

Clubbing Effect of Chinese Research: An Explorative Study in Nanotechnology

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Abstract

Evidence has been escalating that citations to Chinese research is increasing sharply. Yet it remains unclear whether this is a good indicator or just an illusion of Chinese growing research quality. This research aims to test whether there exists a clubbing effect in China's surge in nanoscience research citations. Focusing on the most highly cited research articles, we profile the spatial distribution of articles citing Chinese research and compare it against that of the US. Both LISA maps and Moran scatter plots suggest that the booming citation of Chinese research can be partly explained by the clubbing effect of citing domestic colleagues. Policy implications are discussed in the end.