

Anthropology in and of the academy: globalization, assessment, and our field's future
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In considering of the challenges and opportunities faced by social anthropology over the next twenty years, this talk begins with a recognition of the critical role of institutional structures and processes, especially practices of evaluation and assessment, in the future trajectory of our own discipline. The core of the paper critically explores two general modalities of assessment and evaluation: deliberative processes, of which peer review is a classic example, and analytical techniques, involving more formal and quantitative indicators such as citation factors and impact analysis. My discussion draws upon ethnographic work on and from the midst of such bureaucratic sites, on tracking in some detail the conflation of descriptive and evaluative practice embedded in the forms of quantitative metrics, and on current critical examinations of both deliberative and analytical strategies. The paper argues that deliberative, consultative peer review can lead to much more acute, textured, and realistic outcomes for such reviews, whether of programs or individuals, than can bibliometrics. It also suggests that associations such as EASA have a particular role to play both in arguing for the value of serious collegial engagement in such work and in modeling, in ways with which anthropologists are deeply familiar, how such qualitative reviewing be responsibly and productively pursued.

The revised paper will be published later this year in *Social Anthropology*. In the meantime, three reports that might be useful for thinking about these issues are currently available on line:

Robert Adler, John Ewing, and Peter Taylor. 2008. Citation statistics: a report from the International Mathematical Union.
<http://www.mathunion.org/publications/report/citationstatistics> (last accessed February 3, 2009)

British Academy. 2007. Peer review: the challenges for the humanities and social sciences. <http://www.britac.ac.uk/reports/peer-review/index> (last accessed February 3, 2009)

Economic and Social Research Council (UK). 2006. International benchmarking review of UK social anthropology.
<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCinfocentre/Evaluation/publication/IBR> (last accessed February 3, 2009)