

Why the WSEAS is not a predatory publisher. Is WSEAS a predatory Publisher? No! Of course, No!

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Abstract: We will try to prove in this study that WSEAS does not have any relation with fake and predatory publishers. In this article we use the criteria of Megan O'Donnell in the web site <https://instr.iastate.libguides.com/predatory/id> for Predatory Publishers, [1]. Mihiretu Kebede, Anna E. Schmaus-Klughammer and Brook Tesfaye Tekle in their recent article [2] examined what the so-called predatory journals are and how they do operate. Kyle Siler in his blog [3] writes the following: "The nature and extent of predatory publishing is highly contested. Whilst debates have often focused defining journals and publishers as either predatory or not predatory. Kyle Siler [3] argues that predatory publishing encompasses a spectrum of activities and that by understanding this ambiguity, we can better understand and make value judgements over where legitimacy lies in scholarly communication". In this article, we would like to examine if the WSEAS is a Predatory Publisher or not. The answer is that WSEAS does not have any relation with the so-called Predatory Publishers. The WSEAS is not and has never been "Predatory Publisher".

I. INTRODUCTION

Mihiretu Kebede, Anna E. Schmaus-Klughammer and Brook Tesfaye Tekle in their recent article [2] examined what the so-called predatory journals are and how they do operate. This is really a good analysis. Mihiretu Kebede, Anna E. Schmaus-Klughammer and Brook Tesfaye Tekle in [2] say the following:

"It was the time when an ambitious early career researcher finished writing the manuscript of his master's thesis. He tried to sort through a number of journals, though he was not sure which journal was the right one to publish his work. Ten, suddenly, he received an "article submission invitation" email from a journal pledging publication within a month. That was the time this young scientist became the victim of a predatory journal. Publishing is an essential step to reach a wider audience and it is a key metric to measure the maturity of scientists. However, for many young academicians, particularly from developing countries, the question of where to publish their work is a considerable challenge. Submitting a manuscript to an inappropriate journal is one of the common mistakes of early career scientists. In developing countries, where institutions and libraries can-not afford the subscription fees to access journal articles, open access is the best model to reach those who cannot afford to access relevant scientific publications. Motivated by

press freedom, global internet and financial gains, predatory journal shave emerged to corrupt open access. Everyone working in science daily receives emails of article submission invitations from “journals” and “publishers”. They request manuscript processing fees which mainly guarantees the acceptance of manuscripts without adequate scientific review. They request payments from those who cannot even afford to publish manuscripts. Predatory journals and publishers are those having minimal or nonexistent peer review, allowing weak scientific content to be published in the name of authentic science . The number of these predatory journals is ever increasing. The 2016 Jeffrey Beall list shows that 923 publishers, 882 standalone journals and 101 hijacked journals are registered as predatory. Inexperienced researchers from developing countries are the victims of these junk journals. Promotions of academic ranks in developing country universities are based on the number of publications rather than quality. In 2014, more than 400,000 articles were published in predatory journals. More than three quarter of the authors were from Asia and Africa. These journals are polluting the academic world as university positions are getting to be filled with people having poor quality publication profiles.

Kyle Siler in his blog [3] wrote the following:

The nature and extent of predatory publishing is highly contested. Whilst debates have often focused defining journals and publishers as either predatory or not predatory. Kyle Siler argues that predatory publishing encompasses a spectrum of activities and that by understanding this ambiguity, we can better understand and make value judgements over where legitimacy lies in scholarly communication. Predatory publishing has emerged as a professional problem for academics and their institutions, as well as a broader societal concern. As these journals have proliferated, they have brought to the fore a debate over what constitutes legitimate science, which has been centred on attempts to define and demarcate predatory from non-predatory publications. However, given the complexity of academic publishing – and what constitutes legitimacy – establishing a concrete definition has proved challenging. There is considerable diversity in the types, combinations and degrees of illegitimacy in questionable academic journals, which ultimately raises the question: is it possible to define predatory publishing in such a binary way?

II. WHAT IS THE PREDATORY PUBLISHING? PREDATORY PUBLISHING BUG OR FEATURE.

Kyle Siler in his blog [3] writes also: *A key feature of many open access business models is the Article Processing Charge (APC). Whereby, publishers instead of receiving flat subscription fees, are remunerated for each published article. This provides a ‘predatory’ incentive for less scrupulous publishers to publish articles quickly and without appropriate quality control, as, after all, rejected articles consume publisher resources but yield no revenue. High fees in eminent journals may be criticised, but they would never be labelled as ‘predatory’, even if their business models may be economically exploitative. This ‘predatory’ incentive structure is also uniquely ascribed to low and middle-status OA journals. In contrast, prestigious OA publishers and journals enjoy the benefit of having selectivity positively associated with value. High rejection rates, if not always quality, imbue prestigious journals and publishers with pricing power. As such, high fees in eminent journals may be criticised, but they would never be labelled as ‘predatory’, even if their business models may be economically exploitative. That definitions of predatory publishing have a subjective element is made clear by observing that economic exploitation can also exist in other business models. For example, the “big deal” subscriptions that lock universities into paying for journals that are seldom used. Analogous concepts of predatory pricing and predatory lending entail judgments of unethical and/or socially harmful economic behaviours. However, perceptions of ethical economic behaviour are subjective and context-dependent. Thus, defining predatory publishing can not only be based on empirical observations of publishing behaviours and outputs, but also perspectives regarding ideal academic norms and values. Given the wide variety of individual and institutional values in academia, it is unsurprising that there have been fierce debates and political maneuvering regarding predatory publishing.*

III. DECIDING IF A PUBLISHER IS
PREDATORY IS OFTEN A MATTER
OF EVALUATING PUBLISHER
PRACTICES AGAINST
EXPECTATIONS. IS WSEAS A
PREDATORY PUBLISHER? NO! OF
COURSE, NO!

Megan O'Donnell in the web site [1] writes

Deciding if a publisher is predatory is often a matter of evaluating publisher practices against expectations". While not fool-proof, the 13-warning signs below are evidence based and serve as a good starting point.

We will present now the Warning Signs (according Megan O'Donnell, [1]) and we will examine whether at least one of them has some, even small relation, with the WSEAS

1. The journal's scope of interest includes unrelated subjects alongside legitimate topics.

This is not related to WSEAS. We do not have such cases in WSEAS Journals

2. Website contains spelling and grammar errors.

This is not related to WSEAS. We do not have such cases in WSEAS Journals

3. Images or logos are distorted/fuzzy or misrepresented/unauthorized.

This is not related to WSEAS. We do not have such cases in WSEAS Journals

4. Website targets authors, not readers (i.e. publisher prioritizes making money over product).

This is not related to WSEAS. We do not have such cases in WSEAS Journals

5. The Index Copernicus Value (a bogus impact metric) is promoted.

This is not related to WSEAS. We do not have such cases in WSEAS Journals

6. There is no clear description of how the manuscript is handled.

This is not related to WSEAS. We do not have such cases in WSEAS Journals. In WSEAS we have a strong quality control

<https://wseas.com/qualitycontrol.php>

WSEAS Quality Control 1:

Before the commencement of the Peer Review, organized by Editor-in-Chief or some Associate Editor, WSEAS makes a pre-screening quality control / review checking the following:

a) Plagiarism and Self-Plagiarism avoidance control via Turnitin and iThenticate.

b) The English Language of the paper.

c) Affiliation of the prospective authors (i.e. Do they belong to a University or to a real company or to a real institute?

can their university be identified? can their Academic URL be identified on the web? Do they use academic/professional email addresses?

have they provided a phone number when they uploaded their paper? Does their IP, from where uploaded their paper, agree with their country?).

d) The References (i.e. Are the references adequate? Does the paper include references from the last 5 years?

Can the references be traced easily via google, Do the references report the year of the publication?). e) Are their indications that some prospective authors have not substantially contributed to the research?

For example a paper in Civil Engineering with an author from a surgery clinic in a Hospital.

Roughly, 20% of the papers are usually rejected in this pre-screening quality control / review checking.

This acts as a first filtering which saves valuable time of the Reviewers and the Editors-in-Chief.

WSEAS Quality Control 2:

We do not publish any paper without a "Certification|. After 2019, the Certifications are published together

with the articles online. What is the Certification? WSEAS has launched in 2018 a compulsory certification from all the authors and for all the papers in order the Administration of WSEAS to certifies and authenticates that each accepted paper by the Editors-in-Chief is backed by a minimum of 3 reviewers' positive recommendation. Download this Certification - Evaluation of the Review Process from here: <http://wseas.com/documents/certification.docx>

In case that some authors feel that they have not received, at least, 3 positive opinions from 3 independent reviewers with strong peer review, they should not sign this form. All the Certifications - Evaluations of the Review Process for each paper are available to everybody after a simple request by email support@wseas.com

The Certifications are published now on the web, together with their papers

WSEAS Quality Control 3:

The Certifications have also this declaration - confirmation: "Also, we declare also that no reviewer, no Associate-Editor, no Editor-in-Chief, no member of the WSEAS Secretariat, nobody whatsoever and never forced me in WSEAS Journals to add references / citations to any previous WSEAS Publications or any other publications"

WSEAS Quality Control 4:

Responses to Reviewers (required): For every revised version, the authors will reply using these tables <http://wseas.com/documents/certification.docx>

They will upload them via the web or will send them by email. Authors will have to make all the changes, modifications, additions, studies, corrections asked by the reviewers using the <http://wseas.org/multimedia/Responses.docx> Authors have to be fully complied with the reviewers' instructions. Before the publication, the three (or more than three) reviewers will check, if the changes, modifications, additions, studies, corrections etc have been carried out. In this case, the paper will be published or will be rejected or a new round of peer review will start.

Quality Control 5:

The WSEAS offers consistently high quality, line by line, thorough, rigorous, strict peer review process and very high editorial standards of care to its authors and readers. This page contains some comments from just a few of our authors about their experience of publishing with us: <http://wseas.com/testimonials.php>

Quality Control 6:

Peer Review and High Rejection Rates:

Here you can find databases containing all submitted articles to the WSEAS Journals for the recent years <http://www.wseas.com/documents/journals-database.zip> You can see what papers have been accepted and what papers have been rejected. Acceptance rates, which are approx 20%, can be found within.

Quality Control 7:

A huge list of more than 13500 Reviewers:

List of Reviewers can be found here: <http://wseas.com/reviewers.php>

7. Manuscripts are submitted by email.

This is not valid for WSEAS Journals

Please, check <https://www.wseas.org/en/authorsArea.action>

8. Rapid publication is promoted, and promised.

WSEAS has never promised rapid publication. On the contrary our review process is very slow

9. There is no article retraction policy.

This is not true for the WSEAS. See here <https://wseas.com/pemas.php#11>

WSEAS has this Retraction Policy

i. A paper might be retracted due to several issues that contain serious errors that harm the Scientific Community and WSEAS. These errors are related but

not limited to ethical breaches, fabrication of data, plagiarism, falsification and/or other reasons.

ii. WSEAS follows the recommendations of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) for retraction: <https://publicationethics.org/retraction-guidelines>

iii. If a retraction is required, a Retraction Notice is published in the current Volume of the Journal with the publication details of the manuscript.

10. There is no digital preservation plan for content.

This is not also true for the WSEAS.

The WSEAS digital preservation policy outlines the project that all our digital records will be sustainable for the foreseeable future. As the digital contents of our journals are extremely valuable, measures are in place to ensure both its current accessibility and long-term preservation. Therefore, WSEAS guarantees continued access through the following preservation policy measures.

- WSEAS has partnered with PORTICO's digital preservation services to ensure that our contents will be preserved in long-term for the benefit of the global research and academic community.

Portico is a community-supported preservation archive that safeguards access to e-journals, e-books, and digital collections.

- Web-Archiving and Preservation

WSEAS electronic contents, such as the website, the manuscripts etc., are stored on three (3) different sources/servers. The content on one server is online and accessible to the readers and the copy of the very same content is kept as a backup on two other sources.

In case of failure of one server, any one of the other sources can be made online and our website would be expected to be accessible again within 24-48 hours.

- Data Indexing and Archiving

WSEAS journal's indexing services archive not only the metadata of the article, but the electronic versions as well. Therefore copies of the articles are available to the

scientific community through their systems as an alternative to the journals own.

- Self-archiving

The authors may archive the final published version of their articles in personal or institutional repositories immediately after publication.

11. The APC (article processing charge) is very low (e.g., <\$150)

This is not valid for WSEAS Journals

12. A journal that claims to be open access either retains copyright of published research or fails to mention copyright.

This does not have any relation with the WSEAS. This is not valid for WSEAS Journals

13. Contact email address is non-professional and non-journal/publisher affiliated (e.g., @gmail.com, or @yahoo.com)

This does not have any relation with the WSEAS. This is not valid for WSEAS Journals

Additional Warning Signs:

14. Publishing costs and fees are not openly disclosed or easy to locate.

This is not related to WSEAS. We do not have such cases in WSEAS Journals

15. The peer-review process is not clearly explained or is not to discipline standards.

See a description of our review process here <https://wseas.com/review.php>

WSEAS has recruited the services more than 16000 reviewers, a number that is always on the rise, and everyone is welcome to apply for participation in the review process. Check the following link on how one can become a WSEAS reviewer: <http://www.wseas.com/become.php>

Every single paper that is submitted to a journal undergoes thorough review. During paper submission, the author is asked to select topics related to the paper. Those topics are then automatically matched in our system in order for the most relevant reviewers to be selected.

The paper then undergoes initial evaluation by the Editor-in-Chief and if it passes, it is sent to reviewers for further, more thorough evaluation. As soon as the reviewers are selected, the paper is assigned to them via the WSEAS platform and they receive a notification email. Each reviewer can then log on to their WSEAS reviewer account, from where they can see which papers they have already reviewed and which are still pending.

The pending papers can be easily downloaded on the spot, and then the reviewer can fill out the Review Submission form, grading different aspects of the paper and providing comments to both the authors as well as the Editors-in-Chief.

Afterwards, the author is notified that their paper has been reviewed, receiving an email that includes the grades and the comments. They can then make appropriate revisions and log on to their account in order to replace their paper with the revised version. The paper is then reexamined by the Editor-in-Chief or the local organizing committee, and undergoes secondary review based on the modifications.

Our Editors-in-Chief declare, confirm, certify and sign for the thorough, rigorous, in-depth, exhaustive peer review and our high-rejection rates:

What WSEAS checks

What we check during the review

<https://wseas.com/form/reviewers-form/upload-form/index.php>

Our Authors declare, confirm, certify and sign for the thorough, rigorous, in-depth, exhaustive peer review. They also declare, confirm, certify and sign that also that no Associate-Editor, no Editor-in-Chief, no member of the WSEAS Secretariat forced them to add references (citations) to any previous publications of the journal. After 2019, the WSEAS does not publish any paper without having this declaration from the authors of each revised paper. (Download it from here in a .doc file <http://wseas.com/documents/certifications.docx>).

Our Editors-in-Chief declare, confirm, certify and sign for the thorough, rigorous, in-depth, exhaustive peer review and our high-rejection rates. See <http://wseas.com/certifications-e.php>

**16. Advertises a Journal Impact Factor but doesn't have one.
WSEAS has never advertized fake Impact Factors**

This is not valid for WSEAS Journals

17. The publisher or journal's name is suspiciously similar to other well-known publications.

WSEAS has never had journals with names similar to other well-known publications.

See also [5] and [6].

IV. CONCLUSION

Is WSEAS a predatory Publisher? No! Of course, No! WSEAS believes (this the culture that is cultivated by WSEAS since 1996), that Journals and Conferences without peer review cannot survive for a long period and disappear soon. Even if they eventually manage some good indexing, the academic community cannot recognize them as serious and valid academic outlets. To run Journals and Conferences without peer review is the absolute craze and a clear suicide for publishers or societies. In this short article, we prove that WSEAS does not have any relation with the so-called Predatory Journals and any blog that attempts to involve the WSEAS in predatory practices is simply coordinated by some dark centers or WSEAS Competitors. See also [5] and [6].

REFERENCES

[1] Megan O'Donnell, *Understanding Predatory Publishers*

<https://instr.iastate.libguides.com/predatory/id>

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[3] Kyle Siler, *There is no black and white definition of predatory publishing*
<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2020/05/13/there-is-no-black-and-white-definition-of-predatory-publishing/> May 13th, 2020

[4] Nikos Bardis, Lambros Ekonomou, Pierre Borne, Klimis Ntalianis, Paolo Mercorelli, Michael N Katehakis, Nikos Kintzios, Cornelia Aida Bulucea and Maria Isabella Garcia Planas, *Business and Economics: Metrics and Peer Review in the journal: "WSEAS Transactions on Business and Economics"*, Journal of Physics: Conference Series , doi:10.1088/1742-6596/1564/1/012025

<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1742-6596/1564/1/012025/pdf>

[5] Papers rejected from WSEAS, but accepted in IEEE, Springer, Hindawi, Elsevier, MDPI in recent years:
<http://wseas.org/multimedia/journals/rejected-from-wseas-published-in-ieee-springer-elsevier-etc.zip>

[6] Quality Control of WSEAS Journals,
<https://wseas.com/qualitycontrol.php>

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