Scholarly publishing: a perspective from an early career academic

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Rethinking research evaluation in early careers

- Research evaluation is downright crucial in academic recruitment.

- However, many fresh PhDs have published only very few papers.
- It can be very difficult to determine the role of PhDs or early postdocs in each paper.
Data size problems

- A publication is an awkward unit of progress in early career research.
- Some PhD students work on a single paper during their whole PhD, others work on 5.
- Some papers are 3 pages with 20 authors, others are 60 pages with 2 authors.
Data size problems

- And reviewing is noisy.
Data size problems

- Combined with having a small number of research products it tends to gravitate towards.
Solutions?

- Assign more reviewers… → costly.
- Promote a wider range of smaller research products:
  - data sets
  - software
  - interpretations
  - technical documents
  - experience reports
- Also makes it easier to isolate small parts of obsoleted/disproven research.

- They exist in the publishing world, but it becomes truly helpful once the universities include them in their PhD/job review processes.
One last thought: further annotated reference lists?

- Up-to-date paper.

- Paper has been superseded by a newer version from the authors.

- Paper has been amended after publication of this one.

- Results have been disproven by other authors.

- Paper has been withdrawn.
Thank you!