

# Publication Inflation

**Publication inflation** refers to the artificial increase in the number of scientific publications without a proportional increase in scientific value, driven by academic, institutional, or commercial pressures.

## □ Definition

Publication inflation is the phenomenon by which the volume of published scientific articles grows excessively due to systemic incentives, resulting in diluted quality, redundancy, and saturation of the literature.

## □ Causes

- “Publish or perish” academic culture
- Institutional metrics based on number of publications
- Pressure to produce CV material for grants, promotions, or rankings
- Predatory journals and low-threshold editorial pipelines
- Rise of case reports, technical notes, and minimally original content

## ⚠ Consequences

- **Academic dilution** and reduction in signal-to-noise ratio
- Difficulty conducting high-quality **systematic reviews**
- Increased prevalence of **redundant, low-impact, or anecdotal work**
- Reader fatigue and distrust in scientific publishing
- Commodification of publication over discovery

## □ Indicators of Publication Inflation

- Surge in case series and technical notes without novelty
- Multiplication of micro-variants of the same study across journals
- Fragmentation of studies into “salami-sliced” publications
- Authors with dozens of articles per year, often with minor contributions

## □ Related Terms

- Academic dilution
- Journal padding
- Low-impact publication
- Technical anecdote
- Editorial complacency
- Predatory publishing

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