# RESOLUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRACTICAL AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

SOURCE EVALUATION IN SCIENCE AND CORRELATED AREAS

# "CHALLENGES OF SOURCE EVALUATION IN SCIENCE AND CORRELATED AREAS"

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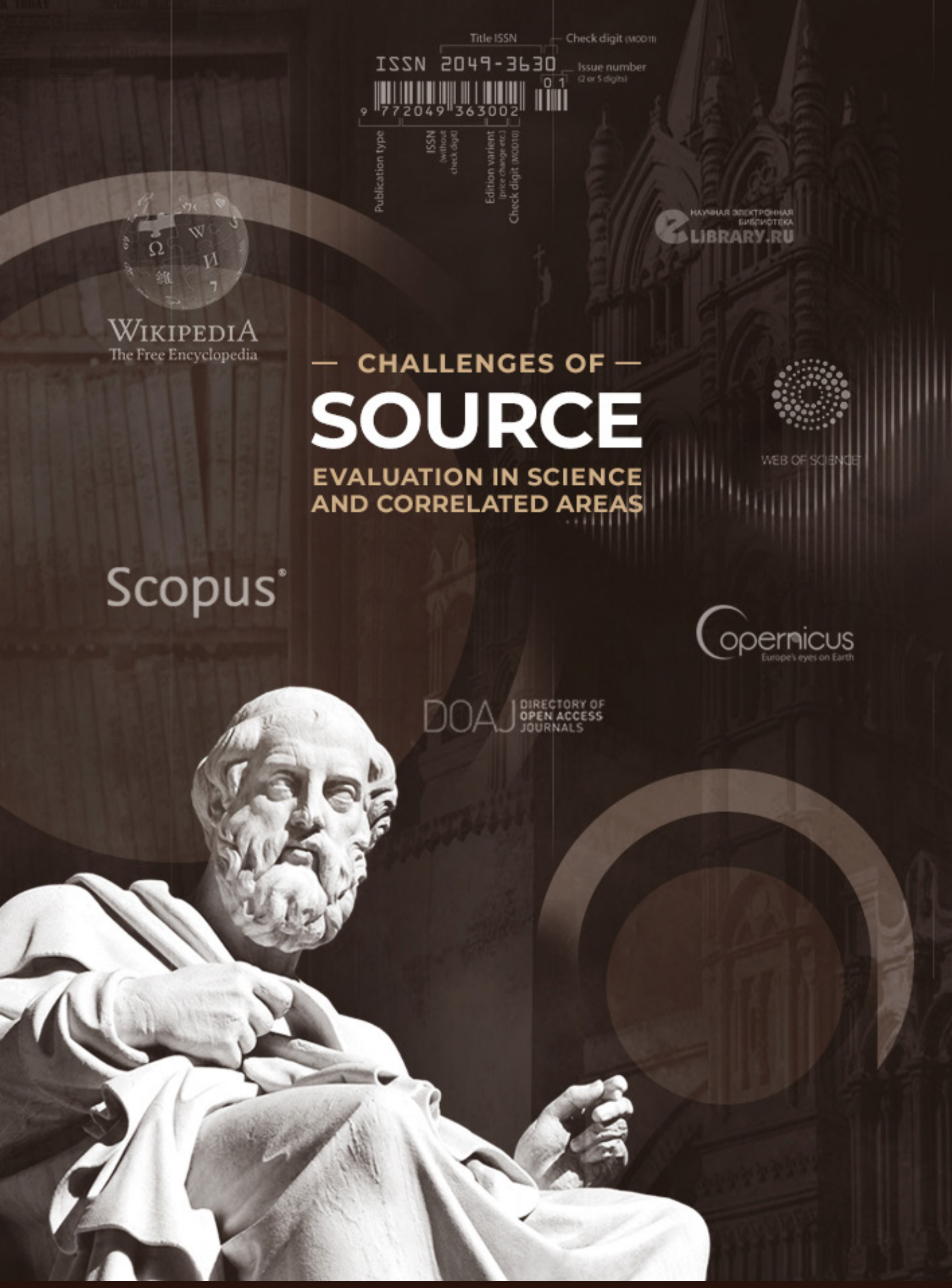
EDITORS: VITALII LUNOV AND MAXIM LEPSKIY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# KEY SPEAKERS

**Dr. Geoffrey Brian West** - Theoretical physicist, former president and distinguished professor of the Santa Fe Institute. He is the author of several books among which is Scale: The Universal Laws of Growth, Innovation, Sustainability, and the Pace of Life in Organisms, Cities, Economies, and Companies. He is a visiting Professor of Mathematics at Imperial College, London, and an associate fellow of the Said Business School at Oxford University.

**Dr. Larry Sanger** - Ph.D. Philosophy. American internet project developer and co-founder of the internet encyclopedia Wikipedia, for which he coined the name and wrote much of its original governing policy. Sanger has worked on other online educational websites such as Nupedia, Citizendium, and Everipedia. Besides the Internet, his interests focus mainly on philosophy—in particular epistemology, early modern philosophy, and ethics. Project "Source Research Aspects and Problems".

**Prof. Dr. Jerome Krase** - Emeritus Professor, sociologist, Murray Koppelman Professor, School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Expert in sociology, gentrification in Brooklyn, Brooklyn ethnic groups, Italian-American politics, culture, race, class, urban life and Ethnicity in New York. One of his recent books includes Race, Class, and Gentrification in Brooklyn: A View from the Street. He is a public activist-scholar and serves as a consultant to public and private agencies regarding urban community issues. Co-Editor of Urbanities, and Editorial Board Member of Visual Studies, and CIDADES.

**Dr. Oleg Maltsev** is an author, criminologist, psychologist, photographer, investigative journalist. He is an Academician of Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. Founder and director of The Memory Institute, head of Expeditionary Corps.
He is an author of numerous books in the areas such as applied history, sociology, depth psychology, philosophy, criminalistics, criminology. He has been conducting field research with the Expeditionary Corps in many countries for more than 6 years to explore on what levels and how people are shaped by cities. He is an editor of several interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journals.

**Dr. Emilio Viano** - President of the International Society for Criminology. President at Bellagio Forum for World Security & Social Development. He is on the Harvard University list of National Security Professors. Editor in Chief of the International Annals of Criminology (Cambridge University Press). A member of the Board of Directors of the International Association of Penal Law (AIDP) and of the International Society for Social Defense.

**Dr. Massimo Introvigne** - Professor, sociologist of religion and intellectual property attorney. A founder and the managing director of the Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR), He was the «Representative on combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination, with a special focus on discrimination against Christians and members of other religions» of the OSCE.

**Dr. Douglas Kellner** - Author, critical theorist. Distinguished Professor in the Departments of Education, Gender Studies, and Germanic Languages at UCLA. Kellner is an author of the Baudrillard page in Stanford Online Encyclopedia.
Kellner collaborated with Steven Best on an award-winning trilogy of books examining postmodern turns in philosophy, the arts, and science and technology. He served as the literary executor of the documentary film maker Emile de Antonio and acted as editor of "Collected Papers of Herbert Marcuse".

**Dr. Steve Gennaro** - Professor in the Humanities department at York University (Canada). He explores the intersections of media, technology, psychology, and youth identity.
He is one of the founding members of the Children, Childhood, and Youth Studies Program at York University, where he has taught in the Department of Humanities and the Department of Communication Studies for close to two decades. He is the author of Selling Youth (2010) and regularly publishes in areas related to the philosophy of technology and critical media studies of youth identity and politics.

**Dr. Lucien Oulahbib** - writer, lecturer, sociologist, political scientist. He is a chief editor of scientific journal "Dogma".
Dr. Lucien spent many years working together with french thinker Jean Baudrillard. Author of numerous scientific papers and books on french nihilism and neo-leninism, radical islamism, anti-americanism and antisemitism.

**Ph.D. James Finckenauer** - Organized crime expert, author, distinguished Professor Emeritus at Rutgers University, former Director of the National Institute of Justice, Washington DC. Dr Finckenauer is an expert in human trafficking, juvenile and international criminal justice. Author of numerous books on Russian organized crime in the US.

**Prof. Maxim Lepskiy** – Doctor of Philosophy, Professor at Zaporizhzhya National University. Head of Research Board in Social Forecasting Sociological Association of Ukraine, Academician of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences.

**Prof. Liudmyla Fylypovych** - Religious scholar, head of the Department of Philosophy and History of Religion in Institute of Philosophy by G.S. Skovoroda, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. Professor of National University of "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy". Vice President of the Ukrainian Association of Religious Studies. Executive Director of the Center for Religious information and freedom of the Ukrainian Association of Religious Studies.

**Prof. Mikhail Minakov** - political philosopher, editor. His major philosophical investigations focus on human experience, social knowledge, political system, historical consciousness, and multiple modernities. Editor-in-chief of Kennan focus Ukraine, Kennan Institute. Editor-in-chief of Ideology and politics journal.

**Dr. Bernardo Attias** - Professor in the Department of Communication Studies at CSUN. His research focus emphasizes cultural approaches to communication studies as well as communication-centered approaches to cultural studies. His teaching philosophy, which stresses interactivity and critical thinking skills, reflects a strong commitment to the educational process. He develops unique and challenging course materials, and has been at the forefront of the move to integrate new technological resources into the educational process.

**Dr. Athina Karatzogianni** - Associate Professor in Media and Communication at the University of Leicester, UK. She has an extensive record of publications and citations in disciplinary, field-specific and cross-disciplinary research outlets, and has demonstrated sustained success in securing research income from Research Councils UK and the European Commission.
Her most recent book is (2018) Platform Economics: Rhetoric and Reality the "Sharing Economy".

**Ph.D. Vladimir Skvorets -** Doctor of Philosophy, Associate Professor, Head of the Department of Sociology at Zaporizhzhya National University. Author of 115 scientific and methodological publications, among them two monographs: "The life of people as a social phenomenon" (2012); "Transformation of the sociohistorical organism of Ukraine: analytics of social processes" (2019).

**Lutsyuk Anatoliy** - Scientist, Department of Fine Organic Synthesis at A.V.Bogatsky Physico-Chemical Institute of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. Member of Wikimedia Ukraine, administrator of Ukrainian Wikipedia.

**Ph.D. Oleksandr Sahaidak** - Head of Theurung Association.
He is a psychologist, Jungian analyst, hypnologist, academician, expert in anthropology and sociology. Chairman of the Psychological-philosophical scientific society at the UAS.

# PARTICIPANTS

**Prof. Vitalii Lunov** - Associate Professor in the university named after O.O. Bogomoltsa. Member of the American psychological Association, the American Academy of clinical psychology, World Federation for mental health (USA), the European Academy of natural Sciences (Hannover, Germany).

**Maria Barilla** - distinguished researcher, historian, political scientist, author. M. Barilla reorganised and took an inventory of the Reggio Calabria Criminal Court, which is part of the State Archives of Reggio Calabria. Since 2012, she has collaborated with Professor Antonio Nicaso, one of the world's leading experts on organised crime, and Dr. Nicola Gratteri, current prosecutor of Catanzaro. She is co-author of the essay "When Ndrangheta Discovers America 1880-1956".

**Ph.D. Joanne Broder** - Research Psychologist, Author, Editor, Affiliate Research Professor at Saint Joseph's University.
She is a member of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology and the American Psychological Association, which she serves on the executive board for the Division of Media Psychology. A co-founding editor of Psychology of Popular Media Culture, established by the American Psychological Association.

**Dr. Włodzimierz Lewoniewski** - Assistant Professor, Department of Information Systems, Poznań University of Economics and Business. Levonievski's research is recognized as one of the most important discoveries of Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects in 2017-2018.

**Prof. Michael Strevens -** Professor in the Philosophy Department at New York University. His major research interests include: Philosophy of science (including complex systems, scientific explanation, probability, the social structure of science); Philosophical applications of cognitive science (especially the psychology of concepts).

**Prof. Ph.D. José M. Torralba -** professor of MSE at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. Deputy Director of Institute IMDEA Materials. Director-General for Universities and Research of Madrid Regional Government and Higher Artistic Arts Studies. He is editor in Chief (co-editor) of Powder Metallurgy journal and Regional Editor for the Journal of Materials Processing Technology, published by Elsevier. Author of "10 rules to survive in the marvelous but sinuous world of academia".

**Andrew Mark Creighton** - A Ph.D. student in semiotics and culture studies at the Semiotics Department of the University of Tartu. His research interests are in emotions, ecology, and social theory.

**Iryna Lopatiuk** - Associate fellow of Ukraine Academy of Science and the Memory Institute. Member of the special scientific unit "Expeditionary corps". Chairman of Odessa Historic-literature scientific society. Secretary of Psychological and Philosophical Scientific Society.

**Maryna Illiusha** is a fate analysis expert. Head of the Scientific Research Institute "International Fate-Analysis Society". Member of the special scientific unit "Expeditionary Corps". Presidium member of Psychological and Philosophical Scientific Society.

**Daria Tarusova** - is an editor-in-chief of the "Granite of Science" is a popular-scientific portal that publishes relevant and reliable knowledge about the state of Ukrainian and world science. The "Granite of Science" has become a tool for managing social requirements for science in Ukraine.


# RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE

# "CHALLENGES OF SOURCE EVALUATION IN SCIENCE AND CORRELATED AREAS."

*Amicus Plato, sed magis amica veritas*

The given documents resumes, concludes and highlights essential points of the International conference "Challenges of Source Evaluation in Science and Correlated Areas", which covered some of the most sensitive issues of source evaluation issues in the current world, namely, the challenges of choosing a credible source for conducting scientific research; model and classification of sources presented by David Procoppio based on co-research with Oleg Maltsev; permissibility for academics to use free encyclopedias as sources of scientific information and the role of Wikipedia and analogous free encyclopedias; challenges of assessing results received through quantitative and qualitative methods; problem of division and disciplinary biases in modern science; what are the requirements and criterias for a scientist and importance of articles in indexed journals vs quality of scientific works such as monographs; ways to differentiate a real scientific source from a fake one; problem of "ecclesiasticism" in science; the role and purpose of scientometrics databases; whether authority of an author guarantee the accuracy of scientific information; self-alignment of sources and the role of experiments.

The digitalization era and overabundance of uncomplicated solutions offered by the internet lobbyists creates a hyper-environment that has produced the fallacy that Google knows everything, and that works authored by public figures can be fully trusted. From the other side, it seems that the world's libraries are at arm's length; all it takes is pushing some buttons — and — any type of information is at your disposal. Four "black

screens"—a TV screen, laptop, tablet, and smartphone screen are becoming mediators and substitutes for knowledge as a tool with an increasing tendency. These are not sources but programs and algorithms that cannot be disputed; they are impersonal and not responsible for data quality. "Because that's what scientists wrote. This is what Google says. This is the way it is commonly believed." These are paradigms heard and relied on by many today. However, some fundamental questions remain open. WHAT sources of information are trustworthy? WHAT can you actually work with? IS IT POSSIBLE to irrevocably trust what is endorsed by "scientists"? Have the parameters and requirements changed for esteemed scholars and scientists? Perhaps, the most open question is HOW to separate the fictional and fabricated from the authentic and functional?

International scientific and practical conference "Challenges of source evaluation in science and correlated areas" had created conditions for a constructive dialogue on resolving the challenges of our time regarding source study, criticism as a branch of interdisciplinary applied knowledge and many other unanswered questions require innovative approaches, open dialogue in an uncomplicated scientific language; to find practical answers related to assessing and evaluating different types of sources, and discussing relevant challenges faced by scholars and experts globally.

Today's academia endlessly undecided on the assessment of the status and reliability of a source. The fact that the source was peer-reviewed and/or produced by a long-established publisher certainly cannot be a single criterion in the evaluation. Professor David Procopio from Palermo University the first-ever introduced in his work the hierarchical classification and arrangement of sources and provides arguments for the status of each and enables differentiating scientific work from the journalistic product that solves a number of dilemmas that scholars face.

Dr. Oleg Maltsev participated in the development of Professor Procopio's classification presented below during one of his research field works in Southern Italy. He noted that they had many discussions with Procopio on the model itself which was the result of Procopio's 10-year research and at last, they found a common denominator.


*(Fragment of David Procopio's article)*

***Classification and source ranking***

*1) Compound multidimensional (interdisciplinary) source.* It has to correspond to three characteristics: a compound multidimensional source has to have scientific, practical, experimental and application-oriented constituents.

*2) Application-oriented scientific source.* This kind of source is application-oriented, it is scientific but does not have a practical constituent (irrefutable sources such as photographs, architecture, terrain, etc.)

*3) Practical interdisciplinary primary source.* It covers one narrow issue
(examples: electric engineering manual)

*4) Scientific-theoretical source/popular science.* Every scientific theorization demands practical experiments. This kind of source should have the research model and the results of it.

*5) Publicistic work/firsthand-experience. This* type of source has a practical side without a theoretical one. It is a firsthand-experience work based on one's personal experience (travelers book, diaries).

*6) Analytical publicistic work. Narrative* of a person on a specific subject, work of an enthusiast who spent a remarkable amount of time investigating and exploring data. The source itself requires verification and cannot be considered to be a highly reliable source as it does not have a scientific constituent. It is an attempt at systematization and analysis based on one's own experience and perception.

*7) Archival data.* Privately-owned data and state archives. This is a weakly structured material. At first sight, it may seem that state archives are of tremendous significance, and yet that is not always the case. First, you face the bulk of diverse disorderly data that needs time-consuming, thorough analysis. Second, one compilation of records might entirely repudiate the other one, let alone having access to complete on a subject (many records are lost especially during war times). All in all, archival work is a rather time-consuming endeavor. Archival sources are weakly structured records that are troublesome to analyze and may take up decades to systematize them.

*8) Journalistic works (books, articles).* Journalistic work tackles a narrow subject of interest, it is an expression of one's own perspective, sometimes superficially.

*9) Media materials* (articles, publications, documentations) are a source of scientific information but not highly reliable ones.

*10) Non-fiction and other literary genres.*

*11) Unclassified, doubtful sources of information.*

As **Dr. Oleg Maltsev** noted, not only this classification is original work of a kind but it is also cross-functional, and most importantly, it clearly represents the rank of the source. In his view, the given classification also reveals the way scientific sources become non-scientific, "urgent problem of written sources today is their reliability since academia considers for some reason that written sources must be the primary basis of research. When I work with written documents, I read one thing, but then I conduct field research and travel to those places, and I witness a completely different state of affairs.

For some reason, we tend to think that a written document takes precedence over all other evidence, which is not valid. Any scientific written source requires serious analysis before relying on it in the study." **Dr. Douglas Kellner** noted that Procopio's system is a comprehensive one and he considers it a useful, original and productive paper. Prof. Kellner approached the notion of sources, the reliability of data and science from a social and cultural perspective as found in the critical theory of the Frankfurt School, British cultural studies and French postmodern theory such as Jean Baudrillard. Also, he made a distinction "between reliable and dubious journalism, and information sources, and not between scientific work and journalistic work as Professor Procopio does", for the reason information is digitized and virtualized spread through broadcast media and social media in most part. "When I first came to UCLA in the mid-1990s I had been for years travelling the world to give lectures and attend conferences and seemed to pick up every conceivable flu from Latin America to Asia. At UCLA, I began getting a new flu vaccine every year and have avoided major flus ever since. So it is obvious that science and up-to-date medicine which is well tested, confirmed and successful provides reliable information and evidence and Procopio's paper encompasses a broad field to assess reliability of sources", Professor Kellner noted. **Prof. Liudmyla Fylypovych** emphasized that the question of the authenticity of historical sources was always relevant and for her — a philosopher and religious studies scholar, authenticity of sources has paramount importance. "Even I felt the limitations of historical sources, personal testimony, option polls, official documents prepared by very serious institutions. When I walked in the archives with the church affairs, I saw their subjectivity. But everyone has always been interested and will be interested in how much one can trust those stories that describe the facts", Prof. Fylypovych commented. **Dr. Steve Gennaro** emphasized "As a critical theorist and philosopher of technology my work in critical media literacy connects deeply to the points that were raised by professor Procopio in the article. I think there's validity to what he says, because authenticity in texts in academia becomes even more important than ever. Now that we see the removal of the referent or of truth with the decrediting of news, of media and of scientific data. So as we see in the popular media the removal of truth or knowledge is accessible. It's something we can point to and say that is coming from a credible space. It's something we can point to and we can say that we can fact check when that disappears within the mainstream of our lives. That it's even more important that it remains present in Academia." **Dr. Gennaro** rightly noted that "[…] not all information is knowledge because not all information is actively decoded when it's consumed." He continued, "In fact, the concerns raised by Procopio, if extrapolated and used as a meta framework for the exploration of knowledge, information consumption, and technology — provide us with an important series of questions that all interactions with media require — and not just those by scientists! More specifically, how has the expansion of social media impacted our consumption of information as knowledge? How have the actions of certain individuals on social media altered the notion of what is fact or who is a trusted source? And, of importance to this paper, how have changes to the technological apparatus — whereby the iPhone now lives almost entirely inside of our bodies as extensions to our very selves — altered how we consume information as knowledge?"

**Prof. Maxim Lepskiy** shared his view of the classification, "Professor Procopio presented a clear hierarchy of sources. For a sociologist, journalistic publications would also be interesting for content analysis and selection of different journalistic sources even if they are not as reliable as compound scientific sources written at the intersection of several disciplines. I want to note that the Expeditionary Corps headed by Dr. Maltsev uses no less powerful sources for evidence during field research in different countries, such as architecture, symbolism, and investigation of the land's historical and cultural heritage."

## Wikipedia and free online encyclopedias.

Credible sources of information have become an urgent matter in this era. With the increasing level of accessibility to sources, which we could have only dreamed of before the invention of the internet and the emergence of social networks, we face an utterly distinct task. How to find something that would meet the conditions of "objectivity," "reliability," and "accuracy" in the world of bits and bytes? Wikipedia has become the leading source of information search and sadly it is even being used by some scholars in the research work without considering the fact that information on Wikipedia might be insufficient and even false.

**Dr. Larry Sanger** co-founder of Wikipedia believes that it depends on the area of research when it comes to the assessment of Wikipedia as one of the tools for the research. "It is hard to make any really reliable generalization with regard to any particular research area. For instance, some were saying that 10 and 15 years old articles about mathematics and computer science and most of the hard sciences are reliable because they're based on relatively objective sources that people don't have many disputes about. There isn't too much opportunity to mess up the basic facts about how a computer operating system works or the chemical properties of some compound. That sort of information can just be copied from professionally curated sources — that might still be the case for all I know. I would say that relying on it, even for those subjects is very dicey. I wouldn't do it. I think in general the advice given to all researchers, of course, is that if anything that matters you have to use multiple sources to confirm anything, I think that remains the case", noted Dr. Sanger. **Dr. Oleg Maltsev** shares the same view in general with a strong emphasis that scholars cannot rely on Wikipedia and must not use it as a source of scientific information: "If a person is searching for the truth and objective information, Wikipedia won't be a relevant source neither for scientists, nor the students. To accept things written on Wikipedia as truth is to doom yourself to a mistake. However, if a researcher starts perceiving Wikipedia as a psychological tool which is used for the purpose of conveying political information, then everything falls into place. Wikipedia is a terrific psychological tool for conveying political information. If one wants to study political information in a particular area of life and activity, Wikipedia would be a perfect place." Dr. Maltsev shared information about study cases he conducted; he has asked numerous scholars to analyze if Wikipedia articles in the areas they specialize in are accurate. They found distortions, inaccuracies, and biased incomplete perspectives on the subject in all instances. **Dr. Massimo Introvigne** thinks that Wikipedia might be "a good first stop" to find some information which is generally reliable when it comes to the birth and death of people, some bibliography, but even these data pieces have plenty of mistakes. Professor emphasized that Wikipedia is not sufficient if one wants to obtain factual and maximally accurate data: "It becomes even more complicated with opinions

and Wikipedia becomes even less reliable. In my interaction with students of religion, I believe there is a practical rule 'the more controversial the subject is, the less Wikipedia should be trusted as a source' because it becomes a battlefield. It is not complicated to manipulate information on Wikipedia when the subject is controversial, particularly in the opinions of sociology and the history of religions." Massimo Introvigne stressed that manipulation on Wikipedia also becomes political. **Dr. Geoffrey Brian West** pointed out that Wikipedia is a helpful tool for the general information only and that it may give a broad overview of the subject. He noted that among online encyclopedias Encyclopedia Britannica, probably the greatest one in the English-speaking world as it was written by real experts, but that is not always the case with Wikipedia. He pointed out positive characteristics of Wikipedia since it allows to get a quick overview and an update on some subjects, "it becomes increasingly more difficult for people to follow up, check the facts because the barrier to doing so is extremely high, we are inundated with huge amounts of data and news and most of us simply don't have time." At the same time **Professor West** does believe that one should not fully trust Wikipedia when doing scientific work: "I'm in agreement with the spirit of what Dr. Maltsev said about Wikipedia being dangerous and misleading, which might be the case despite my enthusiasm for Wikipedia." Also at the same time as an academic, he is more concerned with the proliferation of some journals that shape opinions based on superficial or few opinions. Another key speaker and participant of the conference, **Dr. James Finckenauer** shared similar views as other scholars when it comes to serious academic research, that Wikipedia is not sufficient and cannot be used as a tool in scientific work. Certainly for everyday information search it might be very helpful, but not in academia "Wikipedia is an aggregator 'site', it does not publish original research, it pulls in articles and information from a whole variety of sources and assembles them together. The references are there, people can look at them and decide for themselves: knowledge is not data, it is what you do with the data that produces knowledge." **Dr. V. Levonevskiy** believes that, in general, Wikipedia wields a positive influence on science, as well as on the process of learning. "The point is that we have to take into account the development of technology, technical progress. Now the popularity of content depends on society, on Internet users who can leave their comments and ratings, agree or disagree with the publication. It also depends on the behaviour of Internet users on what will be shown to the other readers." **Dr. Athina Karatzogianni** pointed out important facets of Wikipedia that could be relevant for further research: "The claims that Wikipedia is supposed to be neutral is very interesting, I don't think that you can be neutral on certain subjects that have been very controversial. Wikipedia is a nonprofit organization, so it's based on donations. Also, there have been disputes about how these donations have been used by the different organizations as well various 'branches' of Wikipedia […] I want to look up general information on major events, I can get a quick overview, but you cannot rely on the information and accept it as a fact." **Lutsyuk Anatoliy** as one of the editors of Wikipedia, has a different view, he noted that there were many projects such as online encyclopedias before Wikipedia, but the latter became the leading one "Wikipedia has a solid foundation, which allowed it to exist and compete with world encyclopedias like Britannica for 20 years. The selection of sources to write articles is an important issue and we do our best to follow the rules. Articles on political topics turn out worse than others simply because it is difficult to classify sources, to separate reliable sources from unreliable."

## What makes a scientist? Understandability of scientific works. Real vs Fake scientific works.

Today academia is dominated by generally accepted statements and stereotypes that humankind has 'stepped forward into a bright future of progress and technical excellence'. Certainly, it is not realistic to conclude that modern science is victorious on a daily basis and flourishes with discoveries and steady evolution. On the contrary, the opposite trend is more common, and it indicates stagnation. In terms of methodological discourse on the quality of scientific results in the 21st century, a vital aspect of the scientific foundation is evaluation and studying sources. The world of a scientist and the world of science differs from one another in particular requirements. A researcher cannot work with information only because it has "come into his possession."

**Source study is an essential part of professional activity these days that relate not only to scholars.**

Whenever someone uses a piece of information without giving it a thought, it brings adverse consequences. Everyone with no exceptions can explore or study something. However, a scientist differs from an expert in any other field by the following parameter among others and it is the ability to verify and confirm specific information using valid tools. **G. B. West, O. Maltsev, A. Karatzogianni, V. Skvorets, M. Minakov and M. Lepskiy** agree that unspoken requirements that the academic community imposes on the scholars today are not coherent with scientific reality and does not have reasonable and objective criteria for assessing scholars. From the perspective of **Dr. Oleg Maltsev,** what is happening in the academic community today is metaphorically comparable to *'dancing around the sacred body of science'.* In other words, judging a person by the number of articles published in Scopus and Web of Science indexed journals is a biased view of a scientist.

**Professor Athina Karatzogianni** notes that a 'scientist' as a professional phenomenon became more popular in the mid-nineteenth century; before that (Renaissance and Enlightenment Epochs), people of various sorts of professions or expertise were doing what we now note as 'science' like G. Galileo or I. Newton, some were priests, for instance. A 'scientist' today is a much more restricted kind of definition. For the sake of contrast, the Nobel Prize is awarded within the scope of only five (!) disciplines. Moreover, there is an alarming tendency amidst the social environment: experts who are involved in social sciences are not recognized as scientists. That sets the cognitive demarcation in the scientific field; humanities require no less effort, power, persistence, and skills. The 'unspoken tendency' shades the quality of what scholars do. For sure, there are always specific exceptions like the result-oriented experts taking attempts to resist 'the fast and easy' kind of scholarship. On the other hand, scientists are forced to compete with a particular 'McDonaldization' tendency or a trend that weakens credibility of the quality and relevance of scholarly work. Now academics are involved in a quite specialized competitive scenario. **Professor Maxim Lepskiy** believes that a real scientist must be created by science, as an event, as a miracle, as an escape from everyday life, "[…] the scholar is still shaped by scientific schools, by a truly dedicated teacher and no less dedicated student'. Professor Geoffrey Brian West believes the most important characteristics of a scholar is to remain resilient in the face of criticism, as well as to **be passionate in one's dedication to truth.**

Since there are many deviations in contemporary scholarly systems frequently related to the power and governments that intervene and control academic circles Mikhail Minakov suggests: 'In a way, a genuine scientist is also an oppositioner'. Oleg Maltsev points out, the predecessors in science adhered to somewhat different standards of science. By no means was there a case when a special edition would interfere with a scientific standard's requirements. Formatting requirements and commas, indentations, and style are undoubtedly important but not as much as the work's content.

**Dr. Maltsev** points out that consistent practice of upbringing young scientists has always existed in the European oldest scientific societies. In his opinion, Heidelberg societies and a couple of other European communities with history and reputation would be an example of this "[…] societies as such are usually 200–300 years old. We came across a society that has existed since 1428. People are accepted as members based on recommendations and personal choice. An academic who is already in the society has to bring you in, and I became part of such a community when I was already a PhD candidate. I had a chance to witness from the inside how young scholars grow step by step under the guidance of his scientific supervisor, having joined the milieu of famous scientists." Dr. Maltsev has strongly emphasized that the best way to assess a scientist is by looking at his scientific contribution: **"The only objective evaluation criteria of a scientist is his contribution to the society and his scholarly achievements."**

Another critical point that was discussed at the conference was the difference between an educator and a scientist. One may have many Ph.D. 's and be a highly esteemed Professor or educator, but that does not make him a scientist. In one of his speeches, Oleg Maltsev presented a simple and straightforward explanation of the main tasks that are the responsibility of scientists:

1) They are supposed to investigate and clarify the *unknown fields* (and make them *known* eventually — what constitutes a scientific discovery).

2) A scientist ensures that the *known field* is not distorted over time by political, economic, social, and other tendencies.

Logically, attention of scientists should be concentrated one the *unknown fields*, which in turn does not allow scholarly stagnation and production of useless works. Nowadays, a wide variety of papers are labeled as "scientific," but they are fakes. What differentiates scientific work from the rest? Oleg Maltsev provided an answer with exact parameters; in his view, scientific work has to be consistent with 5 specifications.

**First parameter.** Clearly defined patronage — scientific control with a vertical hierarchy. At any point in scientific research, any scholar is prone to mistakes that necessitate the supervision and discussion with his colleagues, opponents, and advisor.

**Second parameter.** A comprehensible methodology of the work should be presented at the beginning of the monograph or other document. People that are reading the work should have an idea about the tools used by a scholar to receive presented results.

**Third parameter.** The scientific logic of the account and research. The presented information sequence must be consistent with the scientific reasoning of the argument, which is certainly edited by the supervisor.

**Peer review.** Feedback and peer review by the academic community is a significant step towards the discussion of conducted research.

**Scientific work.** Dr. Oleg Maltsev believes that "Parameters mentioned above described in short should lead to a scholarly product. Speaking of the article as opposed to a monograph, I consider that an ideal research instrument is the latter. In his viewpoint, an article permits one to *focus* on a single problem, but it does not allow one to reveal it and present a comprehensive research study. However, a scientific article is a great auxiliary scientific tool."

Geoffrey Brian West suggests "that initially, there are many aspects, approaches, tools, and even hints for data analysis and representation that one would subsequently characterize as manipulation of data." Regarding main reasons and prevailing circumstances that lead to data manipulation, there are two main issues to be analysed: **access to data and credibility of that data.** For many years Professor West has conducted his research in high energy physics, having due access and thus taking data from companies that could be described metaphorically as 'huge scientific accelerators'. He notes that there is an "enormous trust dimension that whatever this group of thousand experimentalists performed together is correct data. The data manipulation takes place since some corrections are made right in the research process; not infrequently, plenty of slightest manipulations are taken to fit 'the result' into a 'common form' that can be used by other researchers. Naturally, the credence level depends on the reputation and buildup of scientific profile over many years. As an answer to "what are the best ways to distinguish objective information and credible sources from the fake ones?" from the perspective of **Prof. Ph. D. José M. Torralba** in the scientific world nobody used to believe directly on news from any different source than the scientific journals. "So in principle scientists usually don't believe directly information out of the scientific journals. In that sense, there are a few scientists that really believe some fake news because most of us, we can go directly to the source of the information — to the scientific journals." Now, this is one pole of the problem.

There is another extreme pole: a problem of the proprietorship of data. That means either the data may exist, but one cannot get access to it, or one has to pay huge amounts of money to get the data required. Generally, one never gets access to the 'internal data' box. Some companies send a researcher the documents that are analogous to organizational charts, which are idealized versions of what the company is. Associated with biological, medical, and pharmaceutical sciences federal agencies' support specific types of research insisting the scientists make their data available; there comes no transparency at all." Professor West is concerned that the same aspects and analogous problems stay behind the Wikipedia data accuracy and credibility problem; and if these problems of manipulating data and sources of scientific information are not resolved now, they will only aggravate the overall situation of science in the very near future. 5The tendencies in contemporary science are not always positive, today many scholars are obliged to conduct research and participate in various scientific projects facing the tremendously competitive environment. Athina Karatzogianni is emphatic, it should be taken for granted, the cutthroat competition is the obvious tendency of the 21 century, that has also reached and penetrated the research environments in Academia. However, just 15 years ago that situation appeared to be different.

Having faced certain 'research-settings' tendencies personally, Professor A. Karatzogianni realized she and her colleagues in the EU are experiencing the same barriers, "scientists these days tend to have to work very fast and that causes a problem in how the ideas, hypothesis, conclusions, etc. are analyzed, progressed and implemented. **The major factor of scientific breakthrough is no longer associated or connected with scientific ideas quality and their applied positive effect or impact, but is defined with the speed parameters of certain documentation production, and that is a dramatic distortion."** Professor Karatzogianni notes that today many people tend to conceptualize science "as a set of rules, laws, principles and terms of physics, medicine, biology, genetics, economy, etc. Obviously, that sets at least the cognitive demarcation in the scientific field and experts in humanities subconsciously have to work harder to focus social and public attention on the original and productive sides of their impact. It would not be the matter of exaggeration; however, scientists should do their best to demonstrate the validity of the fact they are not merely the experts who struggle with cancer prevention or COVID19. Scientists are also the no less dedicated professionals who have multiplied the philosophical, sociological, psychological and ethical heritage of all generations." **Professor Mikhail Minakov** views science as a long-living transcultural intellectual practice that includes exact natural and social sciences as well as humanities that have its own history, and thus different historical forms. Among those are antique, classical and post-classical science forms. However Professor Minakov argues that even though the ideals of science were changing, and thus the meaning of science may seem relative, "it's core authenticity remained untouched and definite. In all historical periods it was true to its genuine idea: adherence to truth. Genuine science is the practice that aims at universally established true knowledge that can be reviewed by any other rational being. But at the same time genius scholars remember about their limitedness and about the need to be ready for reworking on their research by themselves or by colleagues that may rectify their previously established knowledge. [..]the ideal of eternal truth is being practiced together with the limitedness of concrete individuals, groups and interests", Prof. Minakov concludes. Historian **Maria Barilla** notes that unlike a biologist, chemist, physicist the historian does not have the opportunity to observe and investigate his object of study for obvious reasons. Historians deal with the historical sources which are primary sources — the documents in the strict sense that is the testimonies, the traces of the past preserved first of all in the archives and libraries. Unlike other disciplines, for scholars in history conducting research and finding evidence to support is not an easy task. **Dr. Joanne Broder,** expert in media literacy advises to pay attention to "the amount of bias" in evaluation of scholarly work, "Who published the study? Studies sponsored and published by organizations tend to show results that support their mission whereas studies from universities might show less bias. The study should also include a purpose statement that explains how the data will be used. Journal articles have literature reviews, which provides the reader with the necessary theoretical perspective and foundation." **Professor Maxim Lepskiy** shared the results of sociological studies about the way scientists are perceived/characterized in society and popular culture. "It turned out that the figures or characters of the scientist are quite coherent. The first image is of a 'crazy scientist with great power in his hands, achieved through science'. The image has been replicated starting from cartoons ending with serious films. The second image of a scientist is a 'person who is incorporated into a specific field but completely unadapted to real life'.

The third image is associated with the culture of comic books and blockbusters launched by DC and Marvel, a bright example being Tony Stark, who has two different lives. The elder generation, shaped by Soviet education portrayed (1) a scientist as a person who is willing to sacrifice his life to achieve a result; (2) a scientist who is on an adventurous journey, this type of the character was described by Dr. Maltsev; (3) a scientist who, despite the difficulties in life is engaged in the work he loves doing. Professor Geoffrey Brian West has rightly noted that 'calling' is an inseparable quality of a true scientist."

The second challenge is related to the "loss of the efficiency of science" often resulting because of inadequate scientific censorship and vague rules. That happens when the quest is not for the truth but objectives associated with "scientific ritualisation", as noted by Lepskiy and Maltsev. As a result, we end up having two types of academics: "conformists" who adjust to requirements no matter what they are and "fighters", who challenge barriers. Particularly in Ukraine, at the moment scholars are required to have a specific minimum number of articles published in Scopus and the Web of Science indexed journals, in the view of Professor Lepskiy it looks as a convenient form of control of scientists, so that they deal with bureaucratic rules rather than actual scientific results. Moreover, the requirements of publication in these journals are more about the format and not the content of the work. Logically, none of these makes a real scientist but simply creates a specific environment, effectiveness of which is controversial.

**Professor Vladimir Skvorets** points out, firstly, the source study is an increasingly important discipline in historical scholarship that develops methods for the research and application of historical sources. Sources are compared to the backbone of scientific research. "The knowledge of the source studies methodology is the foundation and basis for the future success and effectiveness of every scientist," considers the young scholar **Maryna Illiusha.**

From the perspective of Professor Skvorets scientists are shaped by the results of their scholarly creative activity, which is reflected in monographs, scientific papers and other publications reflecting ideas, concepts and theories he has developed. Secondly, it is his personal contribution to the education of the other researchers. Thirdly, in his opinion, the supreme indicator of a scholar's achievements is the establishment of his own scientific school. The fourth is the remarkable impact in solving practical problems in social life. Fifth, the influence of a scientist on shaping the worldview of his disciples, students, postgraduate and doctoral students and their attitude to life. The significance of each scholar is determined by his/her attitude to science and the role of his contribution. **Daria Tarusova,** the Editor-in-Chief of 'Granite of Science' publication reported at the conference about a new and dangerous mechanism of filtering sources, which is now being used in the Internet, particularly the censorship of Facebook pages. The journalist stated: "A while ago we noticed that for some weird reason the activity on the 'Granite of Science' Facebook page started decreasing. As if someone pressed a button and the journal started to be less visible to people than before. When we started researching the problem, we found out that several pieces posted on the media page, by some strange, unknown mechanism, had been labelled as 'materials that contain fake or partial falsehood'. Journalists found out that both posts concerned the Coronavirus pandemic. The first was a video by a doctor of law, a member

of the German and California bar Associations, he argued that the organisers of COVID should be taken to court by explaining the reasons, based on the legal framework. The second piece was not the material of "Granite of Science" editorial either, it was an open letter from Belgian doctors and health workers who appealed to politicians and the media to be 'independent and critically informed in their decision-making and in the application of measures aimed at combating the epidemic'. The doctors requested 'an open debate'. Journalist Tarusova questions: 'Is this some kind of joke or deliberate sabotage?' And most crucially, who has claimed or appropriated the right to label as 'lies' or 'fakes' independent expert's opinion of a lawyer who relies on legal standards, or the doctors who are in the epicentre of COVID-related events." Finally, it was revealed that Facebook also has a number of partners. A number of agencies, probably under contract, that do the work for Facebook in different countries to filter what is true and what is not true. One of these agencies is called VOX Ukraine. The journalist explains: "It was such a surprise, after we studied the website (VOX Ukraine) we realised it was an extremely dubious agency, 5–6 young people who think they are experts in deciding what is true and what is false." D. Tarusova believes it is extremely relevant to report the current source studies news, as well as to draw attention of academics to the fact that if these things continue to happen, if there are no mechanisms to counteract such simulations, then everything that academics do or write may come out with a "fake" or "partially false" label tomorrow. "Nobody enquiries into any scientific findings, they just brand it", journalist claims, "an invisible commission of 'ethics and aesthetics' attempts to direct one 'how to live his or her life' and 'what is good, what is bad', which comes in radical contradiction with principles of freedom of speech and religion. This is the violation of all international human rights norms."

## Does authority of an author guarantee the accuracy of scientific information? Priority of sources and self-alignment among them. Role of experiments.

In today's world, one of the most outrageous and critical problems within the source evaluation scope is the author's popularity and authority that shapes the public opinion and even sets the standard in the research direction. The conference's key speakers and participants unanimously stressed that the author's weight or popularity does not guarantee the source's reliability whatsoever. Oppositely, any source must be subject to evaluation, analysis, and review from numerous vectors and different approaches regardless of the author's name.

**Dr. Emilio Viano** touched on main tendencies that are prevalent globally, even in academic circles linked to the "authority," "there is a presumption that if one has a reputation accepted by the international community, it will be persistent and consistent with the quality of their work. Because of the overabundance of presented information on the web on different websites, that information can be frequently contradictory. It is always crucial to verify the sources and double-check the data to examine to make reasonable conclusions. In a sense, the premise of past epochs, that if a scholar wants to publish a book, 'he, as a figure and his work has to be absolutely reliable'—is not valid in our days. There is more pressure on modern scholars to be productive and too much competition, and it is harder to maintain the standards.

The publication of several books was a hallmark and spoke of the academic status in the past. Today this is definitely not the case." **Dr. Maltsev** also shares the same view and approaches any work in the same way in terms of assessment and analysis regardless of the publisher and the author's name. He believes that the results of scholars who made a valuable and sound input 20–30 years ago on a particular subject but have not continued their research since then should also be approached very carefully. **Dr. Jerome Krase** looked into the details of the "authority," where it comes from, and how a person has attained that position within the hierarchy of a particular professional field. "Professor Viano is very correct on this particular point that in today, there is so much information production that people can rise to a position of authority very quickly, especially through spaces such as Twitter or Facebook in terms of "the likes" that they get. In other words, if we look at authority as popularity and reputation as opposed to established authority by people in the field who are sufficiently trained to make those decisions, it becomes a different question. We have to understand that science is a social organization. And it has established a hierarchy about who it is that we are supposed to read and quote. The problem of authority within the discipline makes people less critical." **Dr. James Finckenauer,** having spent many years as a peer reviewer in a variety of settings with journal articles, books, manuscripts, doctoral dissertations and a whole variety of things, realizes the degree to which academics are dependent on the honesty of the authors, because usually we do not have the capacity to go back and re-examine everything that the author is telling you and get all the data and do all the analyses on one's own "[…] most scholars do in fact present material honestly and with integrity, unfortunately not all the time. There are senior researchers who know they have a certain reputation and they abuse that reputation. They know that if they submit something it is likely that it is probably going to get published and they know that nobody is going to go back and look over all the details, so they utilize their own. Some people cite their own works all the time and then assign their students to cite the work, building up the citation index. Consequently, it gives a misleading picture of an impact on the field. Can you depend on the reputation of the researcher? Maybe, very cautiously."

**Dr. Bernardo Attias** focused on a very significant academic practice known as peer-review and the fact that it does not necessarily mean fact-checking, "[…] generally when people review the research, they look if it was appropriately cited. Is it missing any critical aspects of the research; does the work contribute to the field? The peer review process does not necessarily doubt unfactual information. The Sokal Affair is a great example when a scholar in order to catch journal's editors with their pants down, so to speak, intentionally used false information and worded the article in a way that it sounded like a legitimate argument. Personally I've actually read that paper and I do find a lot of faults with the peer review process in that particular journal. I think they made a big mistake accepting that paper even without the scientific knowledge to understand some of its claims. Hindsight, as we say, is always 20/20, but I think a journal engaged in truly interdisciplinary research that is common in cultural studies should make more of an attempt to engage scholars in the review process who have expertise in all of the relevant fields." **Prof. Maxim Lepskiy** also emphasized that the authority of an author is not a characteristic of research reliability, speaking of Sokal Affair he shared several cases, when similar experiments to Sokal Affair were conducted in Ukraine and about 10 Ukrainian scientific journals fell into trap "articles had the structure of what is

meant to be a scientific article, but the content was absolutely mediocre. The journals accepted those articles simply because they did not have the scientific courage to say "no." Another important factor in academia, in his view, is that everybody can make, especially young researchers, but that should not discourage them but be persistent in working harder on the methodology of research. Mistakes should serve as an impulse for further research and not turn to feeling guilty or lack of scientific interest. The role, mission, and social significance of science do not simply vary from era to era.

**Dr. Vitalii Lunov** shared what is happening in Ukrainian academia, unfortunately "with the arrival of a new minister standards in Ukrainian science drastically start to take different forms. Changes as such do not lead to the development of science or new discoveries. It is not clear how a tradition can be preserved or created in an ever-changing system of coordinates. Scientists find themselves in a situation where they need to monitor if the requirements for professorships and PhDs have changed and try to keep up with the changes of those 'most cherished old requirements.' Why is it not possible to be more or less consistent in the requirements for the number of articles, the font of the text, the design of papers, and everything else? Why is that someone's idealistic impressionism of scientometrics turns into the function of the law? Idealists and pragmatic comrades create an infantile generalization by measuring only the "measurable" results of science with the top scientists' scientometric indicators. Everything that is not included in the formula falls into the Procrustean Bed, and scholars find themselves in the situation when their experience does not fit into the new framework invented by the Ministry of Education which is different from the practices of many generations of scientists in our country and academic tradition. On the other hand, Ukrainian scholars are forced to "reach", pardon me, "to stretch" into the idealized scientometric indicators of this "Procrustean bed". Mature science is always distinguished by the preservation of methodology and tradition, impartial and accurate research, and definite requirements that do not change overnight, which is the question of ethics. Constantly changing requirements, endlessly changing ideals, new demands are nothing but perpetual demoralization and immaturity. I believe this is the way science comes to its crisis, as it moves away from an understanding of its ethical nature (I am not talking about the bioethics of research nor plagiarism) into a nomenclative one. What is surprising is the silence of professional, academic and university academic circles."

## The problem of "ecclesiasticism" in science and relation of scientometrics databases to science.

The world of a scientist and the world of science differs from one another in particular requirements. A researcher cannot work with information only because it has "come into his possession." It is not advisable to rely on any source as the ultimate truth either. The requirements for a scientist are different; he or she must be able to analyze and justify, reason and present valid results of his scientific activities. In terms of methodological discourse on the quality of scientific results in the 21st century, a vital aspect of the scientific foundation is evaluation and studying sources. However, with the preponderance of information technology and inclusive digitalization, the very essence of scientific knowledge — source studies — have undergone abnormal mutations and simulation. Fake sources, the implicit customary way that does not require verification of data sources, business projects that scientifically justify things that do not exist, among many other

things, is becoming a negative tendency. The question is, does "referencing to a source" equals the "quality of that source"? What if a long-established source is an example of inaccurate information? There is a current bizarre trend, which implies that a written source is a source that definitely should be used and referred to in the research. Does it even matter if it was an intentional misrepresentation or the outcome of a theoretical project that has nothing to do with reality?

When it comes to referencing other scholars' work **Dr. Lucien Oulahbib** believes that it depends on the subject and your research field. If one specializes in a very narrow field which is not explored by many, referencing is simply impossible and it would be illogical to wait until other scholars support you. History has numerous examples when there was one or several scholars opposed by the entire academia for different reasons, it had happened to Einstein, it happened to Poincare in France and many others. **Iryna Lopatiuk** as a young scientist believes that analysis of primary resources (books, publications, treatises, experimental surveys etc.) provided by predecessors who conducted comprehensive research earlier is no doubt a useful practice, "[…] however, when it comes to original research, the aforementioned practice is only a first step to broaden the mind, to help one perceive the ideas already present in this world; to help one to realize his personal potential scientific impact or achievement. Such analytical approach catalyses reflections, ending this process with a shaped relevant research objective. Nevertheless, this is still the very first step of a research sacrament." Secondly, Irina Lopatiuk is emphatic about striking problematic issues in regard to attempts to distort the methodology of scientific research and upholding scientometrics databases as a measure of scientists' impact and development. "There are certain types of 'unspoken rules' (they resemble rituals rather than procedures or approaches); they are proclaimed to be rules that every scientist should or even must be aware of and adhere to. Amidst them, for instance, is the rule of referring to some previous scientific publications (disregarding the fact that there might have been no one who conducted research on such a subject). Another extreme which is becoming more and more problematic is "measuring" a scholar by the number of his articles in Scopus or Web of Science indexed journals vs. his monographs and scholarly work. There are many artificial mechanisms that certain public persons and even scholars are applying in an attempt to persuade the social majority of certain exploration, validity of discoveries, that are simply invalid and fake. One of the most common reasons for this is the 'special demand', just like a political business project." **Andrew Mark Creighton** pointed out an important aspect of understandability of scholarly work for the general public, which is certainly a big issue "I believe that, at least for the general public, science is no longer the only authority on science. With the rise of the internet, and increased communication, the visibility of science now and its past inadequacies and ethical issues, can arguably be causing a fracturing of scientific authority. In attempting to understand the coronavirus, medical researchers, doctors, and health scientists have often disagreed with each other, offered contradicting advice, and have changed their recommendations and information about the virus. This uncertainty and changing information is to be expected, science is a process that involves a process of elimination and this is very much a truism to be taken-for-granted for those in academia. However, to the general public, who has had little academic experience with science, these inconsistencies among health professions may signify incompetence and irresponsibility".

**Professor Michael Strevens** says that academic circles need a secondary layer of 'interpreters' to explain what they mean to the general public, "[…] if you are looking at the scientific journals, you are reading things that have went through a lot of scrutiny and rules, although one cannot totally rely on anything, ever. If one wants to understand what kinds of assumptions are being used to interpret the evidence, you can't go to the journal, you have to speak with scientists directly. Without doing that it is impossible to get the complete picture of any particular scientist's thinking about what the evidence is showing us." **Prof. Maxim Lepskiy** believes the problem of citing is a simulative scientific activity when citation becomes obligatory and more important than the content itself. "It seems that scientists forget their ultimate goal which is all about revealing and explaining *zones of unknown,* as remarked by Dr. Oleg Maltsev, making discoveries and contributions for the benefit of society. Partially due to the requirements imposed by institutions, academics are caught up in the circle of citing each other. There are attempts to transfer scientific culture into a culture of grammar and punctuation. Scientometric bases should serve for the convenience in searching for information and literature. But if one has to pay for the publication it ends up in inequality between people who can afford that and people who cannot. I have heard that Scopus as a business is somewhere between the oil industry and advertising in terms of profitability, I haven't investigated this issue, but that is what I have heard." Another problem in academia according to Prof. Lepskiy is making a show out of science, "those who determine the rating are in control of the field. "Hitmakers" are creators of meanings and "movements" of their imitators do not always correspond to the tasks and methods of science. Descartes, Newton, Leibniz and other masters of the past were appreciated because they could solve the problems set before the whole country. Today, science is becoming more hyperreal and is not aimed at resolving problems of society."

**Ph. D. Vladimir Skvorets** stated that all discoveries, new scientific knowledge, hypotheses, and theories are created on the basis of previously existing ones through criticism and rethinking. He believes that referencing should be an obligatory requirement for young scientists, but he has studied high-quality works of social scientists which had no references but documents and photographic evidence, for example, the article titled "Yakov Blumkin's Connection with Modern Academic Science" by Dr. Oleg Maltsev and Darina Karuna published in "Granite of Science" publication. "The most important fact is that this article represents an original concept of the emergence of Soviet science. The authors of the article demonstrated the struggle of two scientists, graduates of the Heidelberg University A. Yakovlev and G. Popov, against the pseudo-scientific Blumkin and Bokii and how that led to the determination of the development model and the future of Soviet science. The problem developed in the article is extremely relevant to the modern scientific community," Dr. Skvorets noted. In his view scientometric databases are contradictory, depersonalized, bureaucratized, and commercialized. There is no guarantee that articles submitted by authors are reviewed by reputable scientists who are able to adequately examine and give a scientific assessment. Another view on today's science by **Ph. D. Oleksandr Sahaidak** is that science as an institution is a religion in some sense, "both institutions are in a specific position to the state which has been trying to keep them under control for thousands of years. On the other hand, both institutions can fulfill their social functions, provided they are separate, independent and autonomous from the state. When science is relatively independent of the state

but at the same time immensely dependent on scientific bureaucracy, it does not have a good prospect. I believe scientists must find a golden mean regarding who the authority pillars are and how to relate to them. As for the scientometric databases, Hungarian psychoanalyst Leopold Szondi's saying is relevant as ever: "Pathology is a hypertrophied (grotesque) norm." If the current condition of scientometric "science" is not entirely normal, the question is: what is the norm? In the 19th century, such a standard was the scientific reputation, which delivered the same functions as elsewhere: communication and hierarchization. With the advent of digitalization, we require new and more efficient communication methods in scientific communities, and scientometric databases have become this method. Obviously, they deliver the second function very well— hierarchization, by generating "accepted" and "unaccepted" circles. **Prof. Sahaidak** emphasized that these databases have turned into a management tool that operates through the principle of the "Iron law of oligarchy" (Robert Michels). In his opinion, a 'political' decision is necessary to take back scientometric databases to their primary function, "[…] by 'political', I mean the processes of self-organization and power within the scientific community. Databases must be *assisting* scholars to achieve and maintain our main goal: understanding the truth."

***"All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them."***

Galileo Galilei

**Organizing committee of "Challenges of Source Evaluation in Science and Correlated Areas"**
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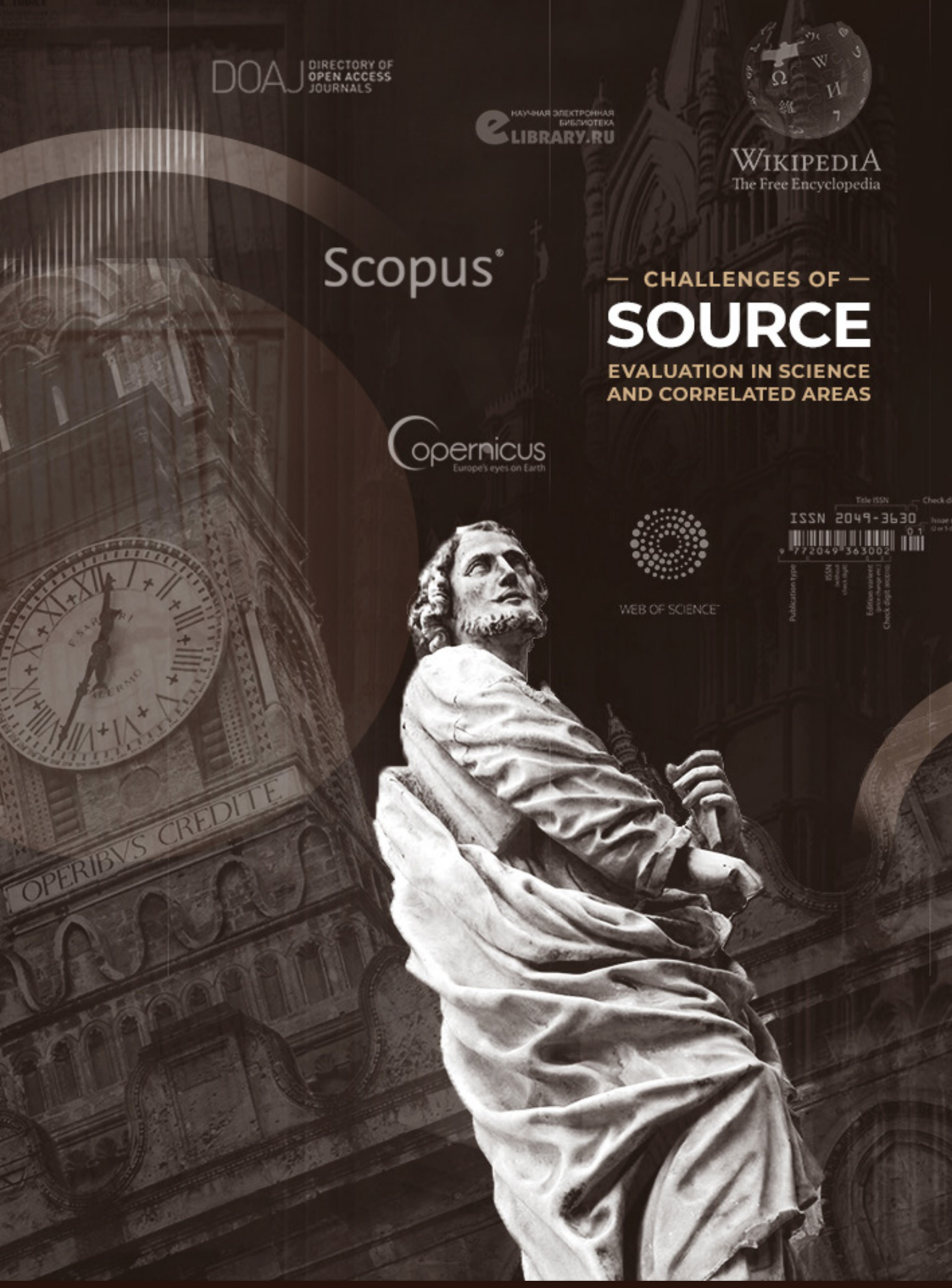
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