

Original scientific paper

INFLUENCE OF PREDATORY JOURNALS ON THE PUBLISHING BEHAVIOR OF RESEARCHERS FROM COUNTRIES WITH A SHORT WESTERN-STYLE ACADEMIC PUBLISHING TRADITION. A LANGUAGE PERSPECTIVE

Alexandru-Ionuț Petrișor

Doctoral School of Urban Planning, Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urbanism, 010014 Bucharest, Romania
National Institute for Research and Development in Tourism, 50741 Bucharest, Romania; National Institute for
Research and Development in Constructions, Urbanism and Sustainable Spatial Development
URBAN-INCERC, 021652 Bucharest, Romania

Abstract. *Predatory journals are worthy studying because they threaten science by sparing resources and minimizing its perception. While these issues have been widely documented in the literature, the impact on the behavior of researchers has been less investigated. Western scholars, who can benefit culturally upon the experience of people more versed in publishing and take even courses in research writing, are not likely to be influenced by predatory publishers, unlike researchers from countries with a short academic publishing tradition. The present study addresses this latter influence, using a novel joint perspective, based on comparing examples from editorial experience with such authors and predatory calls, with a special attention to common attitudes and language elements, in order to test the hypothesis according to which behaviors and vocabulary strange to already established publishers are an effect of predatory practices. The analysis of examples is grouped around three topics: search for a fast and costly review; language showing exaggerate courtesy or lacking it completely; and a misunderstanding of the review process. Overall, the results sustain the hypothesis and, in addition, indicate that the awkward English of predatory publishers is taken as norm by authors from countries with a short academic publishing tradition. These findings urge the need for action against predatory publishers.*

Key words: *editorial correspondence, predatory calls, poor English, research ethics*

1. INTRODUCTION

Predatory journals have emerged and developed, exploiting the open access (Jana 2019; Faizul et al 2020; Fazel and Hartse 2020) and needs of authors under the “publish or perish” mantra (Ianoș and Petrișor 2020) to a point where they can constitute a threat to the scientific community (Beninger *et al.* 2016) due to obscure practices. The poor quality of the peer review process associated with an insatiate greed for money determines a great loss of time,

Submitted November 12th, 2022, accepted for publication November 20th, 2022

Corresponding author: Alexandru-Ionuț Petrișor, Doctoral School of Urban Planning, Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urbanism, 010014 Bucharest, Romania

E-mail: alexandru_petrisor@yahoo.com

resources, and money (Nelson 2016), when the resources (including time and money) dedicated to disseminating the results of funded research are lost by having the articles published in such obscure journals instead of the legitimate ones. Moreover, the publication of irrelevant research by authors who deliberately chose predatory journals, after having their submissions rejected by the legitimate ones, undermines the general trust in science (Roberts 2016; Habibzadeh and Simundic 2017). While there is an abundant literature dealing with all their practices and negative influence on science and the scientific community in general (see, for example, the economic impact on science - Shen and Björk 2015, 'burying' quality research in obscure journals without disseminating it proportionally to its value - Gogtay and Bavdekar 2019, indirect support to unethical practices including plagiarism due to a poor quality control – Petrișor 2021a, or adoption of predatory practices by legitimate journals when funding is scarce – Habibzadeh et al. 2017), very few studies deal with their impact on the behavior of researchers. For example, Rainer and Hurst (2019) look at the presence of predatory journals in student bibliographies; Petrișor (2020) suspects that the increasingly demanding peer review process of already established journals makes inexperienced authors choose predatory publishers, due to a poor (or lack of) quality control; and Soler and Cooper (2019) believe that the repeated rejection by established journals due to the level of the English proficiency has a similar effect. There are studies distinguishing between people who are victims of the predatory journals (Rawas *et al.* 2020) and those who deliberately publish in such journals (Balehegn 2017), and on their motivation (Cobey *et al.* 2019). Such journals tend to draw researchers mainly from developing countries (Balehegn 2017), offering them discounted fees, and exercising a poorer quality control of manuscripts. A special place is taken by countries with a shorter tradition in academic publishing.

In the western world, the first peer reviewed journal, "Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society", was launched in 1665 (Lovejoy *et al.* 2011), and introduced peer review in 1752 (Jana 2019). Ever since, academic publishing standards have evolved, moving towards an "impact assessment" of submissions, meaning that the primary decision is influenced by the potential of the manuscript to attract a broad international readership, and ultimately more citations (Petrișor 2020). This behavior was influenced by the competition of journals, and development of journal and research metrics (Petrișor 2020). However, in other places, such as Eastern Europe, where a tradition could not be formed due to changes of political circumstances in the Middle East and other countries, writing in the Western style (in terms of structuring the article and copy-editing a manuscript in English) has even a shorter tradition. Authors from countries lacking this Western publishing tradition struggle at a very basic level, and have little if any chance publishing in a journal that has already entered the race for a recognized international reputation (Fazel 2019). At the same time, the "publish or perish" mantra was embraced by the entire world (Memon 2018), including countries with a shorter tradition in academic publishing. In order to rapidly recuperate the gap, such countries have set up very high standards for doctoral students and for academic promotion. For example, Algeria requires, doctoral students who plan to defend their theses or academic staff asking for a career promotion the publication of a certain number of articles in mainstream international journals, indexed by ERIH Plus, Scopus, and/or Clarivate Analytics during the closest previous period before the defense or promotion (Cherlak 2019). The natural outcome of these requirements is that researchers and doctoral students from such countries will desperately seek for a venue for their research, and end up publishing in predatory journals or deliberately choosing those (Cherlak 2019). The same is true for Romania, where the 2011 criteria for academic promotion, doctoral defenses, and research funding started favoring the publications in mainstream international journals (Abbott 2011).

As editor of an emerging journal, I have been exposed to strange attitudes, expectations and vocabulary from authors from countries with a shorter academic publishing tradition. *In an attempt to understand them, this article looks at the practices of predatory publishers, and builds upon the hypothesis according to which such strange behaviors and vocabulary are actually an effect of predatory practices of journals where these researchers are more likely to publish.*

2. METHODS AND DATA

Several previous studies (Petrișor 2016, 2017, 2021b) have looked at calls for papers received from predatory publishers, journals, and conferences, including text and images. Such calls are used in the current research also and analyzed in order to distinguish some language and style particularities of the message. This research is also based on numerous e-mails exchanged between the journal “Urbanism Architecture Constructions” (ISSN 2069-6469, <https://uac.incd.ro/EN/index.htm>) and authors who contacted the journal

Table 1 Calls for papers from predatory journals used in the analysis

Journal	E-mail	Subject	Date
Journal of the Pancreas	pancreas@imedpub.com	<i>Volume 16, Issue 1: JOP</i>	9 February 2015
International Journal of Engineering Research and Development	rank41editor@rediffmail.com	<i>Recommended by the Reviewers</i>	20 November 2020
International Journal of Modern Engineering Research	best65office@rediffmail.com	<i>Recommended by the reviewers</i>	17 December 2020
International Journal of Physics Research and Applications	physicsres@hspcorporation.info	<i>alexandru_petrisor@yahoo.com: We humbly invite you to submit your interesting article</i>	29 December 2020
Journal of Humanities, Arts and Social Science	jhass@ngapor.com	<i>Dear Dr. Ioanlanos? 1 Alex ru-Ionu?tPetris? 2,*, JHASS Regular Issue on Humanities, Arts and Social Science</i>	2 January 2021
Merit Research Journal of Education and Review	mrjer@meritsci.com	<i>Special Review and Publication</i>	5 January 2021
Research Inventory Journal	submitdata009@rediffmail.com	<i>Relevant for national and international development</i>	6 February 2021
Polish Polar Research (hijacked*)	announcement@polishpolarmail.com	<i>Dear !, Please note our new Invitation for the submission of Original Research Articles</i>	6 February 2021
COJ Biomedical Science and Research	cojbsr@crimsonjournals.com	<i>Acknowledgement Dear Petrisor Alexandru Ionut</i>	21 January 2021
SSRG International Journal of Agriculture & Environmental Science	ijaessrg@gmail.com	<i>Re: SSRG - IJAES - Call for Paper January - February 2021</i>	26 February 2021

* The real Polish Polar Research is a quarterly international journal edited by the Committee on Polar Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences (<https://journals.pan.pl/ppr/>); the journal sending this call mimics the real one, adopts predatory practices (among others, publishing articles on any topic), and has a different website (<http://www.polishpolar.com/>).

during 25 June 2016 and 23 January 2021 to ask different questions or submit their contribution. The journal receives submissions by e-mail, as file attachments. The examples are analyzed against three themes (time used by peer review and fees; courtesy showed in messages; and understanding the peer review process), those three matching corresponding practices of predatory journals, as identified in the calls for papers received from these. The calls for papers used in this research are displayed in Table 1.

3. RESULTS

The results consist of presenting a series of e-mails received by “Urbanism Architecture Constructions” that matched calls received from predatory journals based on specific similar features; the texts are reproduced in the following subsections, showing symptoms of poor English, including misspellings, grammar mistakes, wrong use of spaces and punctuation, and other flaws, are displayed unchanged. Moreover, in order to avoid taking too much space, the text taking more rows was contracted, using “||” to mark text placed initially on a different row.

3.1. Fast and expensive review

Let us examine the following call for papers from the “Research Inveny Journal”, received on 6 February 2021 from “sub <submitdata009@rediffmail.com>”, with the subject “*Relevant for national and international development*”:

“CALL FOR PAPER || February 2021 Publication fee: 900 Rs || Research Inveny journal || Online ISSN: 2278-4721 || Print ISSN: 2319-6483 || IMPACT FACTOR: 4.89 || Frequency// 12 Issues Per Year || Last date of Paper Submission February 2021 || Decision on manuscript: 24 hours || Publication time: 2 days || Publication fee: Rs. 900”

One of the first elements mentioned is the publication fee; also, the call mentions that the decision on the manuscript is made in the same day it is submitted, and its publication occurs next day. The focus on charges, rather than on quality, and a fast review process are among the main features distinguishing a predatory journal.

Most questions received by “Urbanism Architecture Constructions” refer to the time consumed during the peer review process, occasionally attempting to rush it up:

- *“I have very hurry for accepted.”*
- *“How long on average take long for a manuscript the fist descetion be made?”*
- *“I am looking forward to hearing from you about time of publication that These authors ask us to accelerate it”*
- Similarly, fees are a common issue:
- *“Does accepted paper needs to pay charge?”*
- *“We want to know the publishing fees in the [Title] journal , please inform us with the payment details .”*
- Many authors ask about both:
- *“How much doeas it take to accept a paper? Is there any fee related to paper submission or acceptance?”*
- *“Firstly, how many days should I wait to get an acceptance or rejection for reviewing my paper? Because I am in hurry to get it. Secondly, is there any fees for sumbission a paper?”*
- *“Is there publications fees? how long does it takes to get a reply either rejection or acceptance ?”*

A single question addressed, in addition, the rejection rate:

“Can i ask you about price of publication in your journal? And what is the percentage of admission to print by your reviewers?”

3.2. Lack of courtesy or exaggeratedly boosting language

Numerous authors submit their contribution to “Urbanism Architecture Constructions” in an empty message. Although such messages cannot be analyzed, their presence indicates that authors simply assume that the Editorial Office knows that the attachment is a submission and will be given the consideration they fail to show to the journal. Similarly, a common feature of authors from developing countries (and most common reason for rejection) is the fact that they ignore the Author Guidelines (although occasionally they make statements about observing them), even to the point of submitting their articles as PDF files, a format that does not allow further editing. This can be easily connected to predatory journals, as a call received 17 December 2020 from the International Journal of Modern Engineering Research (best65office@rediffmail.com) with the subject *“Recommended by the reviewers”* includes in its text the phrase *“Authors are required to submit the full paper (PDF and Word format)”*.

Many messages are not addressing a person or anyone (such as the Editor) at all, although the names of people are available on the journal website. The list of ways of addressing includes: *“Dear Editorial Board”*; *“Dear Sir”*; *“Respected Sir”*; *“Ladies and gentlemen, members of the Journal editorial committee”*; *“Dear The Journal "Title"”*; *“Dear Colleague”*; *“Dear Mr, Mrs,”*; *“Dear Journal of [...]”*; *“Dear”*; *“Hello Dear”*; *“Dear colleagues”*; *“Dear All”*; *“Dear mister publisher”*; *“Editorial Department of [Title] Journal”*; *“Dear Editorial team”*; *“Hello dear doctor”*; *“Dear Dr”*; and *“Dear Moderator”*. Out of them, the discriminating masculine references (*“Dear Sir”*, *“Respected Sir”*, *“Dear mister publisher”*) are specific to authors coming from countries where women cannot access editorial positions.

Each of these can be tracked down to a similar call from a predatory journal; for example, the rude “Dear” (not followed by a name or position) is found in a call from the hijacked Polish Polar Research journal received 6 February 2021 from announcement@polishpolarmail.com, with the subject *“Dear !, Please note our new Invitation for the submission of Original Research Articles”*; while “Dear!” is found in the subject, there is no salutation in the body of message. A call received 5 January 2021 from Merit Research Journal of Education and Review (mrjer@meritsci.com) with the subject *“Special Review and Publication”* uses the salutation *“Dear Colleague”*. *“Dear Doctor”* (without a name) is found in a call received 9 February 2015 from the Journal of the Pancreas (pancreas@imedpub.com), with the subject *“Volume 16, Issue 1 : JOP”*. The gender-biased salutation *“Dear Sir”* is found in a call for papers from the International Journal of Engineering Research and Development (rank41editor@rediffmail.com) with the subject *“Recommended by the Reviewers”* received 20 November 2020. The list of calls from predatory journals having no salutation is too large to be displayed.

Occasionally, messages contain strange greetings, such as *“After greeting”* or *“By Greeting”*. Other messages can also include irrelevant texts, such as:

- *“please receive a research article for publication || The title of the article: [Title] || First author: [Name, affiliation] || Second author: [Name, affiliation] || Third author: [Name, affiliation] [end of message]”*
- *“Good evening || [Name of the author] || Happy new year!”*

- *“In these difficult times that humanity is in the process of passing, I hope that you and your families are well.”*
- *“I take this opportunity to wishing to you a merry Christmas Christmas is a bridge. We need bridges as the river of time flows past. Today's Christmas should mean creating happy hours for tomorrow and reliving those of yesterday. best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. May peace, love, and prosperity follow you always?”*

These elements are common to the predatory journals. A call received 2 January 2021 from the Journal of Humanities, Arts and Social Science (jhass@ngapor.com) with the subject *“Dear Dr. Ioanlanos? 1 Alex ru-Ionu?tPetris? 2,* , JHASS Regular Issue on Humanities, Arts and Social Science”* starts with *“Greetings for the day!”*

The last two messages, one referring to the COVID-19 pandemics, and second to the Christmas time, are also pointing out to worlds where the editorial decision can be influenced, regardless of the quality of manuscript; both of them are calling for a compassionate attitude towards authors, due to the hard time (pandemics) or in the spirit of holidays (Christmas). However, predatory journals use a similar approach; a call for papers received 21 January 2021 from COJ Biomedical Science and Research (cojbsr@crimsonjournals.com) with the subject *“Acknowledgement Dear Petrisor Alexandru Ionut”* uses the following catch-up phrase: *“Good Morning! We hope that you are staying safe during these challenging times.”*

Several authors use a boosting language with respect to the journal *“esteemed journal”*; *“prestigious journal”*; *“respected journal”* or *“eminent review”*; others mistakenly reduce the journal to a *“magazine”* or even *“newspaper”*. Exactly the same language is found in a call from the hijacked Polish Polar Research journal received 6 February 2021 from announcement@polishpolarmail.com, with the subject *“Dear !, Please note our new Invitation for the submission of Original Research Articles”*: *“I would like to inform you that our esteemed journal "POLISH POLAR RESEARCH" [..]”*

At the same time, the messages received from authors whose contributions were rejected indicate a high level of aggressiveness, used to change the decision by means of intimidation:

- *“Please kindly explain the reason for excluding my research from your journal, || Note that I have hired specialists in the field of editing and coordination , || And with your Editorial Policy and Author Guidelines , || Please clarify the matter as much as possible to avoid rejection , with many thanks and appreciation”*
- *“Due to the rejection of the article in this stage, I refuse to modify and resend it.”*
- *“[...] there is no way to correct it, because [...]”*
- *“We decided to do not send anything for you nor reccomend your journal to other authors.”*

The angry reaction can also be explained as resulting from a “reality check”. A journal that takes the freedom to select the submissions it publishes no longer conforms to the image of the predatory practice of accepting whatever input (e.g., low quality articles) and delivering in exchange certificates of publication. The idea of “whatever input” is a common feature of predatory publishers, which do not care for the submission itself, but only for the fee paid by authors to have it published; for example, a 29 December 2020 call from the International Journal of Physics Research and Applications (physicsres@hspcorporation.info) with the subject *“alexandru_petrisor@yahoo.com: We humbly invite you to submit your interesting article”* mentions: *“We accept all types of manuscripts, we are humbly requesting you to submit your Research, Review, Case reports, 2 pages Editorial, 150 Words Clinical Images,*

Opinion articles, Short Commentaries or Letter to Editor to this kind issue of our journal.” Similarly, SSRG International Journal of Agriculture & Environmental Science (ijaessrg@gmail.com) specifies in its 26 February 2021 call with the subject “*Re: SSRG - IJAES - Call for Paper January - February 2021*” that the journal “*welcomes the original research articles, papers, long papers, journals [sic!], review papers*”. This practice accredits the idea of making no selection of the submissions received. The certificates for publication are targeted towards authors from countries with a low publishing tradition, implying a shorter tradition in consolidating academic ethics and integrity associated with it. Such authors would not hesitate to fabricate an article published in a journal, if the future career depends on it. Requiring a sealed and signed certificate brings additional evidence on the publication. No Western journal would make sense of a request for such a certificate if the article is published and available, but predatory publishers rely on authors from these countries and advertise such certificates; a call for papers received 17 December 2020 from the International Journal of Modern Engineering Research (best65office@rediffmail.com) with the subject “*Recommended by the reviewers*” advertises “*IJMER provides individual "Hard copy of Certificate" to all Authors*” and “*IJMER provides individual "Soft copy of Certificate" to all Authors*”.

The idea of “punishing” the journal by not recommending it, contained in the last example, is also connected to the predatory journal. A call from the International Journal of Modern Engineering Research (best65office@rediffmail.com) received 17 December 2020 with the subject “*Recommended by the reviewers*” includes in its text the invitation “*Please Share with your friends and Colleagues*”

3.3. Misunderstanding particularities of the review process and role of different editorial personnel

The messages indicate a clear misunderstanding of particularities of the review process and roles, although the peer review (consisting of an initial screening by the Executive Editor and assessment by reviewers) are presented in detail, and using schematics on the journal website; moreover, the role of each position is described in detail. Starting from addressing messages to the entire “*Editorial Board*” up to messages like “*We are also willing to accept criticism and suggestions from editors*”, “*Thanks to the members of the magazine*”, or “*I would like to have this manuscript reviewed by "[journal title]" committee*”, the authors seem unaware of the peer review mechanisms.

The same misunderstanding is present in calls from predatory journals. For example, a call from the International Journal of Modern Engineering Research received 17 December 2020 from the address best65office@rediffmail.com has the subject “*Recommended by the reviewers*”, as if reviewers had to promote the journal.

4. DISCUSSION

The aim of this research is first to present an editorial perspective both on the submissions from authors originating from countries with a short publishing tradition and on the analysis of the text of predatory calls, comparing the two based on language elements. The results bring substantial additional evidence for the fact that predatory journals are a menace to the entire scientific community, by mocking science and thus diminishing trust into it. Researchers from countries with a short publishing tradition or countries with a tradition

different from the Western one seem to take predatory journals as a standard and have a wrong image of the aims of journals and scientific publications in general, reduced to a “publishing business”, without any quality control. Another negative outcome of predatory publishing affects the English language itself. Since both predatory publishers and authors come from countries with a short publishing tradition, non-native English speaking authors borrow the awkward and incorrect ‘journalogy’ language from predatory publishers. This study brings additional evidence for the fact that poor English, visible in messages and calls for papers is a feature of predatory journals (Truth 2012; Bohannon 2013; Crawford 2014), and points out to the location of these journals in the global South, including India, China and parts of Africa, as indicated by Mills and Inouye (2020). Their findings were confirming those of Petrişor (2018), who looked at the origin of servers hosting predatory journals. However, the study addressed the longer or shorter tradition of using the Western style of academic writing; most examples of countries with a shorter tradition were selected from developing countries from Africa and Asia.

Nevertheless, the tradition in publishing varies around the world. Some developing countries are new to scientific research, which is an ‘addition’ joining the economic development (tertiarization of their economies, meaning a development of the tertiary sector, consisting of services). Other countries, especially the ex-socialist countries from Europe (and, to a lesser extent, elsewhere) have a longer tradition in research. For example, the Russian Federation has academic journals dating from the early 18th century, where Western scholars published their works. This tradition includes the peer review, and journals were highly selective even in the Soviet period, with rejections due to scientific and not political reasons. However, the writing style was different, and, adding the language barrier, scholars from Eastern Europe found also difficult to make their way into the Western journals. The strong research ethics and research tradition (Moher and Moher 2016) resulted into the fact that Eastern European scholars were finally able to bridge the gap, unlike scholars from countries where research is only now emerging. Western journals have imposed their standards to a great extent, and only scholars from countries with a research tradition are now able to adapt and make their work known to a broader audience through them. Future research should explore, including ethical perspective, the implications of generalizing Western standards, especially with respect to the possibility of an author to have her/his chance of publishing irrespective of the writing tradition influencing the writing style and skills. After all, the establishment of the Western practices, especially through the process of journal indexation, can be perceived as a mode of Western hegemony (Krause 2016; Noda 2020).

While this research was confined by its aim and methodology to a single editorial experience and language used in correspondence, future research could take further the analysis and expand its scope. For example, Al-Suqri and Lillard (2011) show that articles from countries with shorter publishing traditions are often focusing on local and national case studies, possibly resulting into the lack of research depth and limited reference lists. Since predatory publishers are likely to accept such studies, other behaviors (selection of topics, documentation, arguing for the study etc.) should also be explored.

Last but not least, the effects of predatory publishers on the behavior of researchers from countries with a short publishing tradition offers additional arguments pleading for the need for action against them (Moher and Moher 2016); in the possible trial against the predatory publishers (Manley 2019), this study supports the allegation according to which predatory publishers are distorting the scientific behavior.

5. CONCLUSION

This empirical qualitative research explored the predatory publishing phenomenon, an important issue due to its threat posed to science, in an attempt to find the common features of e-mails sent by authors from countries with a short publishing tradition to the editorial office of a legitimate journal and calls from predatory journals, in an attempt to prove that the strange behaviors and vocabulary found in the e-mails are actually an effect of predatory calls. The results confirm the underlying hypothesis, and show, in addition, that these authors also adopt the broken English of predatory publishers as a standard. Due to these negative effects, the research brings additional arguments for the need to stop predatory publishers from distorting the science.

REFERENCES

- Abbott, Alison. "Romania's high hopes for science." *Nature* (January 2011). <https://doi.org/10.1038/news.2011.8>
- Al-Suqri, Mohammed Nasser, and Lillard, Linda. "Barriers to Effective Information Seeking of Social Scientists in Developing Countries: The Case of Sultan Qaboos University in Oman." *International Research: Journal of Library & Information Science*, 1, no. 2 (December 2011): 86–100. <https://irjlis.com/barriers-information-seeking-social-scientists-sultan-qaboos-university-oman/>
- Balehegn, Mulubrhan. "Increased publication in predatory journals by developing countries' institutions: What it entails? And what can be done?" *International Information & Library Review*, 49, no. 2 (February 2017), 97–100. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10572317.2016.1278188>
- Beninger, Peter G., Beall, Jeffrey, and Shumway, Sandra E. "Debasing the Currency of Science: The Growing Menace of Predatory Open Access Journals." *Journal of Shellfish Research*, 35, no. 1 (April 2016): 1–5. <https://doi.org/10.2983/035.035.0101>
- Bohannon, John. "Who's afraid of peer review?" *Science*, 342, no. 6154 (October 2013): 60–65. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.342.6154.60>
- Cherlak, Radhia. "The stakes of scientific writing." *Annals of the University of Craiova, Psychology – Pedagogy*, 39 (2019): 47–53. https://aucpp.ro/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/AUC_PP_no_39_Cherak_R_pp.-47-53.pdf
- Cobey, Kelly D., Grudniewicz, Agnes, Lalu, Manoj M., Rice, Danielle B., Raffoul, Hana, and Moher, David. "Knowledge and motivations of researchers publishing in presumed predatory journals: A survey." *British Medical Journal Open*, 9 (March 2019): e026516. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2018-026516>
- Crawford, Walt. "Journals, "Journals" and Wannabes: Investigating the List." *Cites & Insights*, 14, no. 7 (July 2014): 1–45. <http://citesandinsights.info/civ14i7.pdf>
- Faizul, Nisha, Das, Anup Kumar, and Tripathi, Manorama. "Stemming the rising tide of predatory journals and conferences: A selective review of literature." *Annals of Library and Information Studies*, 67, no. 3 (2020): 173–182. <https://doi.org/10.56042/alis.v67i3.32442>
- Fazel, Ismaeil, and Hartse, Joel Heng. "Gray areas of academic publishing. 'Predatory journals' under the lens." *Journal of English for Research Publication Purposes*, 1, no. 2 (November 2020): 184–194. <https://doi.org/10.1075/jerpp.20008.faz>

- Fazel, Ismaeil. "Writing for Publication as a Native Speaker: The Experiences of Two Anglophone Novice Scholars." In *Novice Writers and Scholarly Publication. Authors, Mentors, Gatekeepers*, edited by Pejman Habibie P & Ken Hyland, 79-95. MacMillan: Palgrave, 2019. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-95333-5_5
- Gogtay, Nithya J., and Bavdekar, Sandeep B. "Predatory journals- Can we stem the rot?" *Journal of Postgraduate Medicine*, 65, no. 3 (2019): 129–131. https://doi.org/10.4103%2Fjpgm.JPGM_266_19
- Habibzadeh, Farrokh, and Simundic, Ana-Maria. "Predatory journals and their effects on scientific research community." *Biochemia Medica*, 27, no. 2 (May 2017): 270–272. <https://doi.org/10.11613/BM.2017.028>
- Ianoș, Ioan, and Petrișor, Alexandru-Ionuț. "An Overview of the Dynamics of Relative Research Performance in Central-Eastern Europe using a Ranking-Based Analysis derived from SCImago Data." *Publications*, 8, no. 3 (July 2020): 36. <https://doi.org/10.3390/publications8030036>
- Jana, Siladitya. "A history and development of peer-review process." *Annals of Library and Information Studies*, 66, no. 1 (2019): 152–162. <https://doi.org/10.56042/alis.v66i4.26964>
- Krause, Monika. "'Western Hegemony' in the Social Sciences: Fields and Model Systems." *The Sociological Review*, 64, no. 2_suppl (February 2016): 194–211. <https://doi.org/10.1111/2059-7932.12008>
- Lovejoy, Travis I., Revenson, Tracey A., & France, Christopher R. "Reviewing Manuscripts for Peer-Review Journals: A Primer for Novice and Seasoned Reviewers." *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 42, no. 1 (April 2011): 1–3. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12160-011-9269-x>
- Manley, Stewart. "Predatory Journals on Trial: Allegations, Responses, and Lessons for Scholarly Publishing from FTC v. OMICS." *Journal of Scholarly Publishing*, 50, no. 3 (April 2019): 183–200. <https://doi.org/10.3138/jsp.50.3.02>
- Memon, Aamir Raoof. "How to respond to and what to do for papers published in predatory journals?" *Science Editing*, 5, no. 2 (July 2018): 146–149. <https://doi.org/10.6087/kcse.140>
- Mills, David, and Inouye, K. "Problematizing 'predatory publishing': A systematic review of factors shaping publishing motives, decisions, and experiences." *Learned Publishing*, 34, no. 2 (August 2020): 89–104. <https://doi.org/10.1002/leap.1325>
- Moher, David, and Moher, Ester. "Stop Predatory Publishers Now: Act Collaboratively." *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 164, no. 9 (May 2016): 616–618. <https://doi.org/10.7326/M15-3015>
- Nelson, Bryn. "Merchants of Mayhem. The "parallel economy" of predatory publishing is leaving a long trail of damage in its wake." *Cancer Cytopathology*, 124, no. 5 (May 2016): 301–302. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cncy.21733>
- Noda, Orion. "Epistemic hegemony: the Western straitjacket and post-colonial scars in academic publishing." *Revista Brasileira de Política Internacional*, 63, no. 1 (June 2020): e007. <https://doi.org/10.1590/0034-7329202000107>
- Petrișor, Alexandru-Ionuț. "Are the predatory publishers collapsing or re-inventing themselves?" *Library and Information Science Research Electronic Journal*, 27, no. 2 (December 2017): 71–79. <https://www.libres-ejournal.info/2570/>

- Petrișor, Alexandru-Ionuț. "Evolving strategies of the predatory journals." *Malaysian Journal of Library and Information Science*, 21, no. 1 (January 2016): 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.22452/mjlis.vol21no1.1>
- Petrișor, Alexandru-Ionuț. "Peer review under the ethical lens: possible questions." *BOSNIACA – Journal of the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina*, 25 (December 2020): 183–197. <https://doi.org/10.37083/bosn.2020.25.183>
- Petrișor, Alexandru-Ionuț. "Predation, plagiarism, and perfidy." *portal: Libraries and the Academy*, 21, no. 4 (October 2021a): 685–693. <https://preprint.press.jhu.edu/portal/sites/ajm/files/petrisor.pdf>
- Petrișor, Alexandru-Ionuț. "Predatory journals: how far can they go? An in-depth look at the outliers." *BOSNIACA - Journal of the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina*, 26 (November 2021b), 137–154. <https://doi.org/10.37083/bosn.2021.26.137>
- Petrișor, Alexandru-Ionuț. "Predatory Publishers using Spamming Strategies for Call for Papers and Review Requests: A Case Study". *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology*, 38, no. 3 (May 2018): 199–207. <https://doi.org/10.14429/djlit.38.3.12551>
- Rawas, Hawazen, de Beer, Jennifer, Al Najjar, Hend, and Bano, Nusrat. "Falling prey to predatory journals: Experiences of nursing faculty." *International Journal of Africa Nursing Sciences*, 13 (2020): 100222. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijans.2020.100222>
- Roberts, Jason. "Predatory Journals: Illegitimate Publishing and Its Threat to All Readers and Authors." *Journal of Sexual Medicine*, 13, no. 12 (December 2016): 1830–1833. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsxm.2016.10.008>
- Schira, H. Rainier, and Hurst, Chris. "Hype or Real Threat: The Extent of Predatory Journals in Student Bibliographies." *Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research*, 14, no. 1 (April 2019): 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.21083/partnership.v14i1.4764>
- Shen, Cenyu, and Björk, Bo-Christer. "'Predatory' open access: a longitudinal study of article volumes and market characteristics." *BMC Medicine*, 13 (October 2015): 230. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-015-0469-2>
- Soler, Josep, and Cooper, Andrew. "Unexpected Emails to Submit Your Work: Spam or Legitimate Offers? The Implications for Novice English L2 Writers." *Publications*, 7, no. 1 (January 2019): 7. <http://doi.org/10.3390/publications7010007>
- Truth, Frank. "Pay Big to Publish Fast: Academic Journal Rackets." *Journal for Critical Education Policy Studies*, 10, no. 2 (October 2012): 55–105. <http://www.jceps.com/archives/710>