

RDA Evaluation of Research Interest Group: An Asia-Pacific Perspective

Pre-plenary 25 Workshop: 25 March 2025, 5:00-6:00 UTC

Join us for an interactive workshop organised by the Research Data Alliance (RDA) Evaluation of Research Interest Group in collaboration with the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA), designed specifically for the Asia-Pacific research and policy community to explore how research evaluation is evolving in our region. This session will bring together diverse voices to examine evaluation practices through the lens of our unique cultural contexts, institutional frameworks and regional priorities.

What to Expect: The workshop will feature brief presentations from the RDA Evaluation of Research Interest Group and the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA), followed by a dynamic discussion where participants will share their insights on goals and common challenges, and explore practical implementation pathways for advancing research evaluation in the Asia-Pacific context.

Who Should Attend: Research leaders, policy makers, institutional administrators, funders and evaluators across the Asia-Pacific region who are passionate about shaping the future of how we assess and recognise research excellence.

Why Participate: This is your opportunity to contribute to a regional dialogue that recognises the distinct perspectives and needs of Asia-Pacific research communities, while connecting with peers who share similar challenges and aspirations in transforming research evaluation practices.

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Attendees

Please note, adding your name, information, and email to this list is a positive confirmation that you are allowing the RDA EoR-IG to hold this information in this document as a record of your participation and for potential outreach or follow-up purposes. Anyone with a link to this document will be able to access this information, which will be available for an undetermined time. While you may choose to remove your information from this list, please be aware that it will remain available through the gDoc history function. At a later date, this document may be exported to another platform to provide sustained access. At that time, emails will be stripped but names, organisations, and roles will be maintained to keep a record of and provide credit to participants.

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Agenda

Part 1: Welcome & Introduction

5 mins | Dr Emma Crott (Co-Chair, RDA EoR IG)

Part 2: About the RDA Evaluation of Research Interest Group

5 mins | Dr Emma Crott (Co-Chair, RDA EoR IG)

- Group webpage: <https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/evaluation-research-ig/>
- P25 IG session: [Evolving research evaluation for positive change: Data, Community, and Beyond](#)

Part 3: About the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA)

10 mins | Dr. Erzsébet Tóth-Czifra, CoARA Program Manager

- [About CoARA](#)

Part 4: Mentimeter

15 mins | Dr Emma Crott (Co-Chair, RDA EoR IG)

Instructions:

- www.menti.com
- Code: 4872 9056
 - Societal impact vs publication metrics - should societal impact be given a bigger (not just equal) weight than bibliometrics?

Notes:

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Part 5: Discussion

20 mins | Dr Emma Crott (Co-Chair, RDA EoR IG)

Discussion questions:

- In your context, what evaluation criteria are prioritised?
- What informal or cultural factors influence how research is valued?
- Where do you see the misalignment between global standards and local needs?

- What topics relevant to research evaluation would you be interested in discussing further?
 - How should universities and other stakeholders need to engage with the journal publishers and metrics providers that want to make increasing profits from the current business model?
 - How can stakeholders engaged in research evaluations better show the general public that this is important (or not) esp for using taxpayers \$?
 - Research evaluation using open, public, and “inspectable” data
 - I'd be interested to know about examples from other countries that may have other ways of evaluating research - if there are any?
 - Kate LeMay (NHMRC, she/her) 3:57 PM: DORA reformscope has a good list of ideas and inspiration
 - **Francoise Genova** 3:57 PM Good to have a public collection of relevant national policies
- What deliverables could RDA and CoARA produce that would be most valuable to assist with addressing evaluation challenges in your area?
- Case studies/examples of responsible research assessment implementation

Notes:

A couple of pointers from Erzsebet in the context of case studies:

CoARA welcomes national reform initiatives, such as those in Norway, that no longer fund their universities and university colleges according to the number of publications produced. Reform of national assessment schemes like the REF in the UK and the SEP in the Netherlands are further contributing to a positive research culture by placing greater value on research culture and broader contributions, rather than solely on publication counts. Such efforts are also reflected in a range of institutional reform efforts along the same lines, such as the development and use of the MERIT Portal for a more comprehensive insights supporting professorial appointments at Charite Berlin.

https://eua.eu/our-work/expert-voices/can-one-tool-deliver-academic-career-assessment-reform.html?utm_source=linkedin&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=social-linkedin-10-09-2025

Also, from a funders' perspective, I recommend consulting recent changes in ERC along the lines of CoARA [ERC President explains changes in the ERC evaluation procedures](#) | ERC

See further case studies here: [CoARA Guest Presentation: Fonds de recherche du Quebec \(FRQ\)](#)
[CoARA Guest Presentation: the European Research Council \(ERC\)](#)
[CoARA Guest Presentation: NyEval: Accompanying research on CoARA in the Norwegian research system](#)

Here are some topics I would be interested in discussing further.

(1) Practical Implementation and Rewards of FAIR Data: How can we move from a theoretical understanding of FAIR principles to a practical, institutional framework that rewards and enables researchers to share their data? We need clear guidelines on how to assess the "FAIRness" of a dataset.

(2) Assessing Societal Impact: How can we develop meaningful frameworks to evaluate the social and economic impact of research, especially in fields where direct commercialization or high-impact publications are not the primary goals (e.g., humanities, social sciences, and fundamental research)?

Part 6: Wrap Up

5 mins | Dr Emma Crott (Co-Chair, RDA EoR IG)

RDA Plenary 25 - session information & links:

- Thursday 16 October, 13:30 - 15:00 AEST | Breakout Session 5
- [Evolving research evaluation for positive change: Data, Community, and Beyond](#)