

□ Gatekeeping (Academic Definition)

Gatekeeping refers to the control over who is allowed to access, contribute to, and be recognized within academic structures — including publication, funding, conferences, and institutional prestige.

□ Key Aspects

- **Peer review bias** – Preference for established names, conventional ideas, or prestigious affiliations.
- **Editorial filtering** – Journal editors acting as arbiters of what counts as “important” or “publishable.”
- **Funding gatekeepers** – Grants often awarded to researchers with existing networks or popular topics.
- **Conference exclusivity** – Invitations and visibility often reserved for insiders.
- **Credential barriers** – Access to publication or positions often tied to specific degrees or institutional pedigree.

□ Why It Matters

Gatekeeping can:

- □ Preserve standards — when transparent and fair.
- □ Suppress innovation — when driven by hierarchy or groupthink.
- □ Create echo chambers — where only mainstream or “safe” voices are heard.
- □ Marginalize dissent — making it hard for new or critical voices to emerge.

□ In Practice

Example: A committee of prestigious surgeons publishes a broad, superficial review in a high-impact journal, not for its content but because of who they are. This fills the academic space and discourages more technically rigorous but less prestigious voices.

□ Related Terms

- [Academic Prestige](#)
- [Careerism](#)
- [Academic Theater](#)
- [Factory-Made Science](#)

Bottom line: Gatekeeping decides *who gets to speak*, *who gets heard*, and *who remains invisible* in the academic world.

From:

<https://neurosurgerywiki.com/wiki/> - **Neurosurgery Wiki**

Permanent link:

<https://neurosurgerywiki.com/wiki/doku.php?id=gatekeeping>

Last update: **2025/06/15 20:32**

