

# Lo stato della **pubblicazione scientifica**

ovvero: dell'insostenibilità del sistema editoriale e di come cambiarlo

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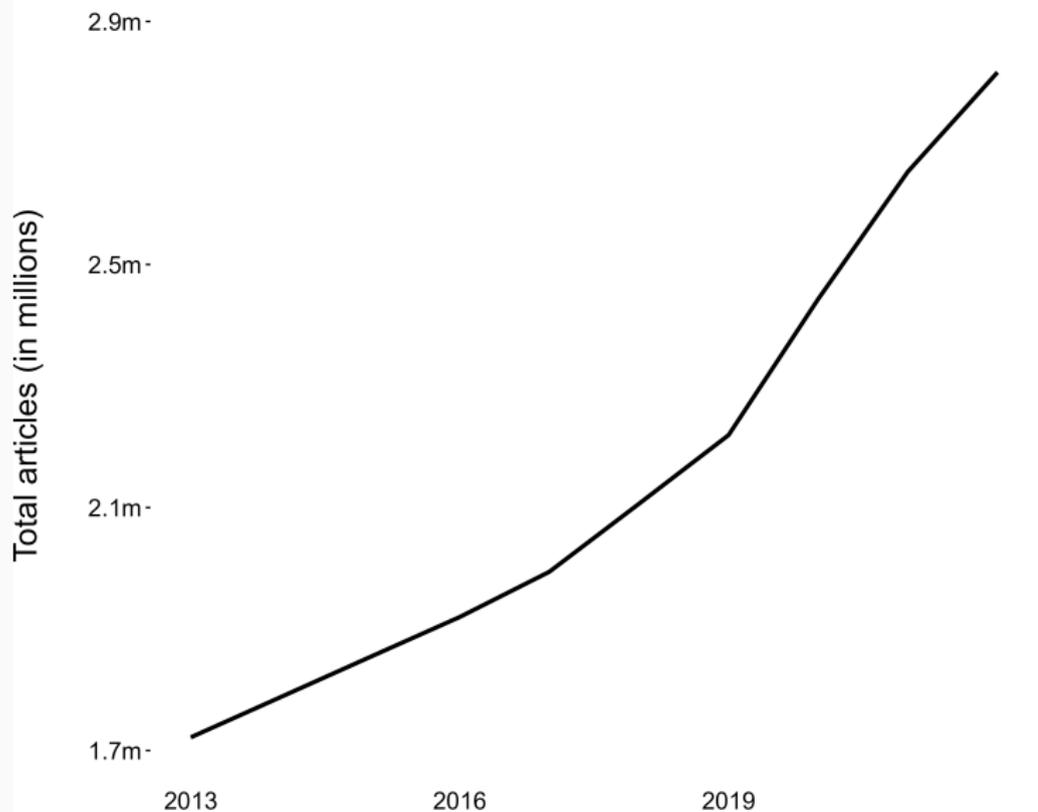
M. A. Hanson, P. Gómez Barreiro, **P. Crosetto**, D. Brockington

*Publish or Vanish?* – Università di Milano – 27 febbraio 2026



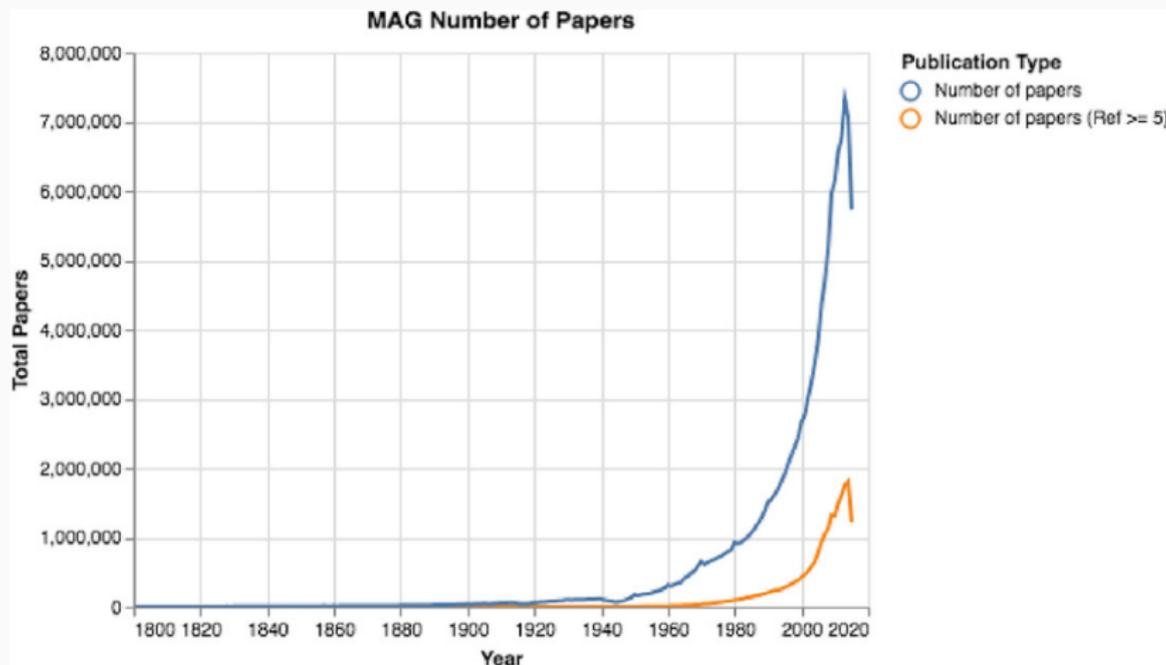


# Pubblichiamo sempre di più



Source: N papers -- Scimago website data; N PhDs - OECD

# Non è una novità



Fonte: Fire & Guestrin 2019

In 1958, when James D. Watson worked his way up to the rank of associate professor at Harvard, the young biochemist had on his curriculum vitae 18 papers. One of them, published 5 years earlier, described the structure of deoxyribonucleic acid.

Today, the bibliography of a candidate facing a similar climb often lists 50 or even 100 papers.

As the comparison suggests, paper inflation has become a fact of academic life during the past two decades. This is

Science, marzo 1981

ance and impudence.

Aristotle, when he enumerated the purposes (by which an author must be guided) and had come to the last one, therefore said: 'Everything else is either superfluosity or greed', by which he meant ignorance and insolence.

*34 The great number of scholarly works available is an obstacle on the path to attaining scholarship*

It should be known that among the things that are harmful to the human quest for knowledge and to the attainment of a thorough scholarship are the great number of works available, the large variety in technical terminology (needed for purposes) of instruction, and the numerous methods (used in those works). The student is required to have a ready knowledge of all that. Only then is he considered an accomplished scholar.

Thus, the student must know all the works, or most of them, and observe the methods used in them. His whole lifetime would not

414

Ibn Khaldun, 1332-1406

# OLD MAN YELLS AT CLOUD



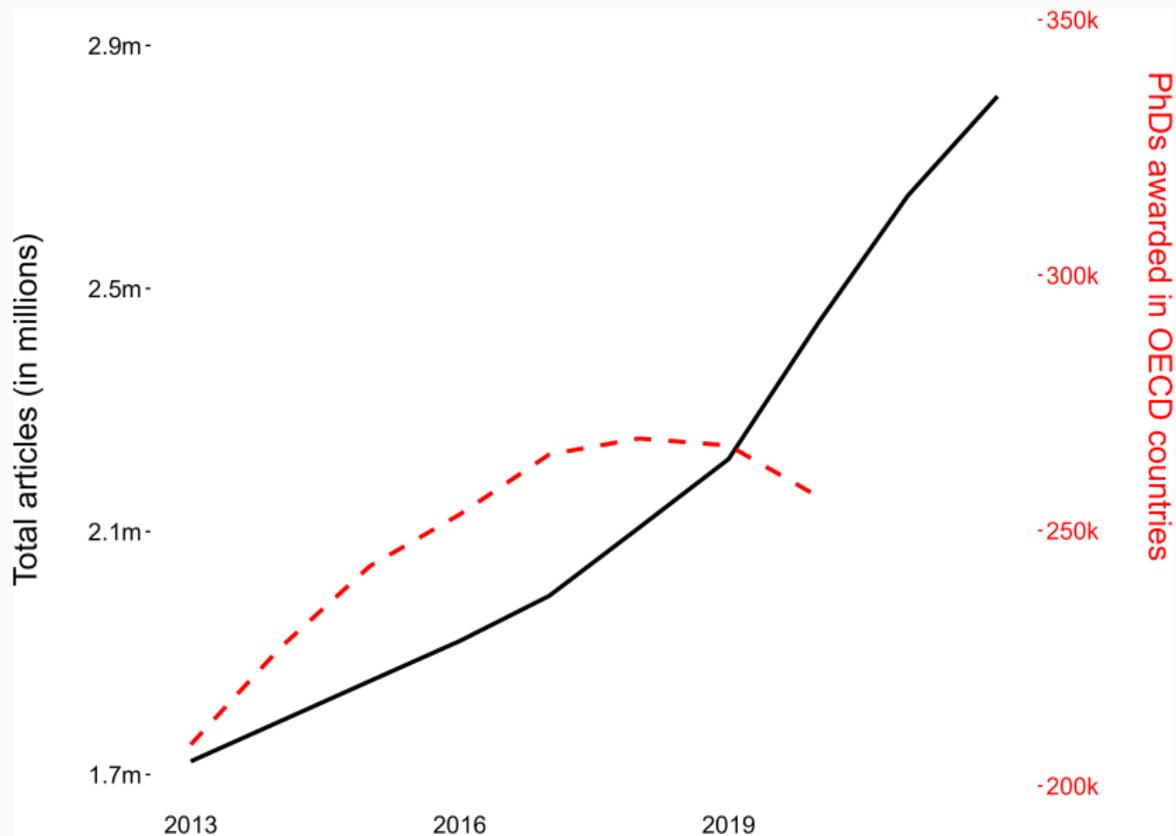
Oldster Abraham Simons  
yells at cloud

1. The first part of the  
news is about the  
man who yells at  
the sky. He is  
said to be a  
very old man  
and he is  
said to be  
very angry  
at the sky.

## La crescita degli articoli scientifici è in gran parte **positiva**

- Più **scienziati** nel mondo
- Più **fondi** per la ricerca
- Open Access: risultati accessibili a **tutti**
- Strumenti web: **diffusione** più rapida delle idee
- Meno articoli **nei cassetti**
- Più **replicazioni**, meta-analisi...
- Partecipazione del **sud del mondo**

# Ma il numero di ricercatori ha raggiunto un limite

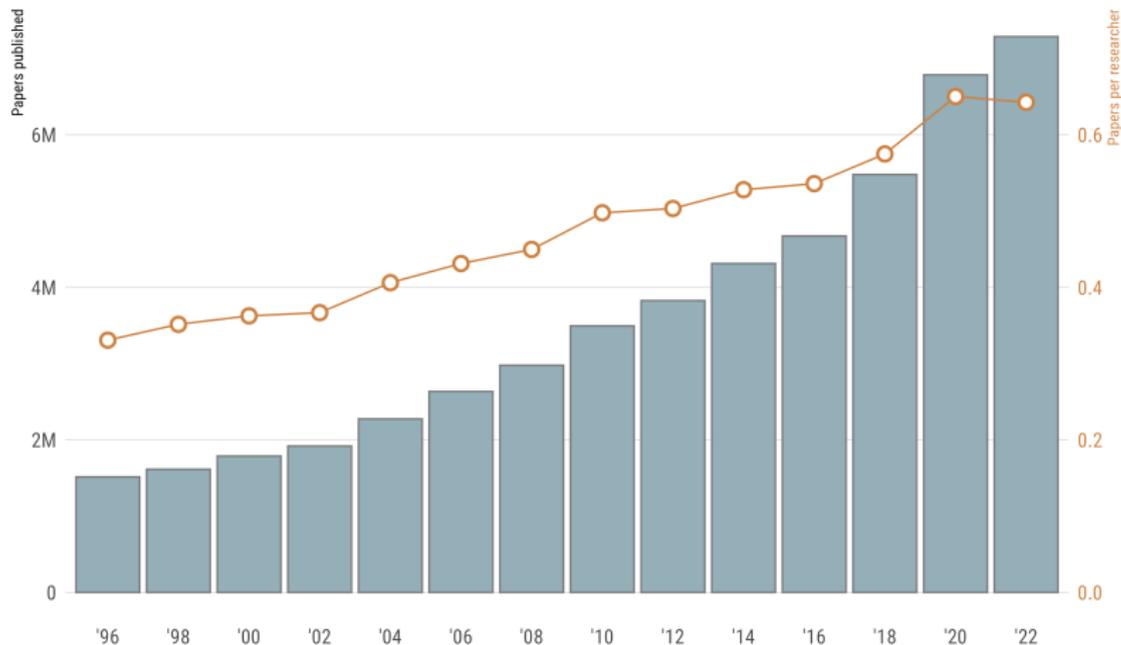


Source: N papers -- Scimago website data; N PhDs - OECD

# ... e gli articoli no: **più articoli per ricercatore**

## Published papers and average papers per researcher

By year, data from Dimensions (N papers), UNESCO (N researchers).



...e c'è una **crepa** in ogni cosa

Redattori che si  
dimettono  
per **prezzi** eccessivi



...e c'è una **crepa** in ogni cosa

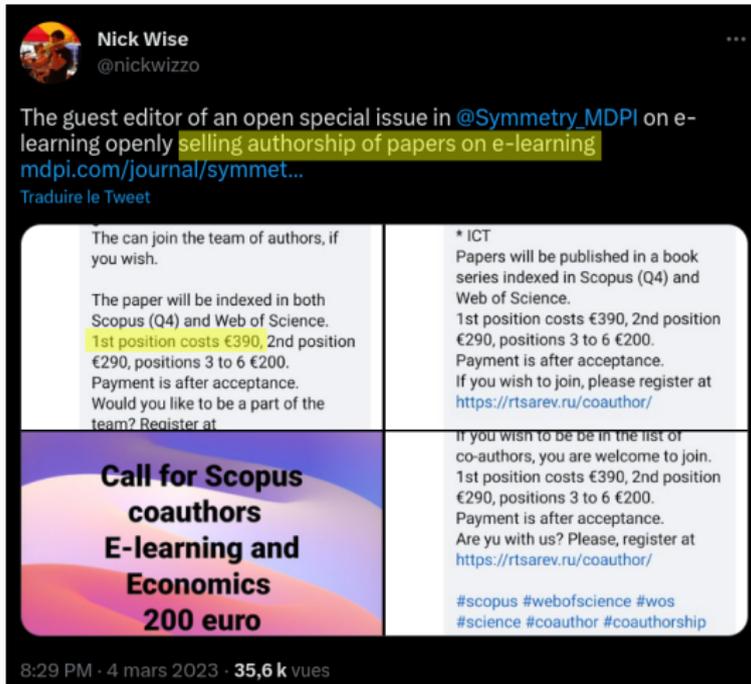
Paper mills  
che **producono in**  
**serie**  
pubblicazioni false

NEWS FEATURE | 23 March 2021

## **The fight against fake-paper factories that churn out sham science**

Some publishers say they are battling industrialized cheating. A *Nature* analysis examines the 'paper mill' problem – and how editors are trying to cope.

# ...e c'è una crepa in ogni cosa



**Nick Wise**  
@nickwizzo

The guest editor of an open special issue in @Symmetry\_MDPI on e-learning openly **selling authorship of papers on e-learning**  
[mdpi.com/journal/symmet...](https://mdpi.com/journal/symmet...)  
[Traduire le Tweet](#)

<p>The can join the team of authors, if you wish.</p> <p>The paper will be indexed in both Scopus (Q4) and Web of Science. <b>1st position costs €390</b>, 2nd position €290, positions 3 to 6 €200. Payment is after acceptance. Would you like to be a part of the team? Register at</p>	<p>* ICT Papers will be published in a book series indexed in Scopus (Q4) and Web of Science. 1st position costs €390, 2nd position €290, positions 3 to 6 €200. Payment is after acceptance. If you wish to join, please register at <a href="https://rtsarev.ru/coauthor/">https://rtsarev.ru/coauthor/</a></p>
<p><b>Call for Scopus coauthors</b> <b>E-learning and Economics</b> <b>200 euro</b></p>	<p>If you wish to be in the list of co-authors, you are welcome to join. 1st position costs €390, 2nd position €290, positions 3 to 6 €200. Payment is after acceptance. Are you with us? Please, register at <a href="https://rtsarev.ru/coauthor/">https://rtsarev.ru/coauthor/</a></p> <p>#scopus #webofscience #wos #science #coauthor #coauthorship</p>

8:29 PM · 4 mars 2023 · 35,6 k vues

Reti di vendita delle posizioni da autore

...e c'è una crepa in ogni cosa

Autori  
straordinariamente  
prolifici

EL PAÍS

ce & Tech

SILICON VALLEY · YOUTUBE ·

SCIENTIFIC ETHICS >

## One of the world's most cited scientists, Rafael Luque, suspended without pay for 13 years

The prolific chemist, who has published a study every 37 hours this year, has been sanctioned by the University of Córdoba over his research work for other institutions in Russia and Saudi Arabia

## ...e c'è una crepa in ogni cosa

Publish in 3 – 5 weeks from submission\*

- Submission to acceptance: 2-3 weeks
  - 1-2 weeks for peer review†
  - 1 week for author revision
- Acceptance to online publication: 1-2 weeks, with proofs within 5 working days and 48 hours for author review

Cost per article: \$7000 / €6200 / £5500

Publish in 7 – 9 weeks from submission\*

- Submission to acceptance: 5-6 weeks
  - 3-4 weeks for peer review
  - 2 weeks for author revision
- Acceptance to online publication: 2-3 weeks, with proofs within 10 working days

Cost per article: \$3900 / €3400 / £3000

Pagare per accelerare  
la peer review

...e c'è una **crepa** in ogni cosa

 **Public Health Reviews** CiteScore 9.6 How to publish Submit

**EDITORIAL**

Public Health Rev. 17 November 2022  
<https://doi.org/10.3389/phrs.2022.1605407>

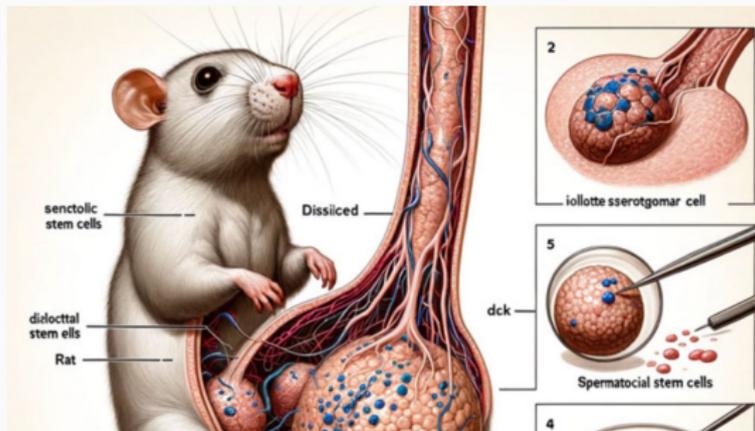


## «I Do Not Have Time»—Is This the End of Peer Review in Public Health Sciences?

 Nino Künzli<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>,  Anke Berger<sup>1,3</sup>,  Katarzyna Czabanowska<sup>4</sup>,  Raquel Lucas<sup>5</sup>,  Andrea Madarasova Geckova<sup>5</sup>,  Sarah Mantwill<sup>7</sup> and  Olaf von dem Knesebeck<sup>8</sup>

Sempre più **difficile**  
trovare revisori

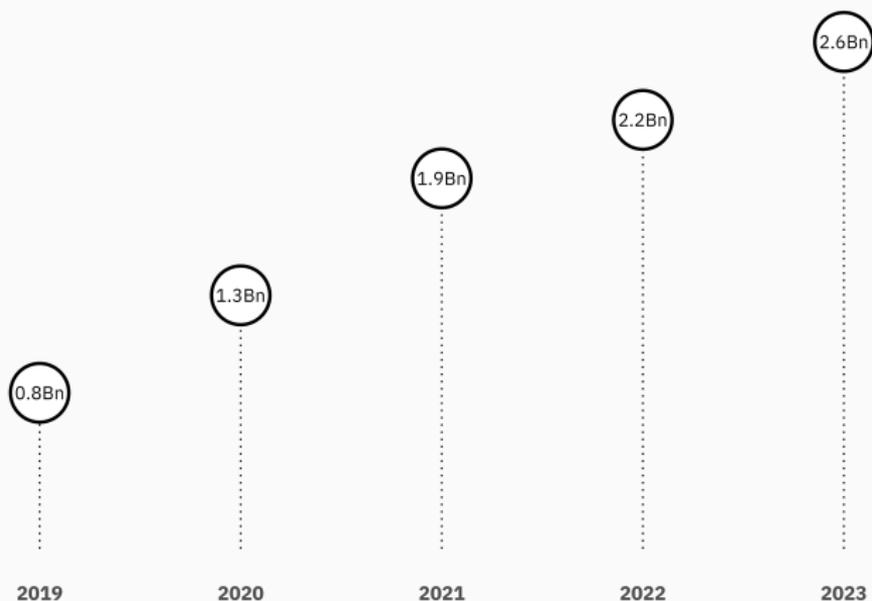
...e c'è una **crepa** in ogni cosa



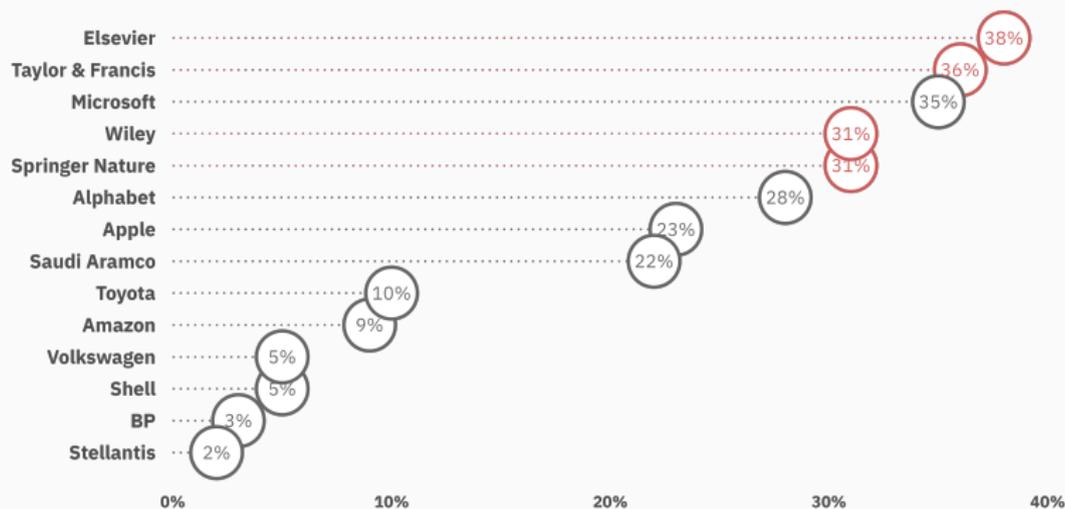
senza parlare  
dell'**IA**

## ...cionostante gli editori fanno soldi

Introiti da pubblicazione di paper Open Access dei 6 editori maggiori

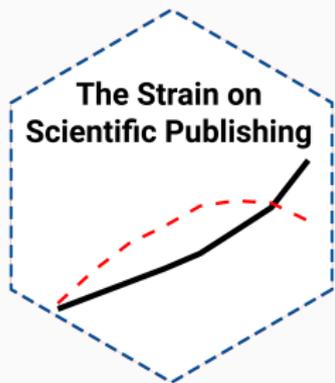


Margini di profitto: **editori scientifici** e altre industrie, 2023



Purtroppo è ora di occuparsi del





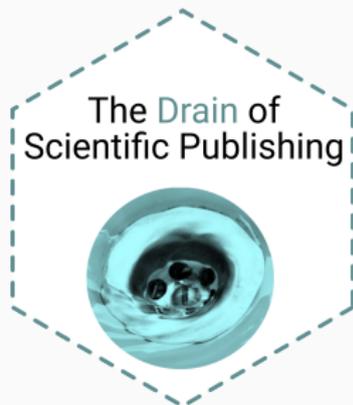
The **Strain** on  
Scientific Publishing

—  
Hanson et al.  
QSS 2024



The **Issue** with  
Special Issues

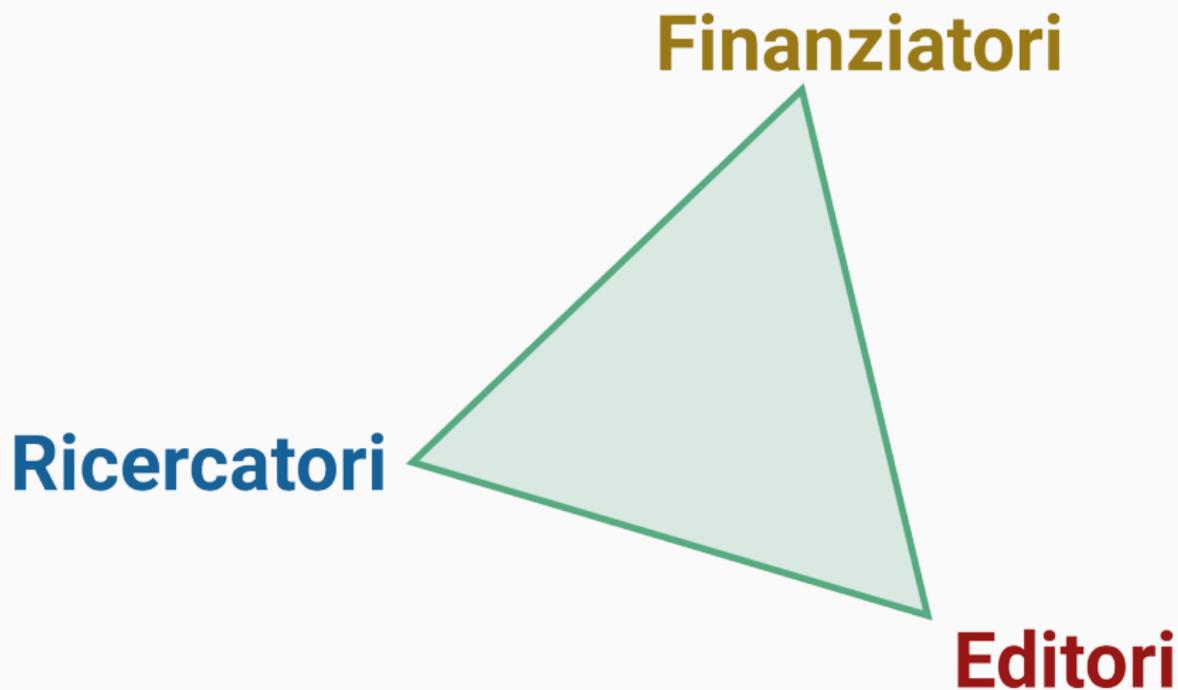
—  
Crosetto et al.  
Arxiv 2026



The **Drain** of  
Scientific Publishing

—  
Beigel et al.  
Arxiv 2025

Come **funziona** la pubblicazione scientifica?



# A cosa **serve** il sistema?

## Quali **funzioni** svolge il sistema?

### per gli **Scienziati**

- diffusione
- reputazione
- selezione

### per gli **Editori**

- profitti
- diffusione
- sostenibilità

### per i **Finanziatori**

- selezione
- priorità
- accesso pubblico

### Cosa vogliono i diversi attori dal sistema?

#### Scienziati

- alta reputazione
- poco sforzo
- stabilità

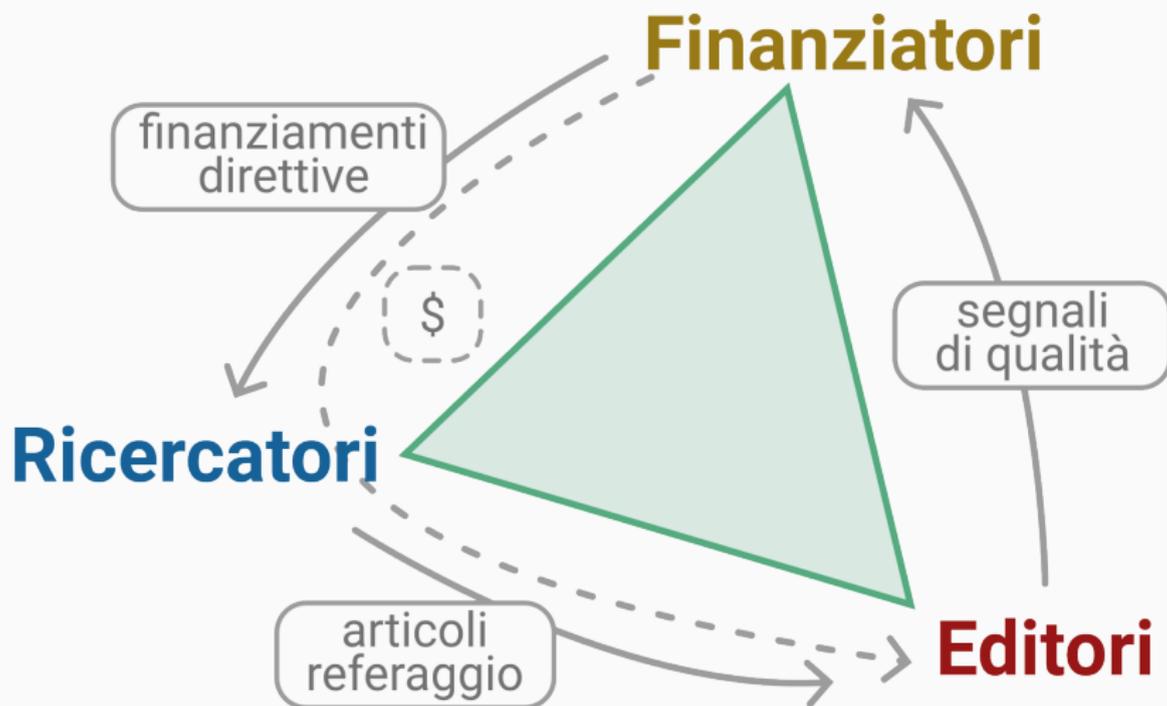
#### Editori

- alta reputazione
- alta quantità
- alti ricavi

#### Finanziatori

- stabilità
- segnale affidabile
- spesa contenuta

## Il triangolo (no) dell'edizione scientifica



# 1. Come siamo arrivati fin qui?

—

## The strain on scientific publishing



## The strain team



Immunologist



Experimental  
economist

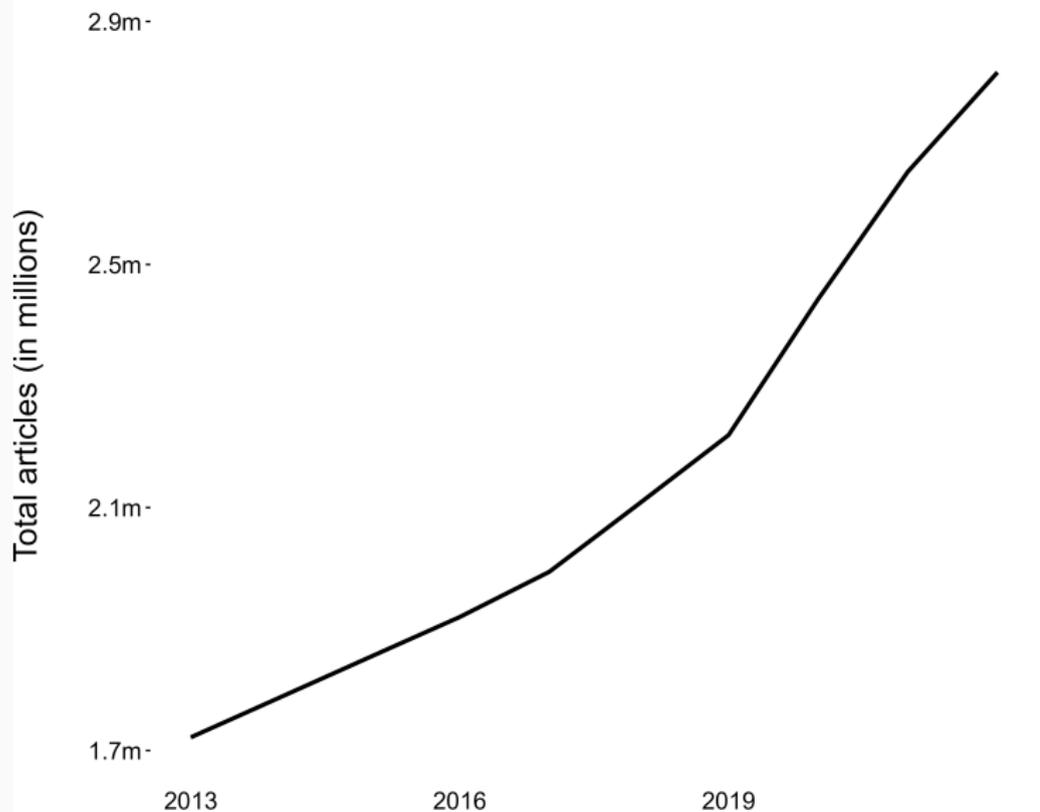


Seed technician



Anthropologist

## Quali tendenze si nascondono dietro questa crescita?



Source: N papers -- Scimago website data; N PhDs - OECD

# Crescere vuol dire **trasformarsi**

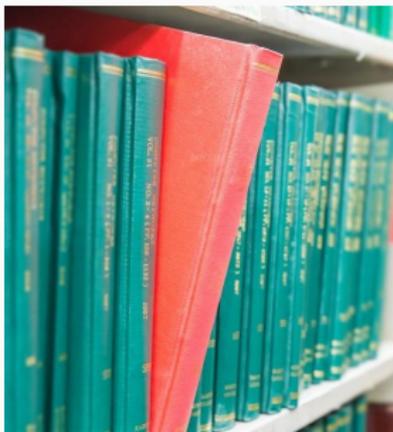
- nuove pratiche
- nuovi modelli
- nuovi incentivi
- nuovi **significati**



# Uno slittamento **semantico...**

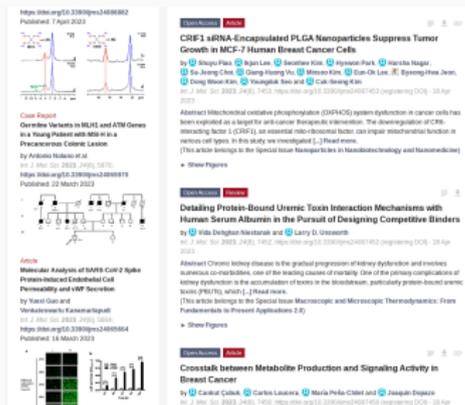
"Rivista"

significava



Un oggetto fisico con spazio  
disponibile limitato

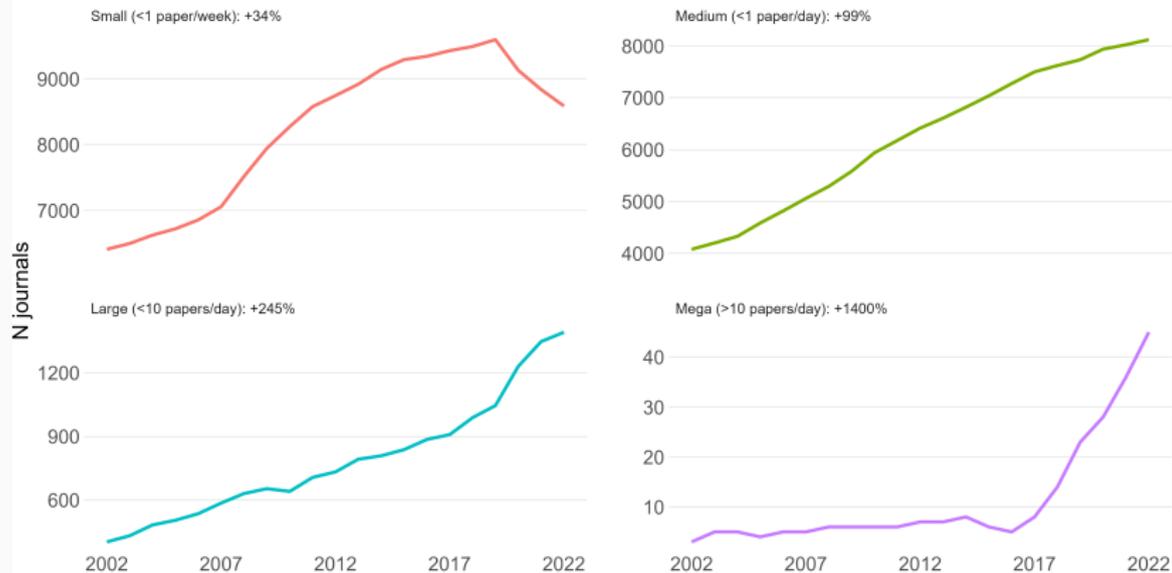
oggi significa anche



Un archivio elettronico  
illimitato

# ...che ci ha portati qui: l'ascesa delle mega-riviste

Number of journals by class of size, 2002-22



Source: Scimago website data

### "Pubblicazione"

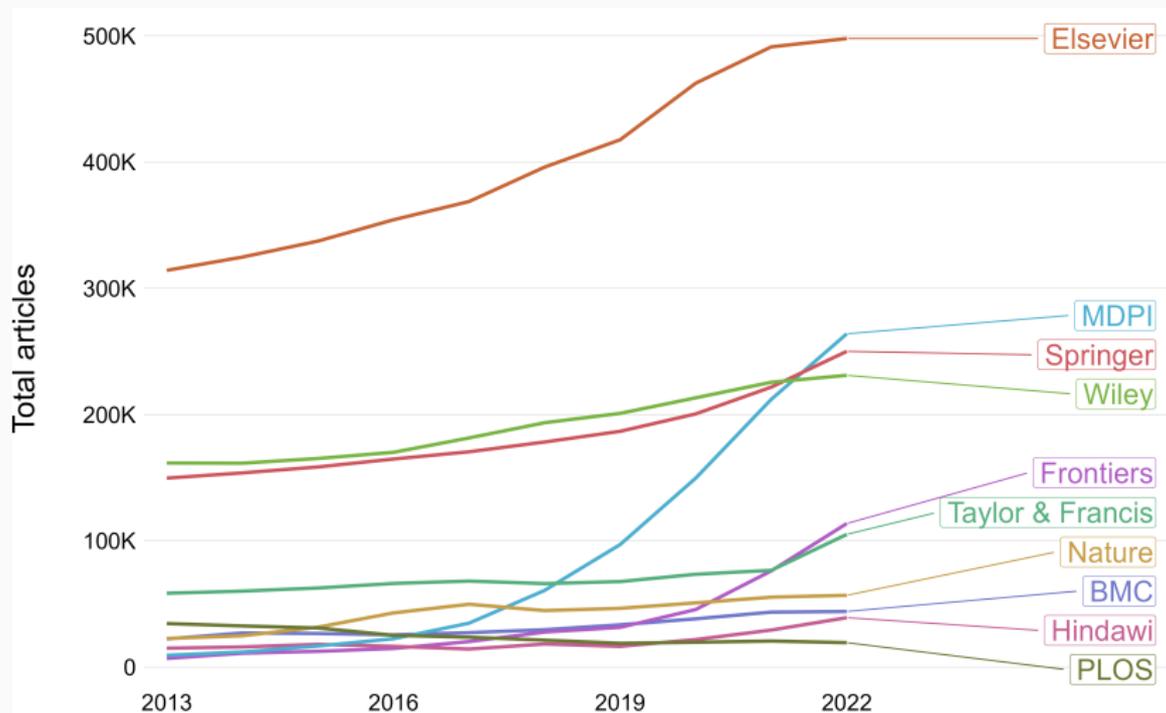
significava

- poche riviste
  - lunghe attese
  - bassi tassi di accettazione
  - pubblica e prospera
- ⇒ *troppi paper rifiutati?*

oggi **significa anche**

- migliaia di riviste
  - attese brevi
  - alti tassi di accettazione
  - o pubblici o muori
- ⇒ *troppi paper accettati?*

## ...che ci ha portati qui: **ascesa del modello OA for-profit**



Source: Scimago website data

### "Modello di business dell'editore"

significava

- Molte riviste piccole
- Chi **legge** paga
- "*Lucida i tuoi gioielli*"

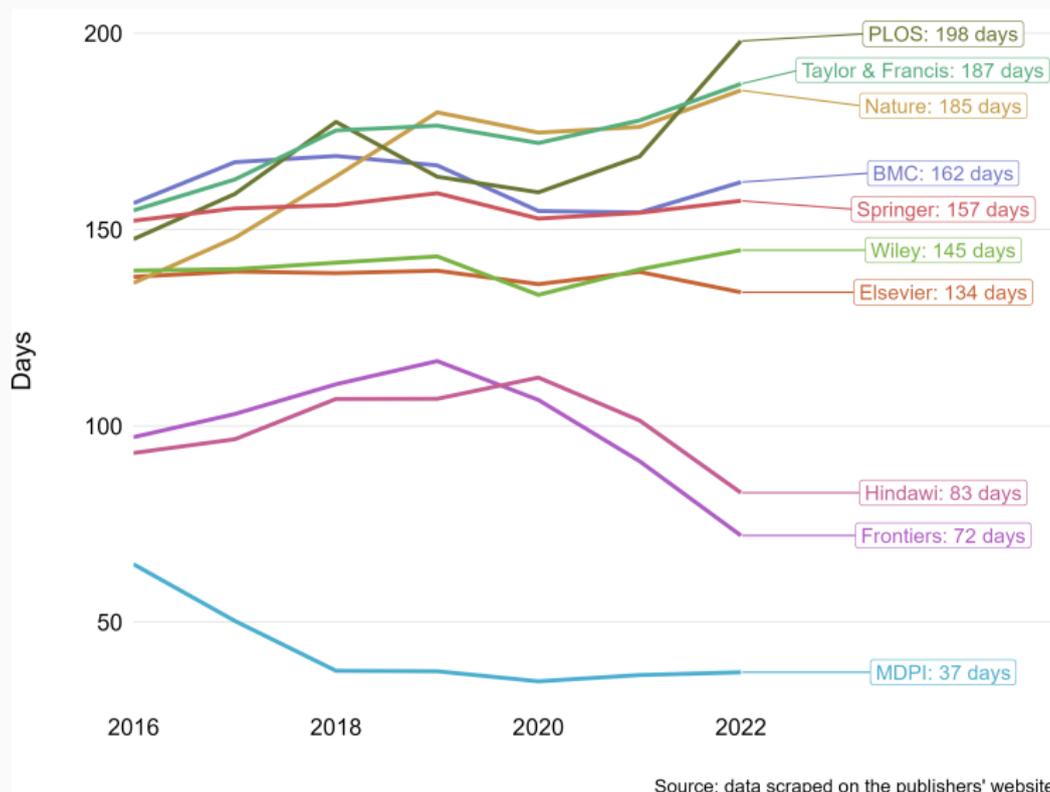
Incentivo a ↑↑ **quantità** ...

oggi **significa anche**

- Pochi mega-journal
- Chi **scrive** paga
- "*Porta gli autori a bordo*"

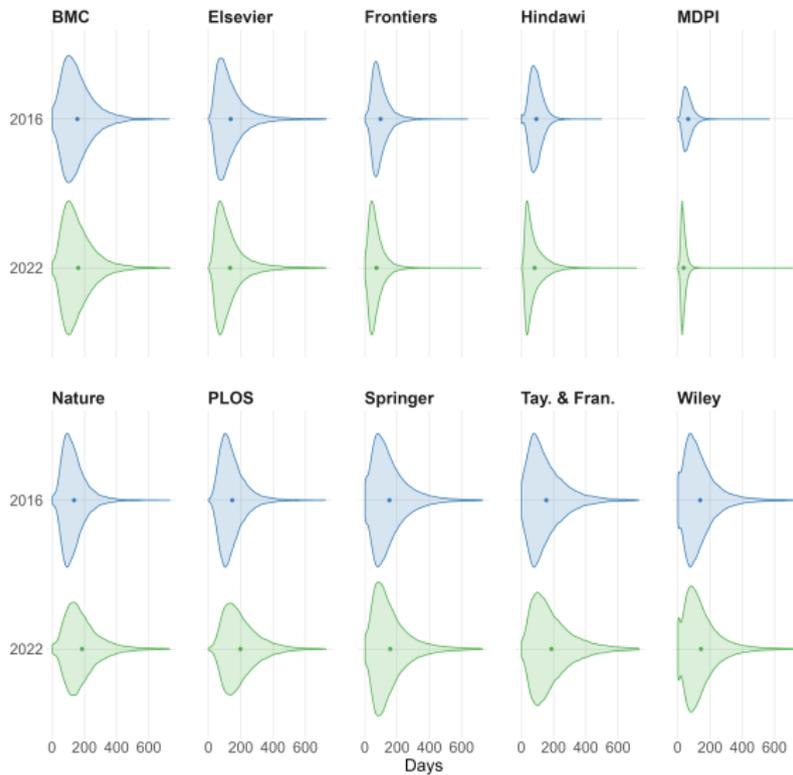
Incentivo a ↑↑ **quantità** ...

## ...che ci ha portati qui: **tempi molto rapidi**



# ...e qui: *tempi uniformemente rapidi*

Article heterogeneity in turnaround times by publisher, 2016-22

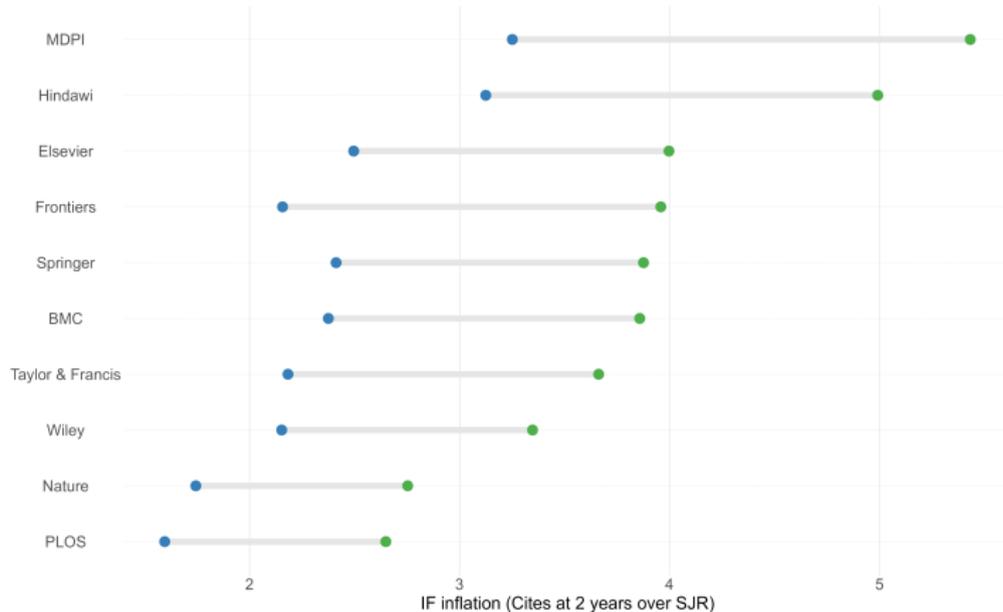


Source: data scraped from the publishers' websites

# ...e qui: **inflazione** generalizzata dell'Impact Factor

A

Evolution of Impact Factor inflation: 2016 to 2022



Source: Scimago website data



### "Numero speciale"

significava

- 1-2 *all'anno*
- Su un tema specifico
- Controllo editoriale ++
- regolari > speciali

oggi **significa anche**

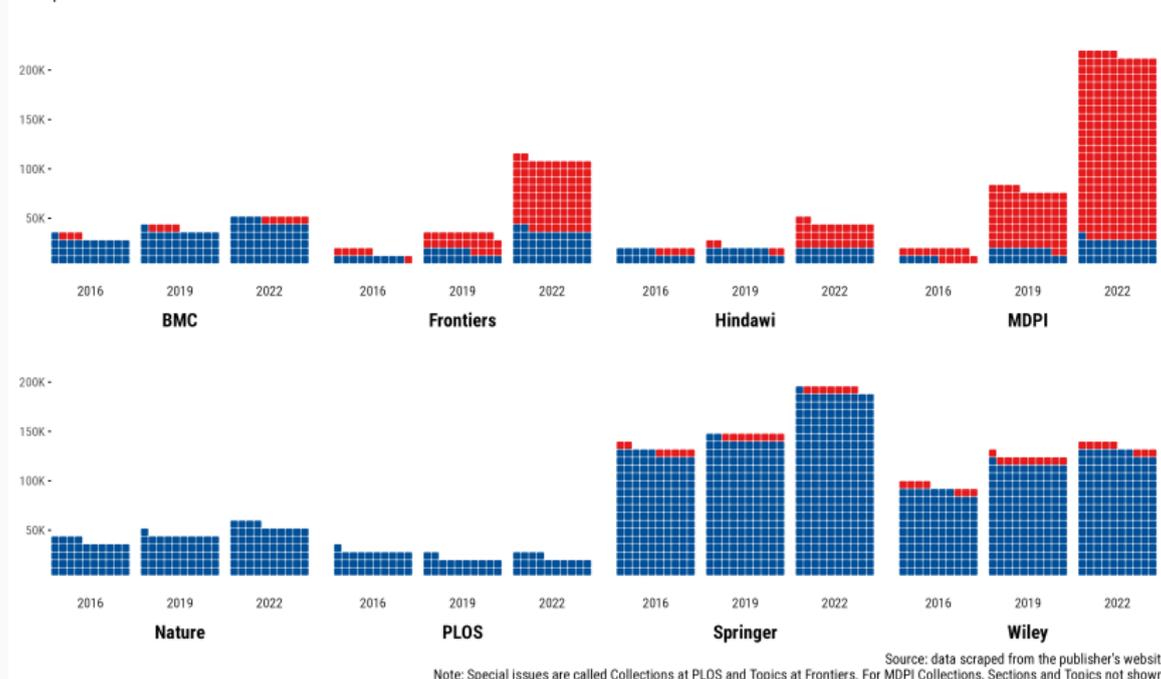
- 1-2 *al giorno*
- Su qualsiasi tema
- Controllo editoriale +-
- speciali > regolari

# ...che ci ha portato qui: numeri **non poi tanto speciali**

## Non così **speciale**, dopotutto

Number of papers published in **regular** vs **special** issues, 2016-22

One square = 800 articles



Source: data scraped from the publisher's website

Note: Special issues are called Collections at PLOS and Topics at Frontiers. For MDPI Collections, Sections and Topics not shown.

**in sintesi...**

## Change 2016-22

	TOTAL ARTICLES	SHARE SPECIAL ISSUE	TURNAROUND TIME (DAYS)	REJECTION RATE	IMPACT INFLATION
Overall	+47%	+27pp	-23	-1pp	+1.1
Elsevier	+41%	--	-4	+5pp*	+1.5
MDPI	+1080%	+14pp	-28	-8pp	+2.2
Springer	+52%	-1pp	+5	--	+1.5
Wiley	+36%	-2pp	+5	--	+1.2
Frontiers	+675%	+20pp	-25	+14pp	+1.8
Taylor & Francis	+59%	--	--	--	+1.5
Nature	+32%	+6pp	+49	--	+1
BMC	+73%	+1pp	+5	--	+1.5

## Tendenze

- Crescita trainata dalla **concentrazione**, soprattutto nell'OA
- Crescita **esplosiva** dei numeri speciali
- Industrializzazione e (eccessiva) **rapidità** della peer review
- Inflazione / corsa agli armamenti dell'IF per **tutti**

# Sintesi: un sistema **sotto pressione** che ha perso la bussola

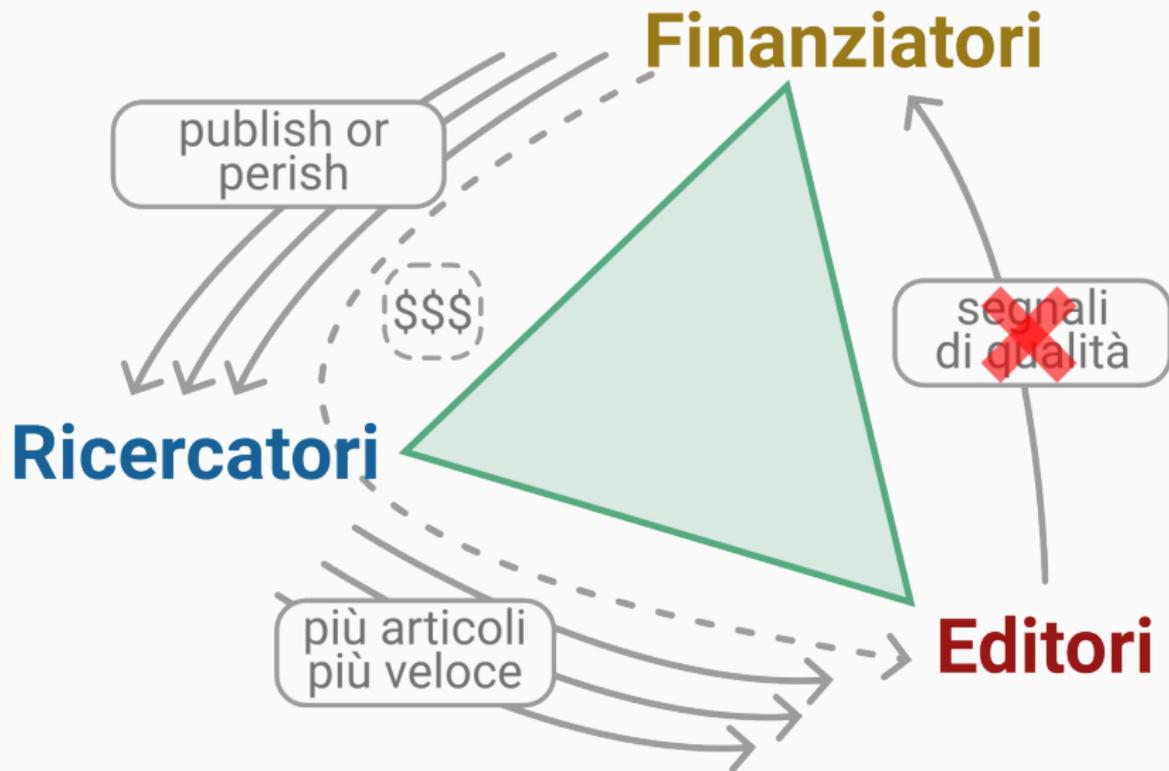
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## Rischi

- Quanto si può **crescere** prima che la bolla **scoppi**?
- **Legge di Goodhart:**  
*Se una misura diventa un obiettivo, non è più una buona misura*
- Il sistema si trova sotto **pressione**

## Il sistema, sotto pressione



## 2. Dinamiche di dipendenza autori - editori

—

### Publishing In Support of Self



### Domanda

incentivi a  
pubblicare OA

incentivi a  
pubblicare di più  
e più in fretta

competizione  
crescente

paesi  
emergenti

## Una relazione di dipendenza

### Domanda

incentivi a  
pubblicare OA

incentivi a  
pubblicare di più  
e più in fretta

competizione  
crescente

paesi  
emergenti

### Offerta

lettori pagano

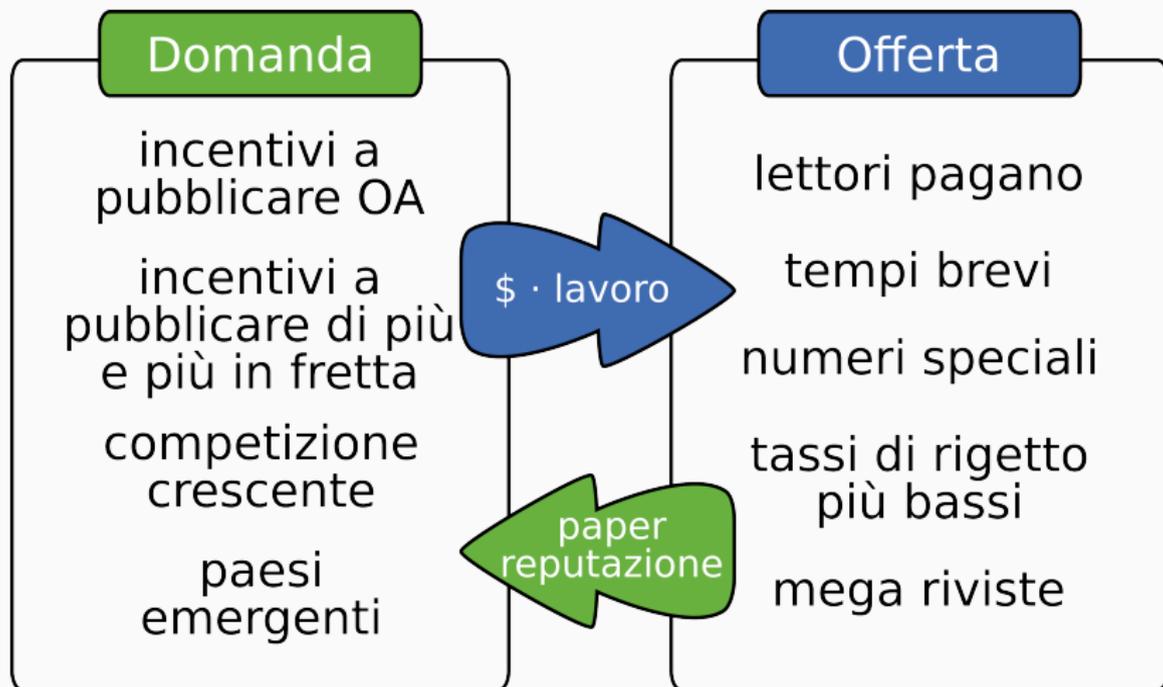
tempi brevi

numeri speciali

tassi di rigetto  
più bassi

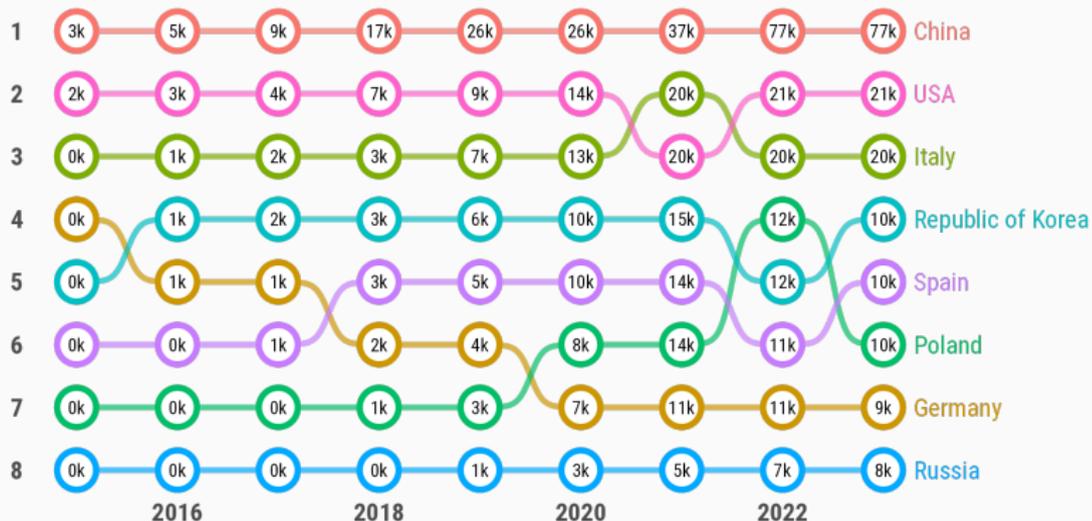
mega riviste

## Una relazione di dipendenza

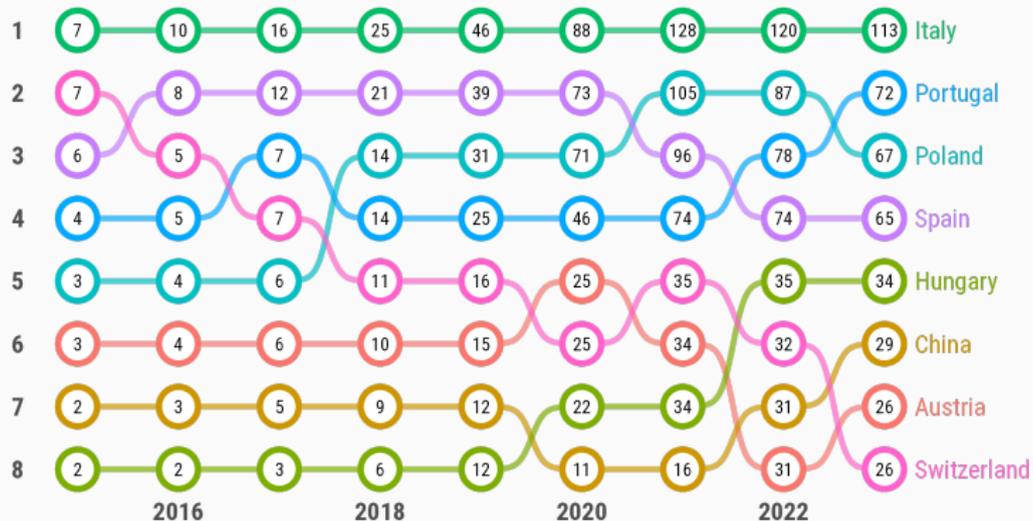


**Esempi di relazione di dipendenza:  
da dove vengono questi articoli?**

## Paesi con più articoli pubblicati da MDPI in assoluto



## Paesi con più articoli pubblicati da MDPI per 1000 ricercatori



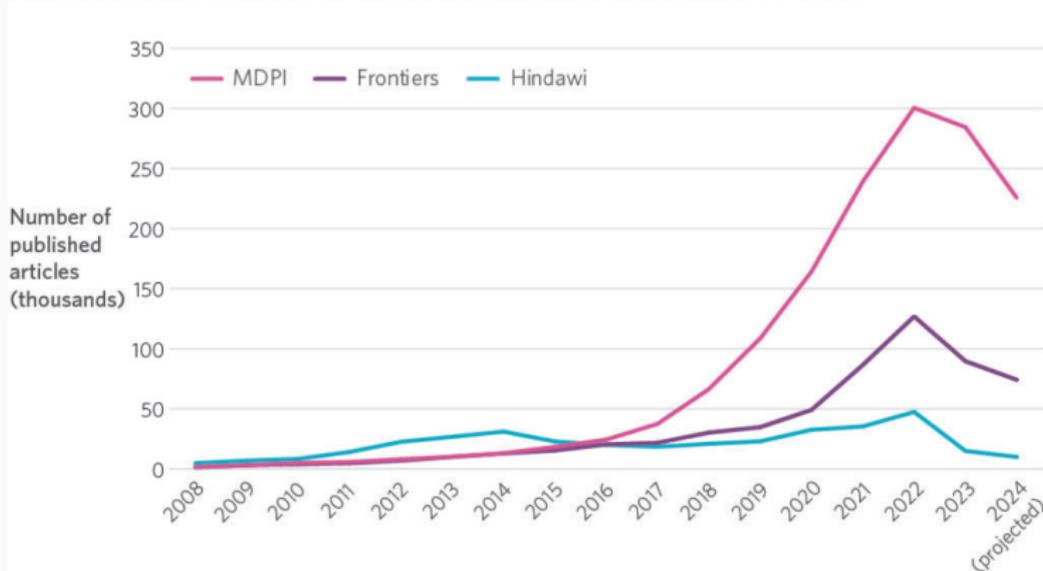
Gli incentivi incentivano: VQR  $\Rightarrow$  MDPI

**Esempi** di relazione di dipendenza:

La domanda **trova sempre** la propria offerta

# Quando la reputazione **soffre**, gli autori scappano

Published article volumes for MDPI, Frontiers, and Hindawi, 2008-2024



2024 projections extrapolated from first half year data. Results filtered to eliminate non-journal article content, such as conference abstracts, retraction notices, and front/back matter.

Source: Dimensions ([www.dimensions.ai](http://www.dimensions.ai)).

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Ma **qualcuno** soddisferà la domanda



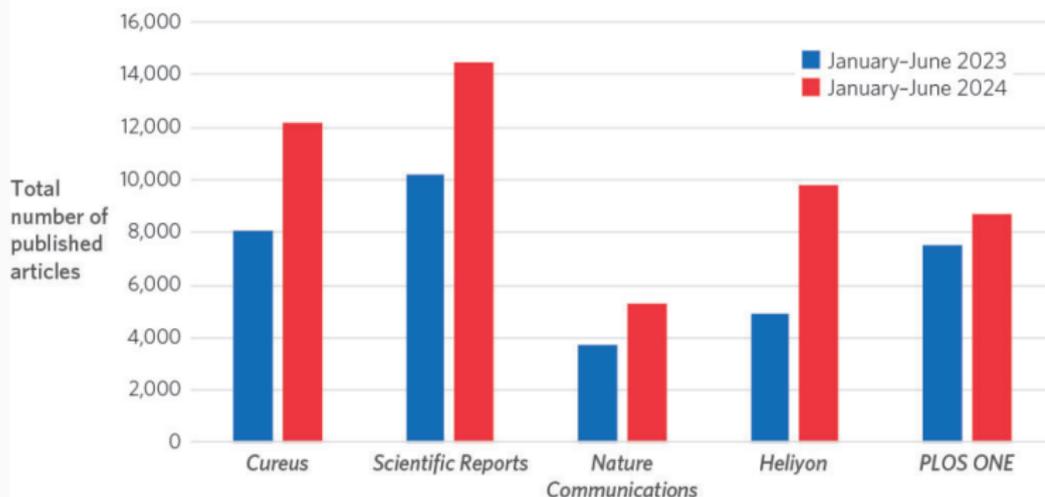
## Article Processing Charges (2025) -- Nature Discover and similarly-named MDPI journals

Journal name			APCs (€)	
DISCOVER	MDPI	NAME SIMILARITY	DISCOVER	MDPI
<b>Environmental Sciences</b>				
Energy	Energies	●	1190	2789
Agriculture	Agriculture	●	1040	2782
Water	Water	●	1190	2782
Atmosphere	Atmosphere	●	1090	2568
Sustainability	Sustainability	●	1090	2568
Cities	Smart Cities	●	1040	2145
Environment	Environments	●	1090	1926
Geoscience	Geosciences	●	1040	1926
Soil	Soil Systems	●	1190	1926
Oceans	Oceans	●	1040	1712
Hazards	GeoHazards	●	1690	1072
Conservation	Conservation	●	1040	1070
Ecology	Ecologies	●	1040	1070

data: MDPI and Discover websites. Analysis: the Strain team

# E non è solo Springer!

Total published article volumes for selected megajournals, 2023 versus 2024

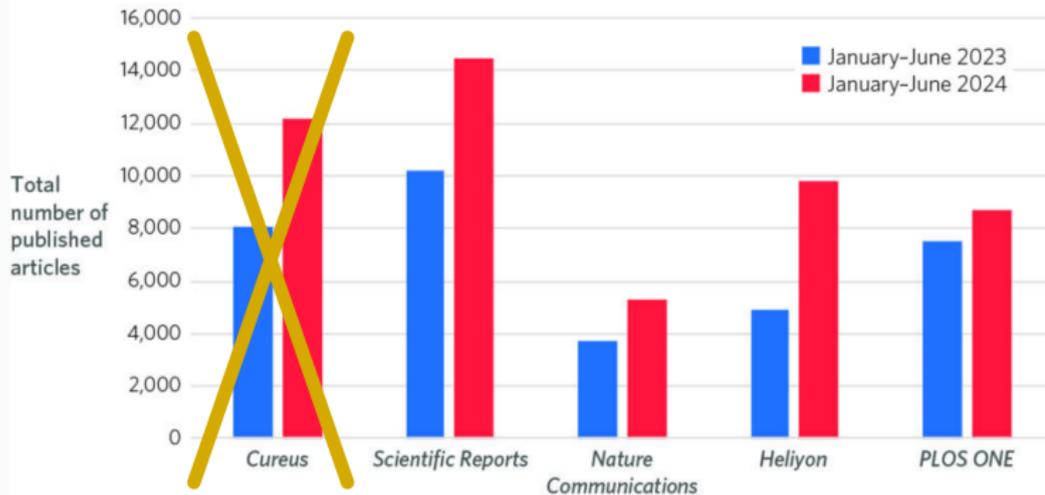


Results filtered to eliminate non-journal article content, such as conference abstracts, retraction notices, and front/back matter.

Source: Dimensions ([www.dimensions.ai](http://www.dimensions.ai)).

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Total published article volumes for selected megajournals, 2023 versus 2024



Results filtered to eliminate non-journal article content, such as conference abstracts, retraction notices, and front/back matter.

Source: Dimensions ([www.dimensions.ai](http://www.dimensions.ai)).

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**Esempi di relazione di dipendenza:**  
**Pubblicazione In Supporto di Sé stessi**

# The PISS team



Experimental  
economist



Seed technician



Immunologist

**Endogeny** quando un **editor invitato** di un numero speciale pubblica i **propri** articoli nel numero speciale che cura lui stesso

## Non drammatizziamo, è solo una questione di **endogenia**

**Endogeny** quando un **editor invitato** di un numero speciale pubblica i **propri** articoli nel numero speciale che cura lui stesso

### **è normale**

- editoriale
- esperti riconosciuti
- rete di collaboratori

### **ma...**

- conflitto d'interesse
- difficile per publisher
- difficile per reviewers

## Esistono delle semplici **regole** di facile applicazione

**Frontiers** max 30% endogenia (1 paper su 3 editor = autore)

**DOAJ** max 25% endogenia (1 paper su 4 editor = autore)

**BMC** segue DOAJ da 2024

**Wiley** segue DOAJ da 2024

## Esistono delle semplici **regole** di facile applicazione

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Quanto vengono **rispettate**?

## Esistono delle semplici **regole** di facile applicazione

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**BMC** segue DOAJ da 2024

**Wiley** segue DOAJ da 2024

Quanto vengono **rispettate**?

Definiamo ogni numero speciale con endogenia  $> 33\%$  come

**Published In Support of Self**

# Qualche caso eclatante di PISS

## Diet Therapy and Nutritional Management of Phenylketonuria

- Print Special Issue Flyer
- Special Issue Editors
- Special Issue Information
- Keywords
- Benefits of Publishing in a Special Issue
- Published Papers

A special issue of *Nutrients* (ISSN 2072-6643). This special issue belongs to the section "Clinical Nutrition".

Deadline for manuscript submissions: **closed (1 December 2021)** | Viewed by 111233

Printed Edition Available!  
A printed edition of this Special Issue is available here.



## Towards Autonomous Operation of Biologics and Botanicals

- Print Special Issue Flyer
- Special Issue Editors
- Special Issue Information
- Keywords
- Benefits of Publishing in a Special Issue
- Published Papers

A special issue of *Processes* (ISSN 2227-9717). This special issue belongs to the section "Pharmaceutical Processes".

Deadline for manuscript submissions: **closed (30 April 2023)** | Viewed by 112496

- MDPI Nutrients, 2021
- 1 editor
- 23/24 articoli a sua firma

- MDPI Processes, 2023
- 2 editor
- 27/28 articoli a loro firma

## ...ma in realtà il problema è **diffuso**

	Overall			
	# SI	# ARTICLES	# ENDOGENOUS	% ENDOGENY
Total	102,246	912,087	116,243	<b>14 ± 0.1</b>
MDPI	79,108	709,524	97,360	<b>15.3 ± 0.1</b>
Frontiers	20,893	179,815	16,373	<b>9.2 ± 0.2</b>
BMC	1,052	9,916	1,315	<b>17.1 ± 1.5</b>
Discover	666	5,158	276	<b>7.5 ± 1.4</b>
Phil Trans	520	7,478	903	<b>11.5 ± 1</b>
eLife	7	196	16	<b>8.9 ± 7.4</b>

## L'entità del problema

Se pochi PISS molto  
non è un problema



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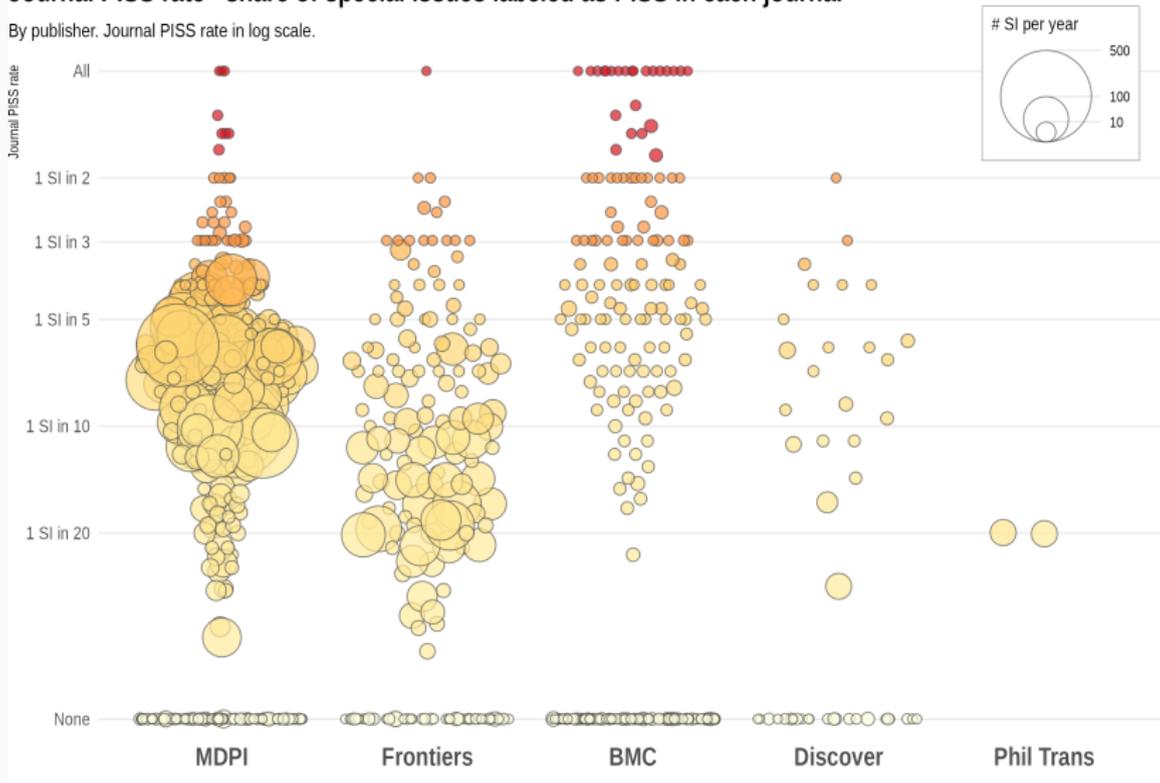
Se 1 paper su 7 è PISS  
l'acqua cambia colore



# Tasso di PISS di ogni rivista: diversi editori

## Journal PISS rate · share of special issues labeled as PISS in each journal

By publisher. Journal PISS rate in log scale.



# Il problema è **concentrato**: 90% PISS in sole **150 riviste**

## Journals with highest journal PISS rate

Among all journals having published at least 5 SIs a year

PUBLISHER	JOURNAL	Endogeneity at journal		Special Issues		
		MEAN	CONF. INT.	TOTAL	PISS	% PISS
<b>Frontiers</b>	<i>Frontiers in Built Environment</i>	22%	[17% - 26%]	118	37	31%
<b>MDPI</b>	<i>Infrastructures</i>	17%	[13% - 22%]	65	19	29%
<b>MDPI</b>	<i>Minerals</i>	22%	[20% - 23%]	633	166	26%
<b>MDPI</b>	<i>Journal of Marine Science and Engineering</i>	22%	[20% - 23%]	622	162	26%
<b>MDPI</b>	<i>Water</i>	22%	[21% - 23%]	1512	390	26%
<b>MDPI</b>	<i>Sports</i>	19%	[14% - 23%]	85	21	25%
<b>MDPI</b>	<i>Medicina</i>	22%	[20% - 24%]	423	102	24%
<b>MDPI</b>	<i>Toxins</i>	20%	[19% - 22%]	400	96	24%
<b>MDPI</b>	<i>Geosciences</i>	18%	[15% - 21%]	215	51	24%
<b>MDPI</b>	<i>Toxics</i>	20%	[18% - 22%]	235	53	23%

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**Facile soluzione – basta volerlo**

# Una applicazione per trovarli tutti

**39419**  
PAPERS IN SPECIAL  
ISSUES

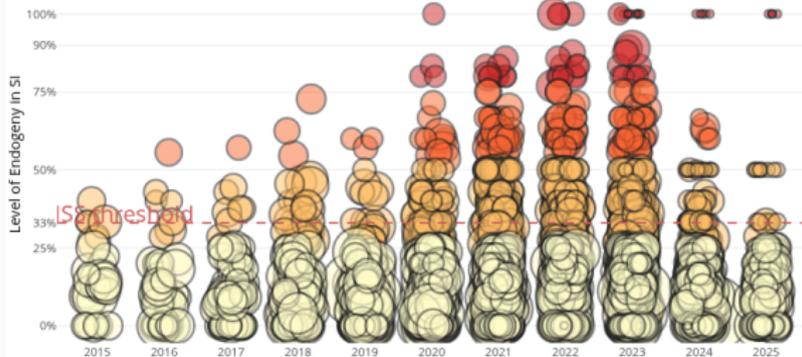
**16.6%**  
MEAN ENDOGENY

**4412**  
PUBLISHED SPECIAL  
ISSUES

**745**  
PISS SPECIAL ISSUES

**16.9%**  
SHARE OF PISS  
SPECIAL ISSUES

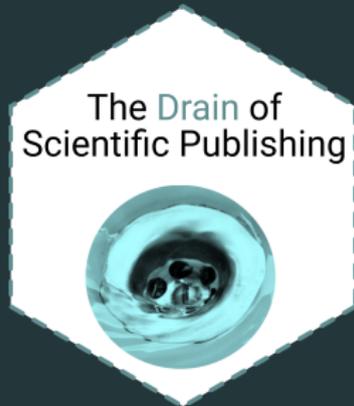
MDPI Sustainability: all special issues by year, size and level of endogeny. Size indicates N pag  
*Click on the bubble to visit special issue web page.*



### 3. I **costi** del sistema e come **uscirne**

—

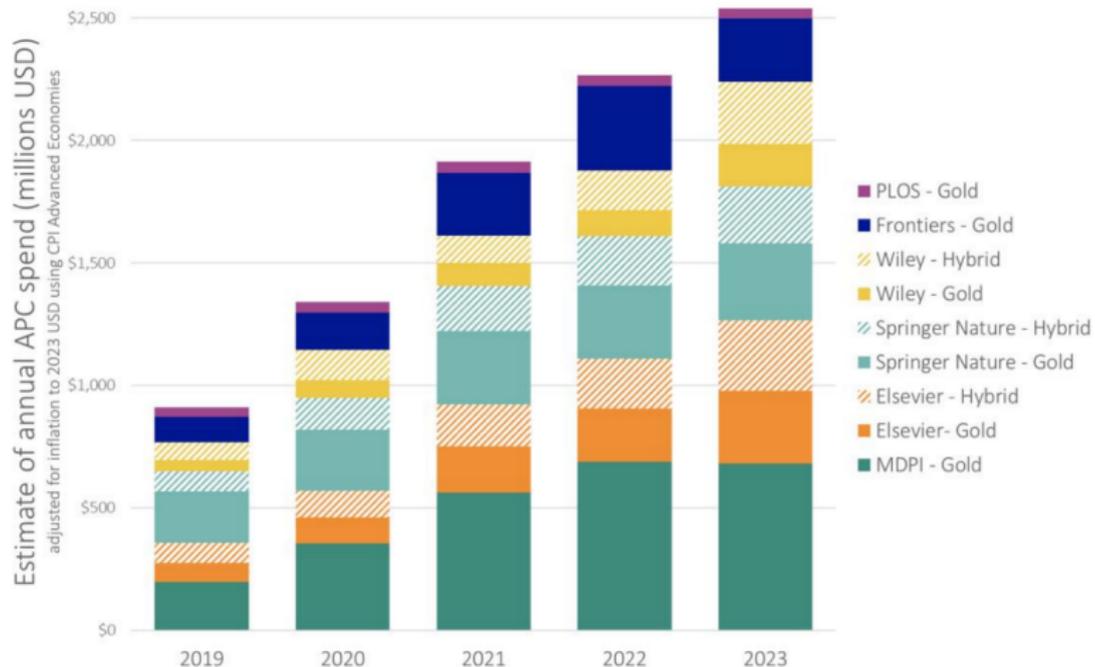
## The **Drain** of Scientific Publishing



# The Drain team



## ...perdita di denaro



# e i profitti sono eccezionali

## Academic publishers compared to 30 largest companies based on 2024 revenue

Revenue and profit in million USD, from consolidated revenue. Companies sorted by profit margin.

	HEADQUARTERS	EMPLOYEES	REVENUE	PROFITS	MARGIN
<b>Academic publishing · NAICS 511 · Mean industry net profit margin: 12%</b>					<b>Mean: 34%</b>
RELX	United Kingdom	36,400	12,057	4,088	<b>33%</b>
↳ Elsevier	United Kingdom	9,700	3,899	1,497	<b>38%</b>
Informa	United Kingdom	11,400	4,542	1,271	<b>27%</b>
↳ Taylor & Francis	United Kingdom	11,000	892	327	<b>36%</b>
Springer Nature Group	Germany	9,092	1,998	554	<b>27%</b>
↳ Springer Nature Research Segment	Germany	6,125	1,529	488	<b>31%</b>
Wiley	United States	6,400	1,042	331	<b>31%</b>
MDPI	Switzerland	6,650	--	--	--
Frontiers	Switzerland	1,440	--	--	--

Industry net profit margins and industry classification obtained from Dow Jones Factiva Industry Snapshot. List of largest companies obtained from Wikipedia, revenues and profits (in million USD) and number of employees extracted from annual financial reports and converted to USD if necessary.

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_largest\\_companies\\_by\\_revenue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_companies_by_revenue)

Mean 2024 average exchange rates for USD used: GBP: 1.2781; EUR 1.0822; RMB: 0.1393; JPY: 0.0066; NTD: 0.0312

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<b>Information technology · NAICS 334 · Mean industry net profit margin: 27%</b>					
					<b>Mean: 29%</b>
Microsoft	United States	228,000	245,122	88,136	<b>35%</b>
Alphabet	United States	183,323	350,018	100,118	<b>28%</b>
Apple	United States	164,000	391,035	93,736	<b>23%</b>

Industry net profit margins and industry classification obtained from Dow Jones Factiva Industry Snapshot. List of largest companies obtained from Wikipedia, revenues and profits (in million USD) and number of employees extracted from annual financial reports and converted to USD if necessary.

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# Più del petrolio e del gas

## Academic publishers compared to 30 largest companies based on 2024 revenue

Revenue and profit in million USD, from consolidated revenue. Companies sorted by profit margin.

	HEADQUARTERS	EMPLOYEES	REVENUE	PROFITS	MARGIN
<b>Oil and gas · NAICS 21111 · Mean industry net profit margin: 21%</b>					
					<b>Mean: 8%</b>
Saudi Aramco	Saudi Arabia	75,118	480,446	106,246	<b>22%</b>
ExxonMobil	United States	60,900	349,585	35,063	<b>10%</b>
Chevron	United States	39,742	193,414	17,611	<b>9%</b>
TotalEnergies	France	102,887	241,550	18,264	<b>7%</b>
China National Petroleum Corporation	China	1,000,800	436,875	28,677	<b>6%</b>
Shell	United Kingdom	96,000	289,029	16,521	<b>5%</b>
China Petrochemical Corporation	China	355,952	428,286	20,805	<b>4%</b>
BP	United Kingdom	100,500	194,629	6,782	<b>3%</b>

Industry net profit margins and industry classification obtained from Dow Jones Factiva Industry Snapshot. List of largest companies obtained from Wikipedia, revenues and profits (in million USD) and number of employees extracted from annual financial reports and converted to USD if necessary.

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_largest\\_companies\\_by\\_revenue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_companies_by_revenue)

Mean 2024 average exchange rates for USD used: GBP: 1.2781; EUR 1.0822; RMB: 0.1393; JPY: 0.0066; NTD: 0.0312

- Tempo stimato per la revisione delle bozze: 63 milioni di ore nel 2016
- Altro tempo impiegato nella ricerca di fondi, nella valutazione dei progetti...
- ...per finire a produrre ancora più articoli!

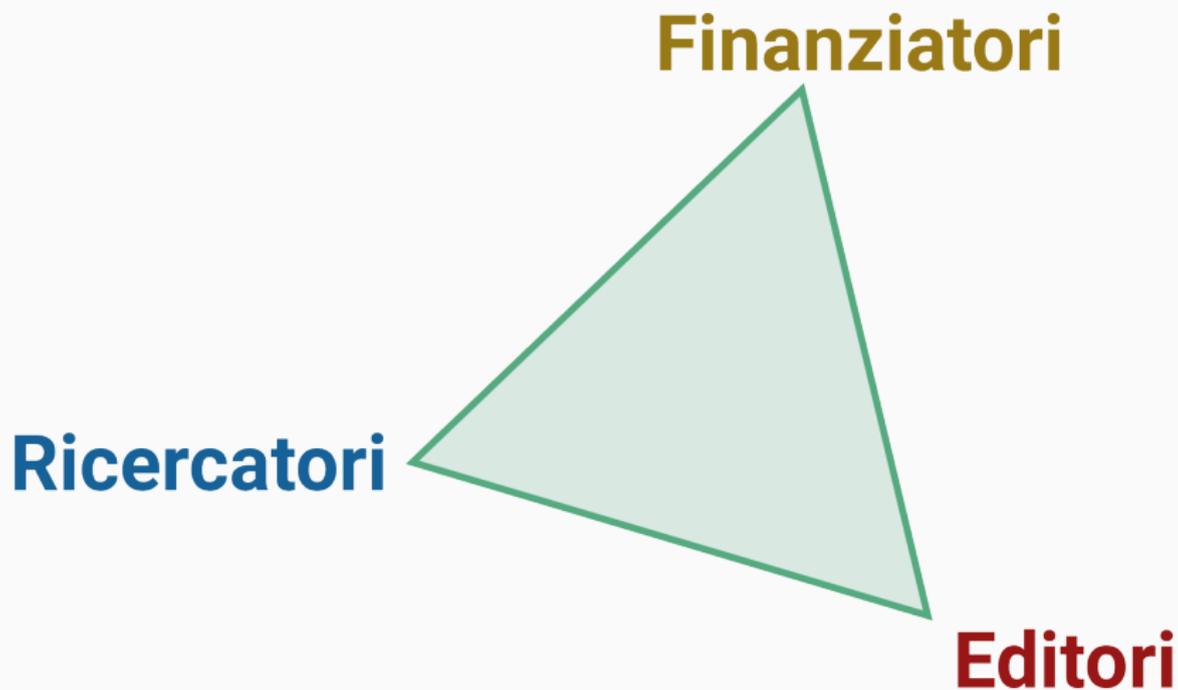
- Che futuro hanno i segnali di qualità?
- Il pubblico generale può ancora fidarsi di noi?
- Come facciamo a capire se un risultato è credibile?

- Gli editori controllano il sistema
- riviste, indici, indicatori, reputazione...

- Gli editori controllano il sistema
- riviste, indici, indicatori, reputazione...
- e controllano anche se stessi
- COPE, Clarivate, Web of Science, Scopus...

Come possiamo **cambiare** il sistema?

## Chi puo' **guidare** il cambiamento?



## Dal basso

- Peer-Community in
- preprint
- blacklist

ma gli **incentivi** sono  
difficili da battere

# Due ricette per il cambiamento

## Dal basso

- Peer-Community in
- preprint
- blacklist

ma gli **incentivi** sono  
difficili da battere

## Dall'alto

- pago, pretendo
- qualità più che quantità
- gestire l'azione collettiva

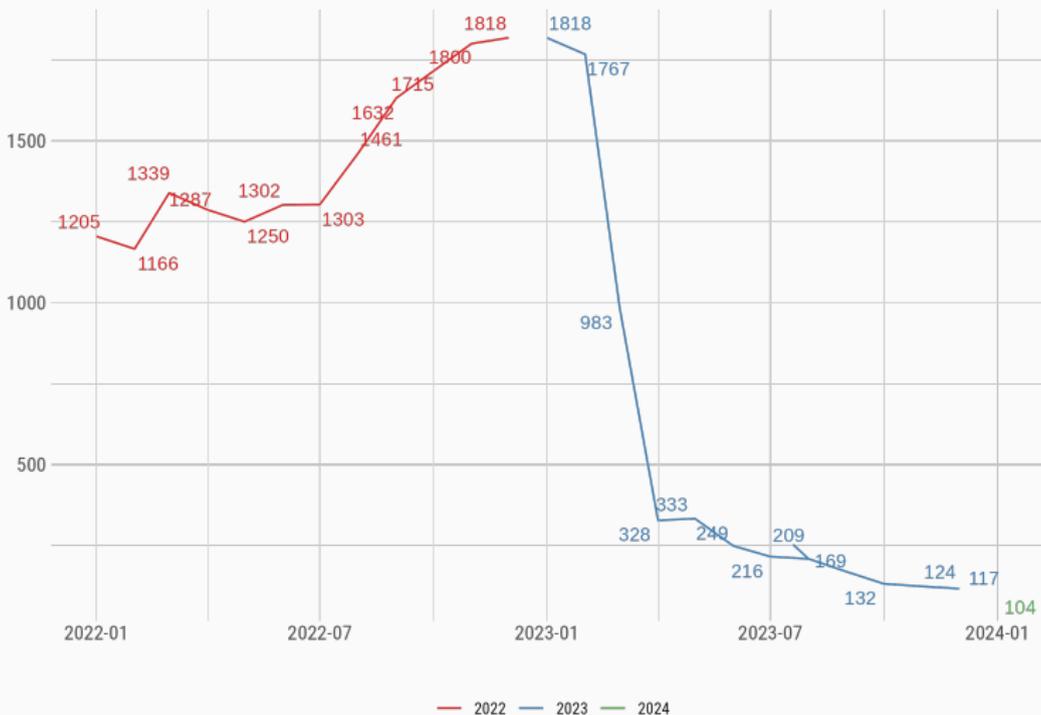
ma le **istituzioni** sono  
lente e vincolate

2023: Clarivate  
**sanza**  
una rivista MDPI  
(IJERPH)



# Con effetti drammatici e immediati

## MDPI IJERPH: monthly accepted papers



*Pars destruens*

## Segnali di **cambiamento**: non avrete i nostri soldi



SCIENCEINSIDER | ASIA/PACIFIC

## Major Chinese funder to stop paying fees for 30 pricey open-access journals

Move comes amid effort to grow the country's own journals

24 FEB 2026 • 5:45 PM ET • BY [JEFFREY BRAINARD](#)



05.01.2026



Universität  
Zürich<sup>UZH</sup>

## No Agreement with Springer Nature as of 01 January 2026

### In brief

Contract negotiations between the swissuniversities and the publisher Springer Nature have not yet yielded any results. As the current agreement expired at the end of 2025, Switzerland is now in a no-deal situation with Springer Nature starting 01 January 2026.



< Actualités

## The SNSF will no longer fund articles in special issues

From 1 February 2024, the SNSF will no longer fund Open Access articles in sp

Although special issues are excluded from research funding according to SNSF publication has increased in recent years. There will therefore be no further fin journals. You may continue to publish in special issues, but the APC costs will I taking a step towards more sustainable funding of publications and promoting the quantity of articles published by a researcher. You can find more informati subtitle.

The Library Open Access team can help you choose your titles and advise you SNSF or the institution. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

## Finland Publication Forum will downgrade hundreds of Frontiers and MDPI journals

A committee of scholars in Finland has decided to downgrade 271 journals from Frontiers and MDPI in their quality rating system, in a move that may discourage researchers from submitting manuscripts to the outlets.



Publication  
Forum

---

Se il gioco è truccato – meglio smettere di giocare

GREETINGS PROFESSOR FALKEN

HELLO

A STRANGE GAME.

THE ONLY WINNING MOVE IS  
NOT TO PLAY.

*Pars costruens*

### Qualche opzione **radicale**

- Affrancarsi dall'idea di "pubblicazione"?
- Comprare gli editori? ( $\sim 50B$ )
- Abbiamo davvero *bisogno* delle riviste?

## Che fare?

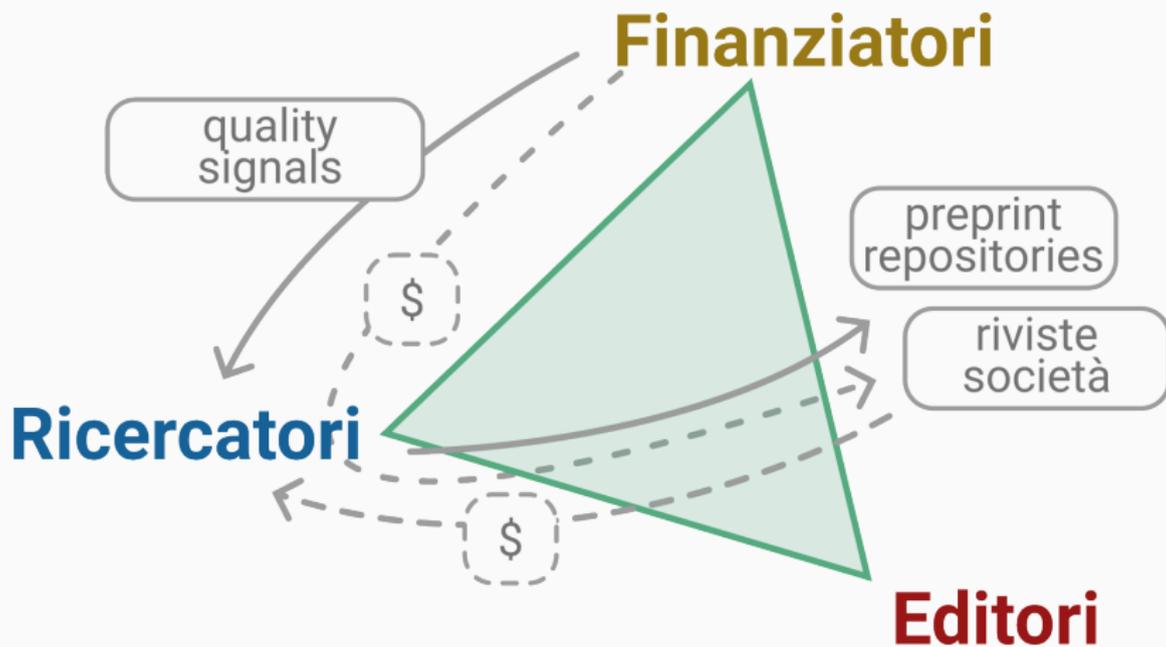
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### Qualche opzione più **realistica**

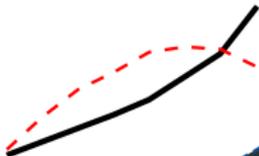
- Siamo seri sui costi: publishing *cannot* be free
- Imporre preprints ("parallele")
- Insistere su qualità vs quantità
- Ricomunalizzare le riviste ⇒ Diamond OA
- ...

## Una possibile via: *recommunalisation*



# Grazie!

The Strain on  
Scientific Publishing



Publishing in  
Support of Self



The Drain of  
Scientific Publishing

