

# Technology, Research and Ethics

Seminar I

Group 2

# **Ethics of publishing**

Publication as a measure of research quality

# Basic premises

- The quality of a researcher's research can only be judged from the quality of what he publishes.
- The quality of a researchers publications can be judged by bibliometrical properties (i.e. quantity, number of citations, journals of publication etc.)

# Issues - research issues

- Promotes easy, safe research.
  - replication of similar results
- Promotes splitting results in several papers.
- Hunting for citations.
  - feedback loop.
- Topics become fashionable
  - creating bubbles.
- Difficult to separate signal from noise.

# Issues - systemic issues

- Luxury journals, trying to maximize their impact factor, create incentive for spectacular and ill-funded research.
- Open access journals, whose business idea is to publish as much as possible, might be tempted relax their quality control, and start publishing doubtful research.

# Ethical implications

- Individual-level implications
  - Cynicism w.r.t the scientific project.
- Scientific community
  - Disconnect with society as a whole. Small clique understands the “rules”.
- Society at large
  - increasing distrust for science and scientists.