Survey to CoARA signatory organizations on multilingualism and gender in research assessment

The CoARA working group on Multilingualism and CoARA working group TIER organize a survey to CoARA signatory organizations on multilingualism and gender in research assessment. The survey is open from 16th of September to 14th of October 2024.

This survey is targeted primarily at member organisations of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA). However, also organisations that are not CoARA members are welcome to answer the survey.

The survey is conducted as part of the action plan of the CoARA working group on Multilingualism and language biases in research assessment and the action plan of the CoARA working group TIER, Towards an Inclusive Evaluation of Research. The main goal of the survey is to map how CoARA signatories are currently dealing with multilingualism and language and other biases in view of reforming research assessment.

This survey is anonymous and follows the structure of the commitments included in the CoARA agreement on reforming research assessment. Completion of this survey by the institutional CoARA contact person(s) is estimated to require a maximum of 10 minutes. Please answer all questions based on your own knowledge of the situation and actions at your organization.

In terms of terminology, the working group on Multilingualism and language biases agreed on the following:

- Multilingualism: The situation where multiple languages co-exist in a given individual, publication, institution or society.
- Language bias: A preference for using one language over others in various areas of scholarly communication, such as for publishing or conferences, for indexing content in one language (e.g. in bibliographic databases), or for including studies published in one language (e.g. in systematic reviews).
- Linguistic disadvantage: The position that non-native speakers of a language (e.g. English) face substantial challenges relative to native speakers (e.g. in the dissemination of scholarly work).
- Intersectionality: individuals' various social and political identities (e.g. gender, race, disability, language) result in unique combinations of discrimination and privilege (e.g. in scholarly publishing, non-Anglophones are cited less often, women are cited less often, and scholars from the Global South are cited less often, so a non-Anglophone woman from the Global South could face intersectional discrimination)

Background information

My organization is

- A university or university association
- A research center, a research infrastructure or an association thereof
- A public or private research funding organization or an association thereof
- A national/regional authority or agency that implements some form of research assessment or an association thereof
- An Academy, learned society or an association thereof or an association of researchers

- Another type of non-for-profit organization involved in research assessment or an association thereof

My organization is based in [drop-down list of countries with all countries listed on https://coara.eu/agreement/signatories/ + the option 'prefer not to say']

Has your organization signed the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment and is it a member of CoARA (Coalition for Advancing Resaerch Assessment)? [Choose one option: Has signed the agreement and is member of CoARA; Has signed the agreement but is not member of CoARA; Has not signed the agreement].

Questions related to CoARA commitments

Question 1
The first core commitment of the CoARA agreement emphasizes that "Changes in assessment practices should enable recognition of the broad diversity of valuable contributions that researchers make to science and for the benefit of society, [...] irrespective of the language in which they are communicated". In the light of this commitment

A. *To what extent does your organization already take into account multilingualism and possible language biases and linguistic disadvantages in current research assessment practices?*

Answer on a Likert scale: To a very large extent; to some extent; not so much; not at all; do not know

B. *To what extent is your organization taking into account multilingualism and possible language biases and linguistic disadvantages in the ongoing reform of research assessment practices?*

Answer on a Likert scale: To a very large extent; to some extent; not so much; not at all; do not know
Please share any comments you may have (with links to policies, practices, tools, etc.) in the box below.

Box

Question 2
The first core commitment of the CoARA agreement emphasizes that one of the principles for assessment criteria and processes is "Ensure gender equality, equal opportunities and inclusiveness. Consider gender balance, the gender dimension, and take into account diversity in the broader sense (e.g. racial or ethnic origin, national minority, sexual orientation, socio-economic, disability) in research teams at all levels, and in the content of research and innovation". In the light of this commitment,

Does your organization have any awareness-raising initiatives, actions, or policies to address bias in research assessment, including linguistic bias, gender bias, intersectionality and other sources of bias?

If yes, please provide information, policies, practices, and tools and target groups (evaluation committee, researcher, academic staff, internal and external stakeholders, early career researchers) in the box below.

Box

Question 3
The second core commitment of the CoARA agreement emphasizes the central role of peer review. In light of the centrality of peer review in assessing quality

To what extent does your organization explicitly take into account multilingualism and possible language biases and linguistic disadvantages when engaging peer reviewers (e.g. for recruitment, promotion, project proposal evaluation, research evaluation)? Please share any comments you may have (with links to policies, practices, tools, etc.) in the box below.

Answer on a Likert scale: To a very large extent; to some extent; not so much; not at all; do not know

Box

Question 4

The third core commitment of the CoARA agreement advocates abandoning the inappropriate use in research assessment of journal- and publication-based metrics, including assessing outputs based on language.

Does your organization violate this commitment by favoring publications in certain languages and/or by limiting research outputs in certain research assessment procedures to outputs in one or a certain limited number of languages only? Please answer with yes or no and explain your answer in the box below.

Yes or no choice

Box

Question 5

In terms of supporting commitments, the CoARA agreement invites signatories to commit resources to reforming research assessment. In light of this commitment

Does your organization intend to dedicate resources specifically for tackling possible language biases in research assessment? Please share any comments you may have in the box below.

Answer on a Likert scale: To a very large extent; to some extent; not so much; not at all; do not know

Box

Question 6

Supporting commitment 6 of the CoARA agreement invites signatories to review and develop research assessment criteria, tools and processes with the direct involvement of researchers at all career stages, with a view to enabling "recognition of the diversity of research activities and practices that contribute to research quality, including diverse outputs in different languages". In the light of this commitment,

A. *To what extent has your organization emphasized the importance of multilingualism when reviewing and developing research assessment criteria, tools and processes since signing the CoARA agreement?*

Answer on a Likert scale: To a very large extent; to some extent; not so much; not at all; do not know

B. To what extent is your organization making an effort to avoid possible language biases and linguistic disadvantages while reviewing and developing research assessment criteria, tools and processes since signing the CoARA agreement?

Answer on a Likert scale: To a very large extent; to some extent; not so much; not at all; do not know
Please share any comments you may have (with links to policies, practices, tools, etc.) in the box below.

box

Question 7

Supporting commitment 7 of the CoARA agreement emphasizes communication, guidance and training on research assessment criteria and processes. In the light of this commitment

Has your organization communicated internally in multiple languages on the ongoing reform of research assessment? *Please answer with yes or no and explain your answer in the box below.*

Yes or no choice

box