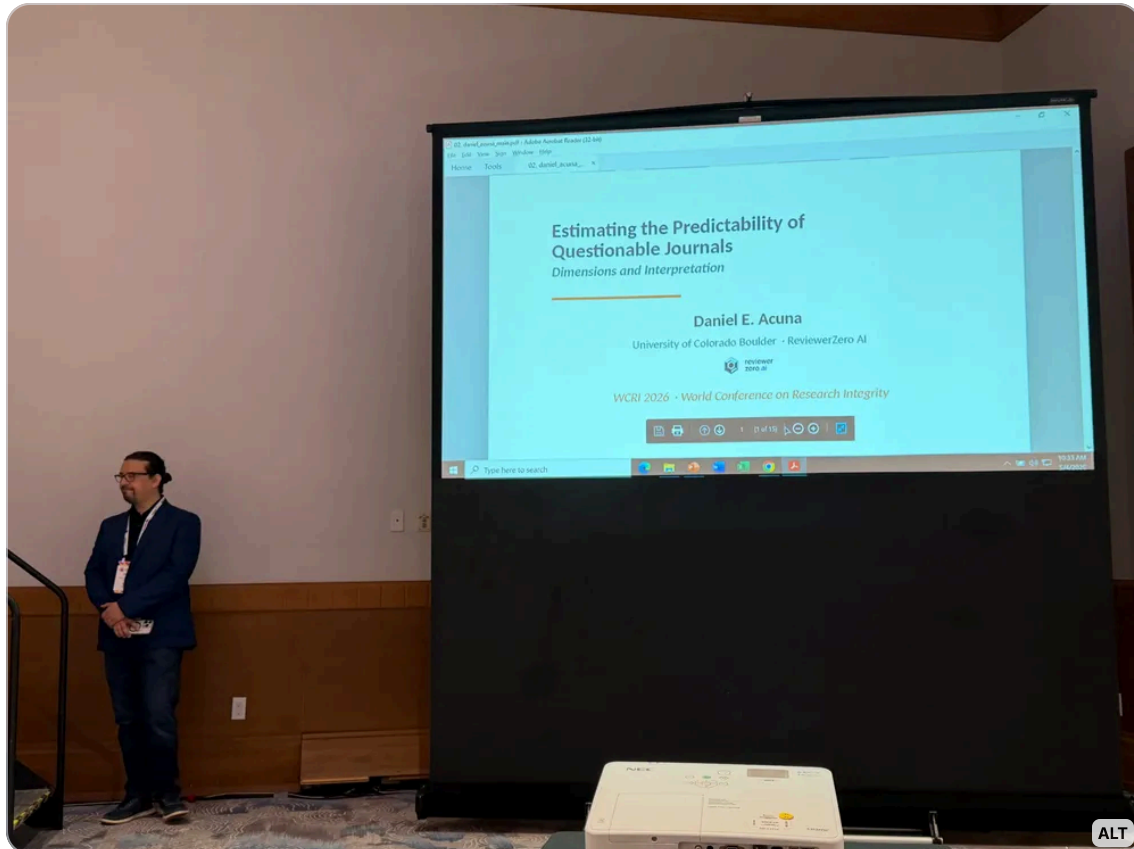




Elisabeth Bik ✓
@elisabethbik.bsky.social

Attending one of the several parallel sessions at the #WCRI2026 conference - unfortunately, the oral sessions do not have a theme, so it will 5 talks on random topics.

We start with "Estimating the Predictability of Questionable Journals: Signals and Interpretation" by @danielacuna.bsky.social



10:34 AM · May 4, 2026 Everybody can reply ▾

14 likes

2 14



Write your reply



Elisabeth Bik ✓ @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 16d

DA: Questionable ("Predatory") journals love to get money from APC, don't care much about quality, contaminate the citation record. Can we use AI to flag them?

Prior work: www.science.org/doi/abs/10.1...

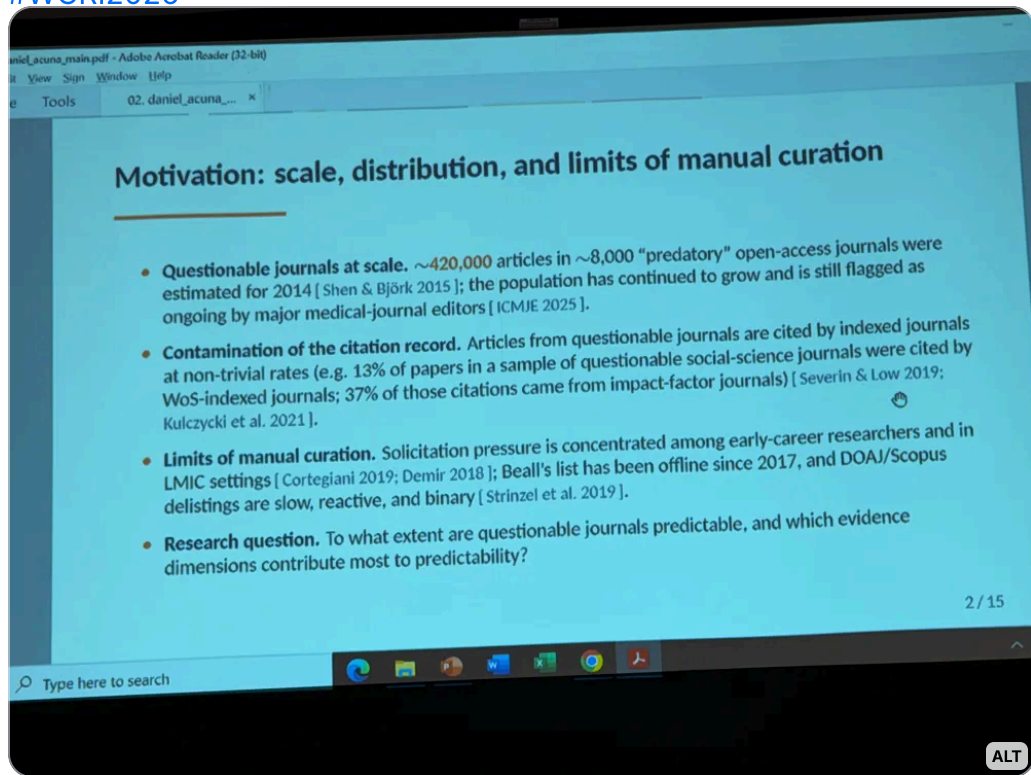


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- 4. M
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Feedba

We look at 44 bibliometric features (Open Alex), calibrate risk score.
#WCRI2026



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Elisabeth Bik @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 16d

DA: Classifier does reasonably well.

If journal claims to be Open Access, but not listed in DOAJ, that is a bad sign. Other red flags: overly citing from same publisher, reciprocity in citation pairs.

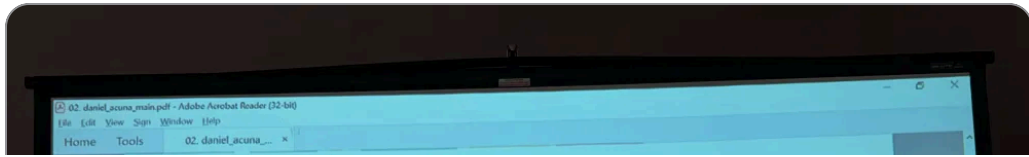
False positives: relatively new or niche journals.

Malaysia scored high.

#WCRI2026



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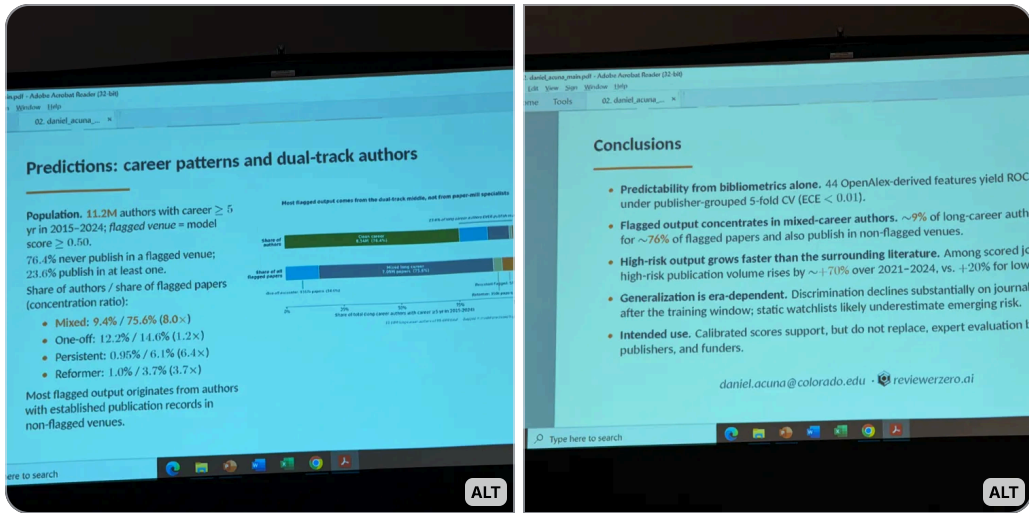


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DA: Small number of authors are responsible for most concerns. They might first publish in questionable journal, then later in legitimate one. The venues with the highest risk are growing faster than the surrounding literature.

Bibliometrics can be used to predict questionable journals

#WCRI2026



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Elisabeth Bik @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 16d

Next up: @abalkina.bsky.social with "Opening Pandora's Box: Paper Mills in Conference Proceedings"

Paper mills have also infiltrated conference proceedings. We focused on IEEE, where abstracts should "not so poorly written that it is unreadable". Preprint: arxiv.org/abs/2604.22458

#WCRI2026



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Elisabeth Bik @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 16d

AA: We matched 1,720 papers in 286 IEEE conferences to paper mill ads.

Most authors from India.

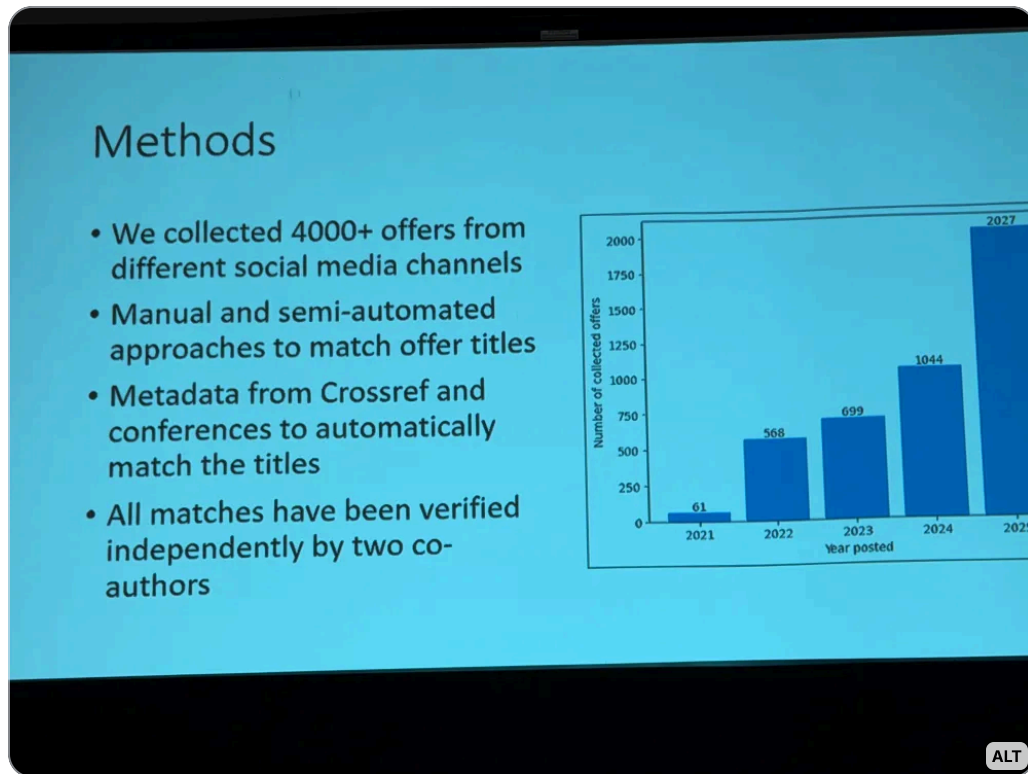
Majority of papers have exactly 6 authors!

Many have 5+ affiliations.

We also found citation boosting, bio-inspired algorithms ("Whale optimization").

Details: arxiv.org/abs/2604.22458

#WCRI2026



1 1 6



Elisabeth Bik @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 16d

AA: Paper mills are a public market, going beyond publication of papers (also offering conference abstracts or patents). We could identify 39% of the offers. Paper mills have 'red flags'. Most of these abstracts are in low-quality computer science IEEE conferences.

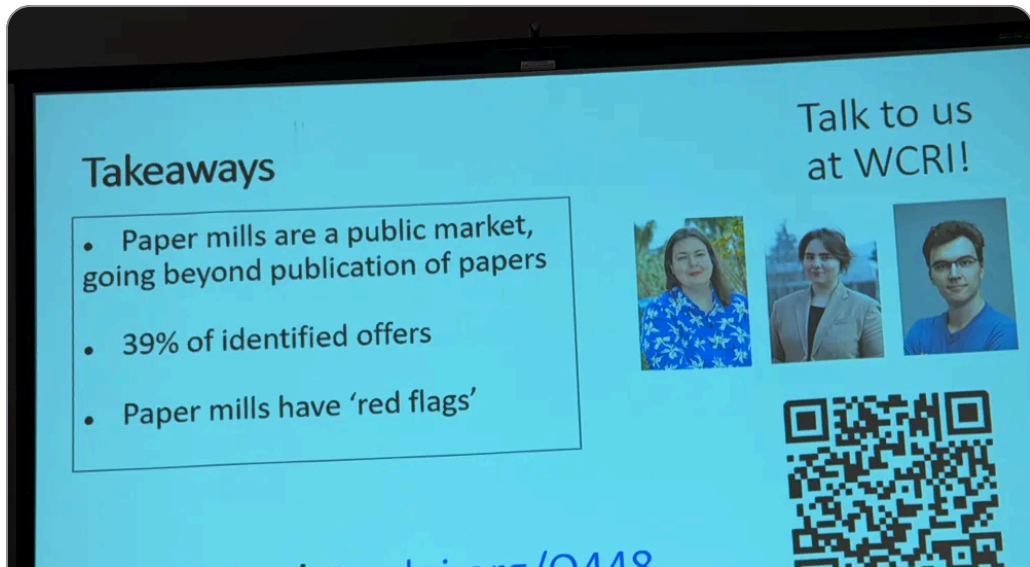
#WCRI2026



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Next: @kritikasharma.bsky.social with "The Complementary Role of the Law in Research Misconduct Investigations: Towards Structural Reinforcement?"

In some jurisdictions, scientific misconduct would be illegal, but in most it is not. Still, many parallels with legal investigations.

#WCRI2026



1 6 ...



Elisabeth Bik @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 16d

KS: Role of Law is often misunderstood. There are similarities but also important differences.

[I felt I could not do a good job summarizing this talk - lots of nice photos of balancing stones though]

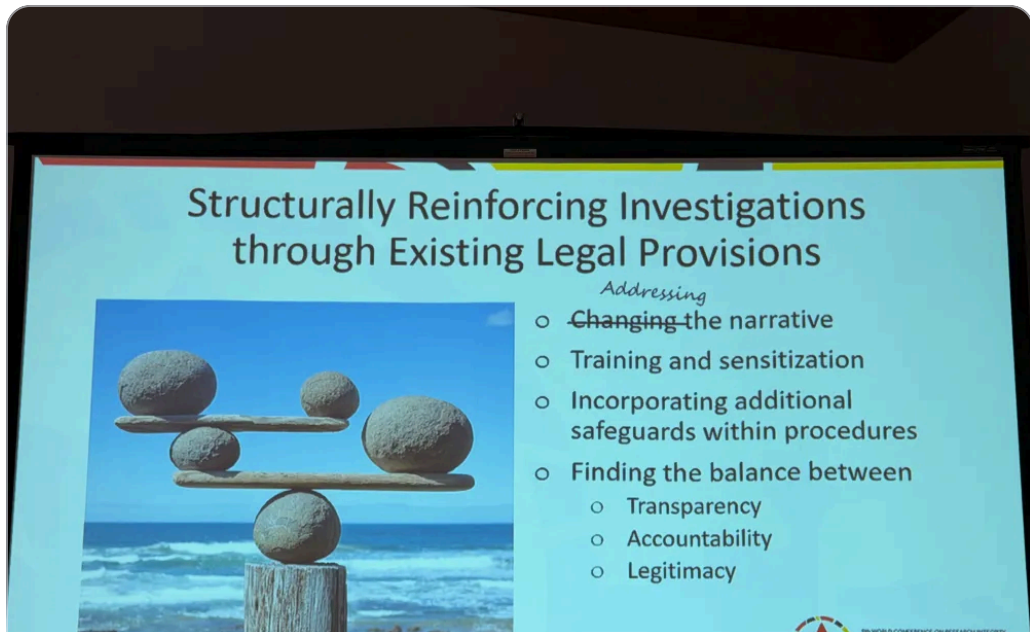
#WCRI2026



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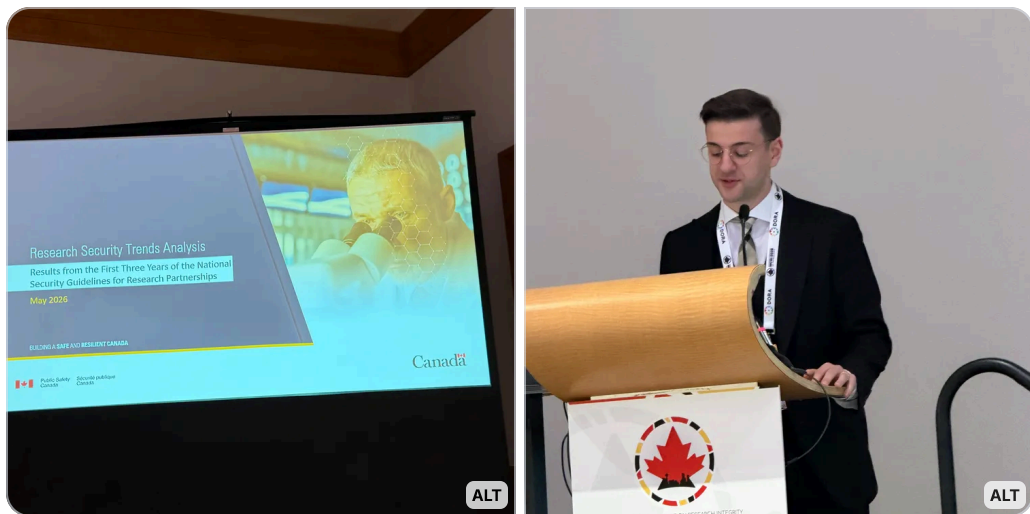
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Next: Lucas Tersigni, Public Safety Canada, with: 'Research Security Trend Analysis: Results From the First Three Years of the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships'
2021: NSGRP - grant applications now include risk associated with research and partners.

[#WCRI2026](#)



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3



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LT: Risk factors were present in all of the cases.

Fields most at risk:

- * Photonics and Quantum Science (25% of applications)
- * Artificial intelligence and computer science (25%)
- * Energy Sustainability and Green Engineering (19%)

Categories in which Canada has renewed expertise

[#WCRI2026](#)



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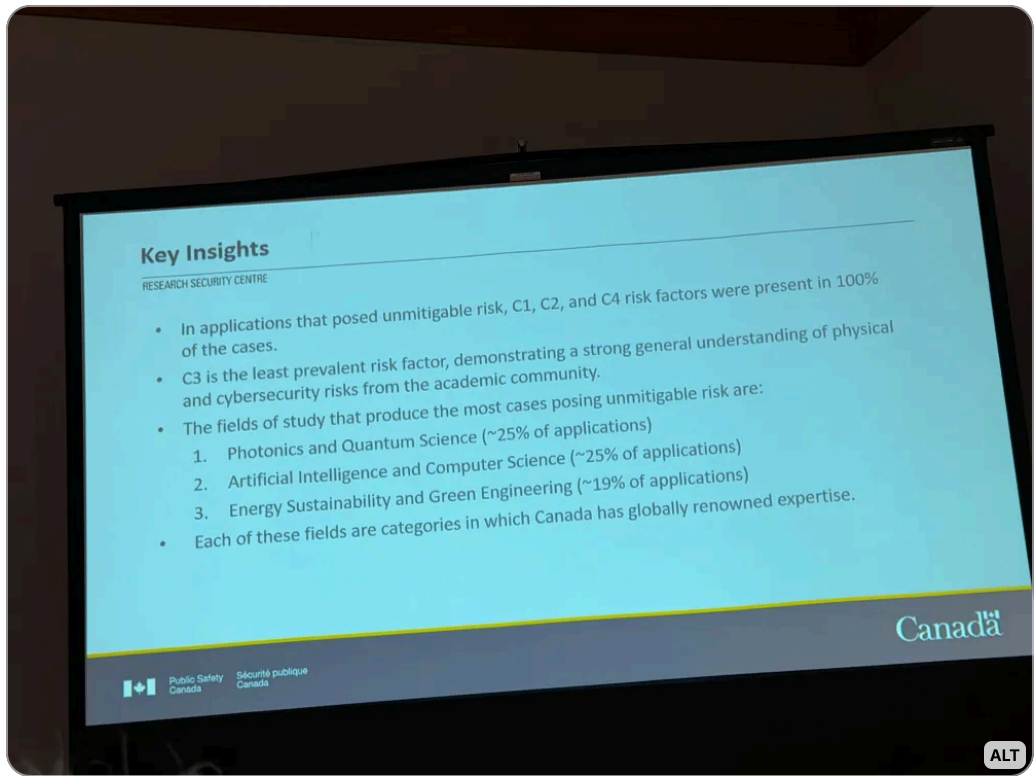
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Feedback



+ Read 2 more replies



Per Engzell @pengzell.bsky.social · 16d

Always love me some live conference posting! Keep it up



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2



P- Laura Kowalski Linden @samoart.bsky.social · 16d

Agreed

I'm eating this up



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Elisabeth Bik @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 16d

Hit that like button! I like the likes!



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