

Bibliothèque

**Predatory Publishers: Welcome to the** grey zone

Vincenzo Palatella EPFL Library

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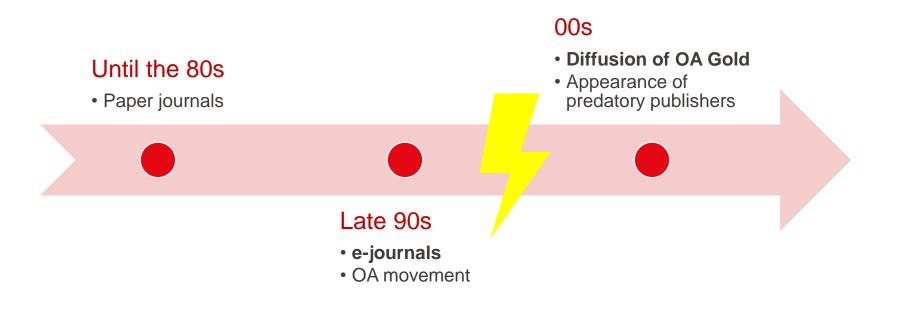
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# **EPFL** Learning objectives

- Understand what a predatory journal is
- Know how to recognize predatory publishers and protect the scientific value of your work

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# **EPFL** A very short history of academic publishing



# **EPFL** What they are?

- Almost 400 academic articles on predatory publishing published in the last 20 years [1] and still no simple definition.
- "[Publishers] which publish counterfeit journals to exploit the openaccess model [...] They aim to dupe researchers, especially those inexperienced in scholarly communication. They set up websites that closely resemble those of legitimate online publishers, and publish journals of questionable and downright low quality. Many purport to be headquartered in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada or Australia but really hail from Pakistan, India or Nigeria." [2]
- "Predatory journals and publishers are entities that prioritize self-interest at the expense of scholarship and are characterized by false or misleading information, deviation from best editorial and publication practices, a lack of transparency, and/or the use of aggressive and indiscriminate solicitation practices." [3]

# **EPFL** The grey zone

| Criteria                          | Legitimate            | Predatory                    |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Adherence to industry standards   | High                  | Low                          |
| APC information                   | Upfront and clear     | Unclear or absent            |
| Contact information               | Easily available Diff | ficult to retrieve or absent |
| Editorial board                   | Verifiable, renowned  | Unverifiable, unknown        |
| English quality (emails, website) | Well-curated          | Sloppy                       |
| Impact metrics                    | Scopus                | None or unknown              |
| Indexing                          | DOAJ, PubMed, WoS     | None or unknown              |
| Industry associations memberships | COPE, OASPA           | None or unknown              |
| ISSN                              | Ok                    | Missing or made up           |
| Peer-review process               | Clear                 | Unclear                      |
| Quality of editorial work         | High                  | Low                          |
| Unsolicited emails                | None or rare          | Common practice              |

# **COMPANY OK, I get it. But I really need to publish...**



#### Diffusion of pseudoscience/alternative truth



Waste of public money

### EPFL Tools

- Compass to Publish Liège Université Library (<u>https://app.lib.uliege.be/compass-to-publish/</u>)
- Directory of Open Access Journals (<u>https://doaj.org/</u>)
- Think, Check, Submit (<u>https://thinkchecksubmit.org/</u>)
- Quality Open Access Marker (<u>https://www.qoam.eu/journals</u>)
- Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association (<u>https://oaspa.org/</u>)
- COPE Principles of Transparency (<u>https://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines-new/principles-transparency-and-best-practice-scholarly-publishing</u>)
- ISSN Portal (<u>https://portal.issn.org/</u>)
- Still in doubt? Get in touch with the EPFL Library: <u>publishsupport@epfl.ch</u>

### EPFL References

[1] Cobey, Kelly D., Manoj M Lalu, Becky Skidmore, Nadera Ahmadzai, Agnes Grudniewicz, and David Moher. 'What Is a Predatory Journal? A Scoping Review'. *F1000Research* 7 (23 August 2018): 1001. https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.15256.2.

[2] Beall, Jeffrey. 'Predatory Publishers Are Corrupting Open Access'. *Nature* 489, no. 7415 (13 September 2012): 179. <u>https://doi.org/10.1038/489179a</u>.

[3] Grudniewicz, Agnes, David Moher, Kelly D. Cobey, Gregory L. Bryson, Samantha Cukier, Kristiann Allen, Clare Ardern, et al. 'Predatory Journals: No Definition, No Defence'. *Nature* 576, no. 7786 (December 2019): 210–12. <u>https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-019-03759-y</u>.



# **Thank you !**

go.epfl.ch/coffee-lectures

## **Contact & credits**

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