

□ Academic Theater

Academic theater refers to the performance of scholarship for appearances rather than substance. It describes academic activity that mimics the form of rigorous inquiry — papers, talks, titles, committees — but lacks real intellectual or clinical impact.

In other words:

The imitation of academic productivity, driven by optics, metrics, or politics rather than truth-seeking.

□ Examples in neurosurgery or academia

- Presenting flashy results at conferences with no follow-up or real-world application
- Writing papers to fill a CV, not to change practice or advance understanding
- Using complex jargon to obscure the lack of meaningful insight
- Forming committees or task forces that exist to be seen, not to solve problems

Academic theater is when the form of science survives but its soul is gone.

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