

Annex: Survey on Combatting Predatory Academic Journals and Conferences

Predatory journals, publishers, and conferences are on the increase. These practices threaten to cause long-term damage to research and researchers. Although several studies suggest the problem is widespread and increasing, the true extent globally is unknown, which makes addressing these practices more difficult. You can help and, at the same time, better equip yourself to avoid them.

As part of the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) study [Combatting Academic Predatory Journals and Conferences](#), the purpose of this survey is to understand the extent and impact of predatory journals and conferences across geographic regions, disciplines and career stages as experienced by members of the global research community. In doing so, the study can recommend more effective ways to combat predatory practices and protect researchers at all stages of their career.

We encourage you to complete the survey in your individual capacity, reflecting on your personal experience rather than on behalf of your institution(s). Please be assured that this initiative does not seek to expose or reprimand anyone but to understand the prevalence of predatory practices. There are no right or wrong answers. The survey should take 15-20 minutes to complete and you have the option to save and return to it later. Your responses will be completely anonymized and your participation is voluntary.

Many thanks in advance.

Please direct any questions to the IAP Secretariat at secretariat@iapartnership.org

* **Mandatory questions.** All others are optional.

Section 1: Demographic information

1. In which country do you presently work? *

2. Gender *

3. Academic stage *

4. Are you a member or alumnus of a national or international merit-based academy? *

☐ I am a member or alumnus of a national young academy

☐ I am a member or fellow of a national academy

☐ I am a member or alumnus of both a national and a national young academy

☐ I am a member or alumnus of an international academy e.g. GYA, TWAS

☐ I am NOT a member or alumnus of any academy

If yes, which one(s)?

If you are a member of other professional networks or bodies, which you think deserve mention, then please list them here.

5. What discipline(s) do you broadly represent? Please select category(ies) that best represent your current work: *

☐ Arts and humanities

☐ Business studies

☐ Engineering

☐ Life sciences (non-medical)

☐ Medical sciences

☐ Physical sciences

☐ Mathematical sciences

☐ Environmental and applied sciences

☐ Social sciences

☐ Transdisciplinary and /or multidisciplinary sciences

☐ Other

Section 2: Recognising a predatory journal or conference

6. Which of the following situations would make you suspicious that you are being solicited by a predatory journal or conference? Please select one box for each option

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
You are invited to submit a paper in a subject matter outside your expertise					
The invitation addresses you in superlative terms					
There is an unusual combination of words and phrases, or loosely related fields of study, in the journal title or conference name					
The journal or conference has an unusually broad subject matter coverage					
The language of the invitation has grammatical errors					
The language of the invitation is unusual for your professional practice					
The editorial board or conference organisers are not well-known in your research field					
The processing or participation fee is high					
The processing or participation fee is low					
There is a promise of rapid processing of your paper					
The journal or conference claims a high impact factor or prestigious standing					
Invitations are sent to you repetitively					
The journal or conference website does not include subject matter that is at the frontier of knowledge					
The journal or conference website does not include seminars or guidelines that update professional practice					
The journal or conference is not linked to a professional organisation or university					
There is poor/unprofessional (e-)mail formatting/presentation					
The high-level speakers in the programme are listed "subject to confirmation"					
The journal or conference is managed by a high-income country					
The journal or conference is managed by a low or middle-income country					
You simply don't recognise the journal, conference or participants					
Other (please specify)					

7. How would you check whether a journal or conference is predatory? Please select one box for each option.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not an option
I would seek a colleague's opinion						
I would look for revealing signs of predatory practices as I understand them						
I would check against a published list of predatory journals or conferences ("blacklists")						
I would check against a published list of legitimate journals or conferences ("whitelists")						
I would check my institution's written guidance						
I would consult my institution's research management unit/equivalent						
I would consult a librarian						
I would consult a friendly journal editor						
I would consult my institutional review board/ ethics committee						
I would check on the internet for any indications e.g. warnings from previous victims						
I would not bother to check						
Other (please specify)						

8. How much of a problem do you think these predatory practices are for researchers in the country where you currently work?

☐ They are already a serious problem
(commonplace)

☐ They are becoming a problem
(on the rise)

☐ They are not a problem (rare)

☐ I don't know

Please provide additional details explaining your response (optional)

Section 3: Personal experience

9. Have you ever published in a predatory journal? (Please note that this question is NOT intended to expose or reprimand participants but to understand the prevalence of predatory journals)

☐ Yes, but I did not know it was a predatory journal at the time	☐ Yes, and I knew it was a predatory journal	☐ I don't know if I have published in a predatory journal	☐ No, I have not published in a predatory journal to my knowledge
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If yes, why? Please select one box for each option.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I was unaware it was a predatory journal					
I did not think I would be accepted by high-impact quality journals					
Publication in academic journals is necessary to progress my career					
It was generally faster, cheaper and/or easier than other journals					
I was encouraged by my peers to publish in journals in which they have previously published					
Other (please specify)					

10. What was the impact of this experience professionally?

11. What was the impact of this experience personally / emotionally?

12. Have you ever participated in, or been a victim of, a predatory conference? (Please note that this question is NOT intended to expose or reprimand participants but to understand the prevalence of predatory conferences)

☐ Yes, but I did not know it was a predatory conference at the time	☐ Yes, and I knew it was a predatory conference	☐ I don't know if I have participated in a predatory conference	☐ No, I have not participated in a predatory conference to my knowledge
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If yes, why? Please select one box for each option.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I was unaware it was a predatory conference					
I did not think I would be accepted by major/well-known conferences					
It was necessary to progress my career					
It was generally faster, cheaper and/or easier than other conference processes					
I was encouraged by my peers to attend conferences they have previously attended					
Other (please specify)					

13. What was the impact of this experience professionally?

14. What was the impact of this experience personally / emotionally?

Section 4: Interventions

15. Do you think predatory practices in scholarly publishing and/or conferences should be combatted?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ I don't know

If yes, why? Please select one box for each option.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
To preserve the integrity of the research enterprise					
To protect personal / academic reputation					
To protect institutional reputation					
To ensure that evidence-informed policymaking is rigorous					
To protect the public from unsubstantiated information, with potentially damaging consequences					
To preserve public trust in research					
Other (please specify)					

16. What do you perceive as the main challenges / barriers for combatting predatory practices in scholarly publishing and/or conferences?
Please select one box for each option.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
It is driven by commercial interests of the publishing industry					
It has already permeated widely amongst researchers					
It is not perceived to be a significant problem warranting change					
The demand for predatory journals is too high					
Too many of my/our peers have published in predatory journals					
Policymakers are unlikely, or cannot be relied upon, to effect change					
It is difficult for many researchers to distinguish predatory from non-predatory journals and conferences					
Other (please specify)					

17. What do you think are practicable solutions for combatting them?
Please select one box for each option.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Providing educational materials for students and / or researchers at all/any levels					
Providing guidance for university/research administrators					
Providing checklists for genuine and/or predatory journals					
Calling out / stigmatizing predatory journals					
Establishing global non-commercial accreditation or certification authority(ies) for journals					
Adopting open peer review models					
Building better safeguarding capacity (e.g. training) in academic institutions					
Capping Article Processing Charges (APCs)					
Stopping "author pays" models					
Overhauling research evaluation and criteria for career advancement					
Other (please specify)					

18. If unchecked and unchallenged, how do you think predatory journals and conferences will develop over the next 10-20 years?
Please select one box for each option.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
They will infiltrate and undermine the whole research enterprise					
They will fuel misinformation in public policy with potentially damaging consequences					
They will continue to exist but not be a significant problem for the majority					
They will fade out naturally					
They will further widen the research gap between high income and low income countries					
Other (please specify)					

19. What role do you think IAP - its merit-based academies and their regional networks - should play in combatting predatory journals and conferences? [IAP is the global network of 140 science, engineering and medical academies]

- ☐ Academies should be lead agencies against predatory practices
 ☐ Academies should support other agencies/initiatives that can make a difference
 ☐ Academies have no role/cannot make a difference

Please explain your answer (optional)

20. Would you like to share any further experience(s) of publishing in a predatory journal or participating in a predatory conference?

- ☐ Yes, and I am happy to be named
 ☐ Yes, but I would prefer to remain anonymous
 ☐ No

Additional information about the survey

After completing and submitting the survey, if you are interested in information regarding the results, please go to the [Combatting Academic Predatory Journals and Conferences](#) page where the project will be updated regularly.

Privacy policy

The InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) values its participants' privacy. Therefore, all information provided to IAP by you (the respondent) in this survey will only be used as a tool in understanding the extent and impact of predatory journals and conferences across geographic regions, disciplines, and career stages. This Policy applies to the IAP and it governs any and all data collection usage. Through participation in this survey, you are therefore consenting to these data collection procedures. No individual responses provided to this survey will be shared with third-party entities.

Acceptance of Terms

By participating in this survey, you are hereby accepting the terms and conditions of this Privacy Policy. If you are not in agreement with our Policy, then you should refrain from participation in this survey.

Providing Personal Information or Contacting IAP

Providing identifying information such as an email address for further communication or contacting IAP requires the acquisition of senders' email address in order to give feedback on their inquiry, and implies also the acquisition of other personal data included in the message. Users are recommended not to provide sensitive data of theirs or of third parties, in particular those related to health, without having previously given their consent in the manner prescribed by law.

How to Contact Us

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this Privacy Policy related to this survey, please contact us via the email address below.
Email: secretariat@iapartnership.org

