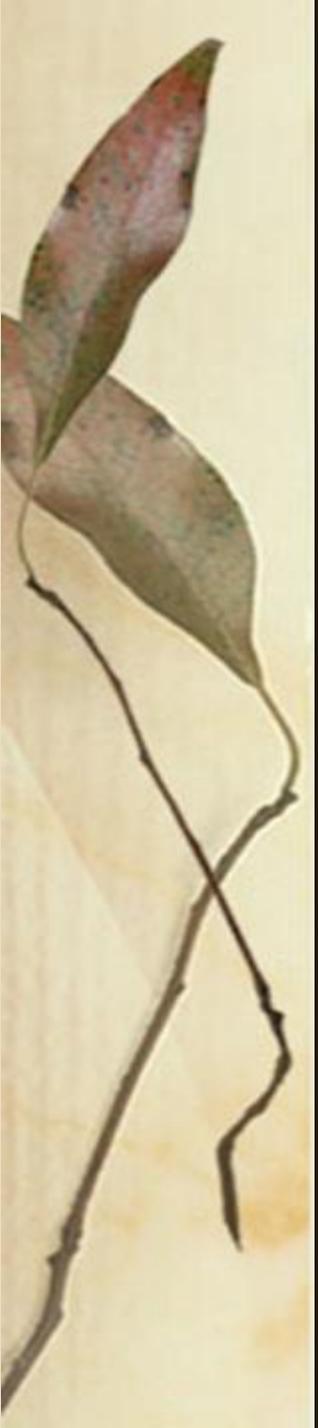


A dried leaf branch is positioned on the left side of the slide, extending from the top left towards the bottom center. The leaf is dark brown and appears to be a single, elongated leaf. The background is a light, textured surface, possibly paper or fabric, with some faint, darker spots and lines. The text is centered on the right side of the slide.

In Defense of the Humanities: Addressing Contemporary Biases in Research Evaluation and Publishing Norms

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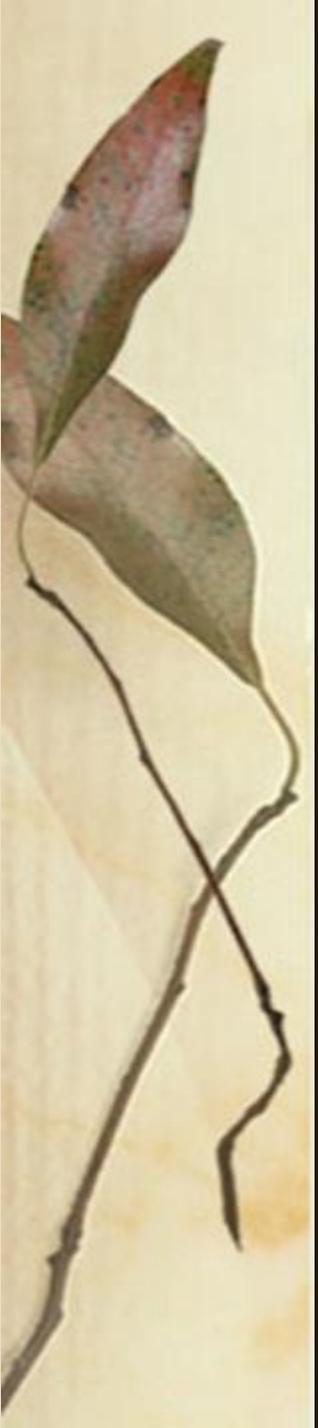


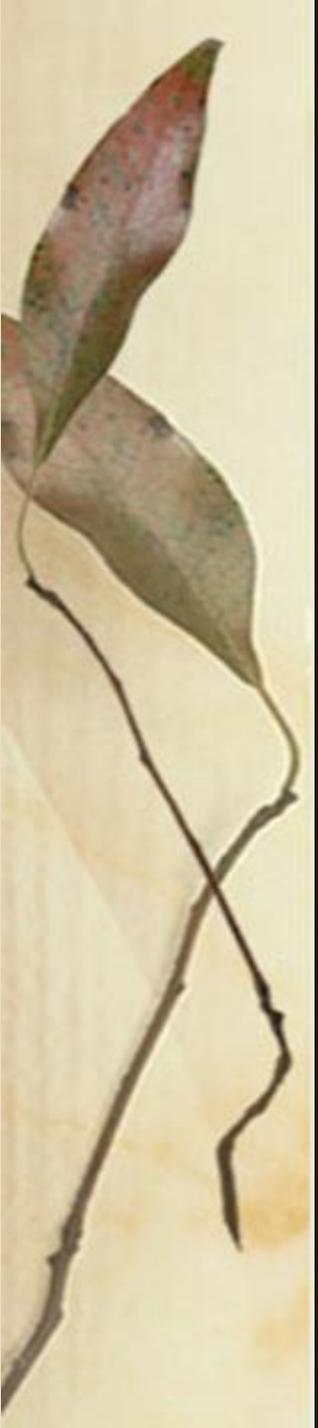
Summary

- Who is the homo academicus today?
- Evaluation and universities' rankings
- Meritocracy or reproduction of inequalities?
- The English language and the “others”
- How can we revitalize the role of the humanities?

Who is the homo academicus today?

- From the Humboldtian university to the “edu-factory” (Peter Fleming)
- Bureaucracy and “sludge work”
Sludge work encompasses activities such as filling in forms and following procedures that are caused by over-bureaucratisation
- Publishing deliverables. Monographs vs. papers
- From the intellectual to the influencer





Evaluation and universities' rankings

- Metrics: The new global academic fetish
- Goodhart's Law, the "Law of the Unintended Consequence"
- Where Quantity takes the lead, Quality fails
- Scopus, Web of Science and Google Scholar



Biases

when using the h-index as a metric and the Web of Science as a data source, the average academic in the Life Science and Sciences had an h-index that was nearly eight times as high as their counterpart in the Humanities, and two to three times as high as their counterparts in Engineering and the Social Sciences respectively.

Anne-Wil Harzing-Satu Alakangas (2016)



Meritocracy or reproduction of inequalities?

- Universal application (of bibliometrics) does not lead towards meritocracy but towards the reproduction of inequality
- A Darwinian competition
- Diversity and variety are crushed within a system that presents itself as meritocratic and objective.



The English language and the “others”

English is not only a global lingua franca; it has also become the dominant language of scientific publications. Today, if research is not published in English, it is often perceived as lacking value—implying that the medium, rather than the content, determines its quality.

Publish (in English) or perish



Why to publish in Greek?

- A “minority” language
- Knowing Greek is a prerequisite if you want to be a researcher in classics et al.
- Important bibliography in Greek
- Addressing the wider public



How can we defend effectively the humanities and revitalize their role in academia?

- Humanities programs need to update their courses using interdisciplinary approaches, especially combined with new technologies
- Hiring humanities graduates because they have important “soft skills” and critical thinking.
- The Greek ‘Google Scholar’
- The humanities education is important for societies’ future and social unity