

# The Early-Career Researcher

Challenges ahead for the researcher,  
the publisher, and the literature



**Presented by:**

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Dr. Eddy™ personifies the efforts of Editage to support authors with good publication practices.

**editage**  
by CACTUS



# Personal “Old-School” Outlook

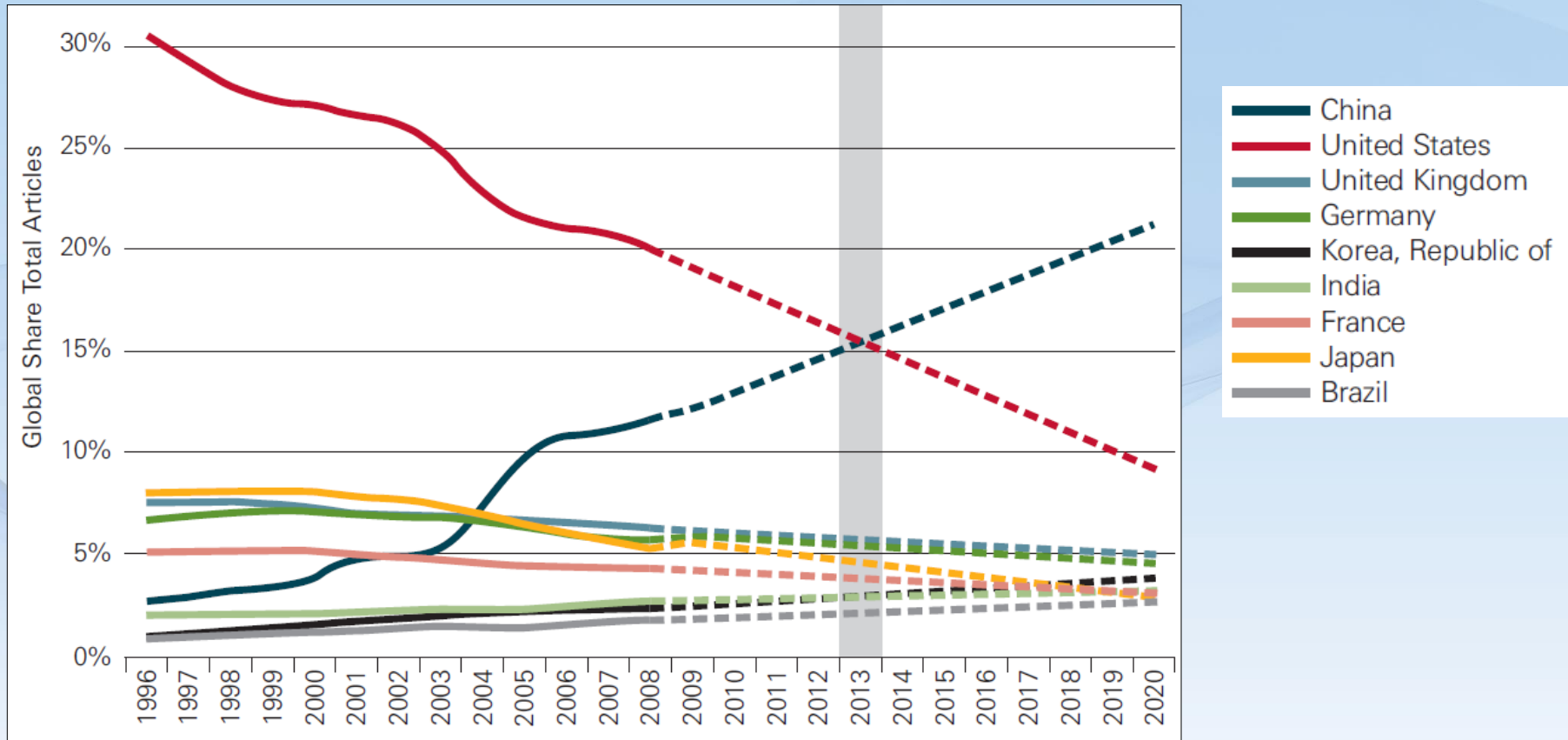
- **Given the availability of tools and technologies today, anyone who embraces these technologies in their research cycle is sure to succeed!**
- **A young, energetic, tech-savvy researcher/author has a clear advantage over their peers**



# GLOBAL PUBLICATION LANDSCAPE

## Research Output Tendencies

### Current and projected publication trends



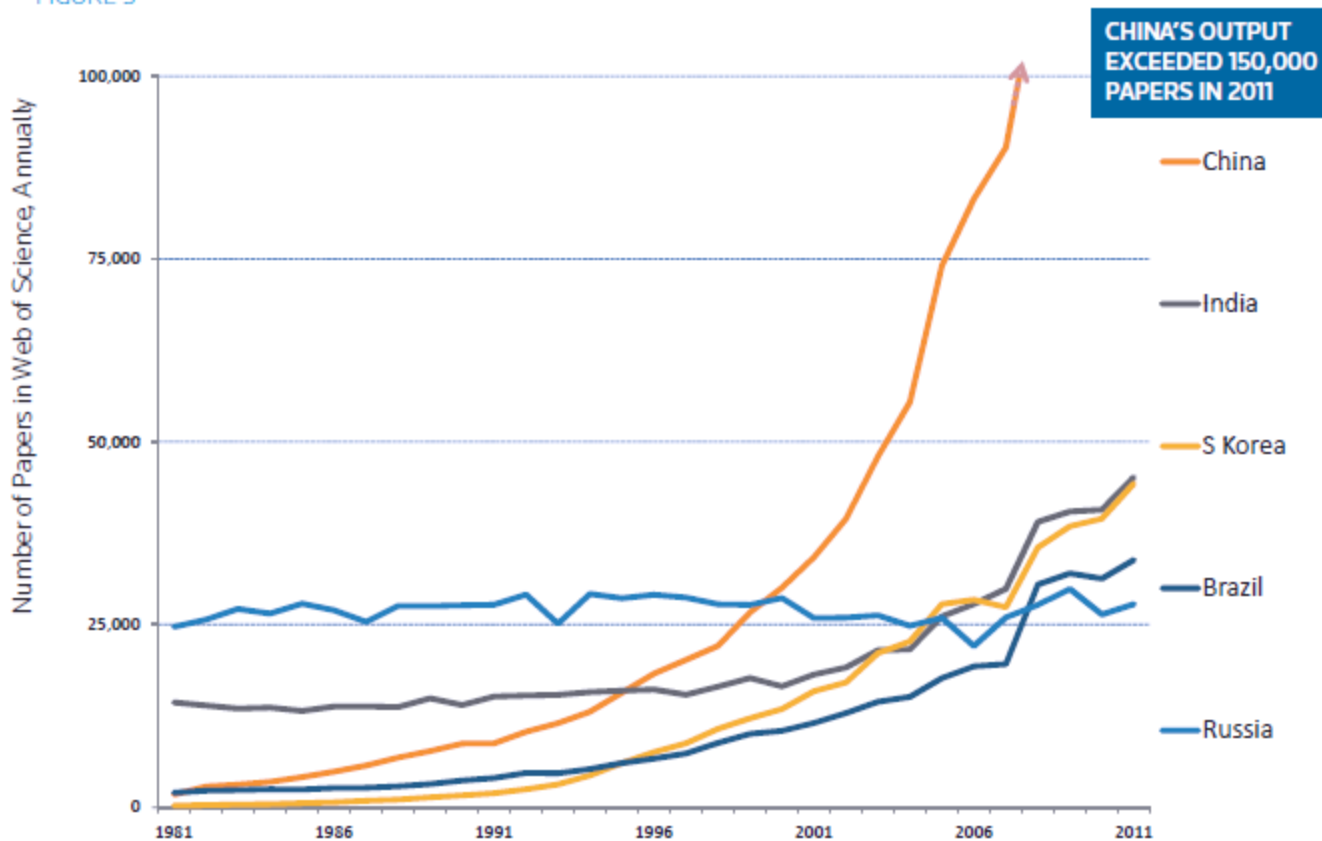


# GLOBAL PUBLICATION LANDSCAPE

## Research Output Tendencies (BRICK)

### ANNUAL RESEARCH PUBLICATION OUTPUT OF THE FIVE BRICK COUNTRIES

FIGURE 5



Source: Thomson Reuters Web of Knowledge. (See also Figure 7 on trajectories of patent output.)



# China, by Design

- Initially, easy to get a PhD
- Very large, highly-motivated researcher pool (in work ethic and in culture)
- Relative ease to publish in Chinese journals
- Ignited fever through cash incentives and peer pressure to publish in Western, SCI-indexed, high-impact English-language journals
- Reduced PhD slots
- Publication requirements for PhDs and MDs
- Quality expectations and ethics reform

**The squeeze is on, and the publication curve is steep!**



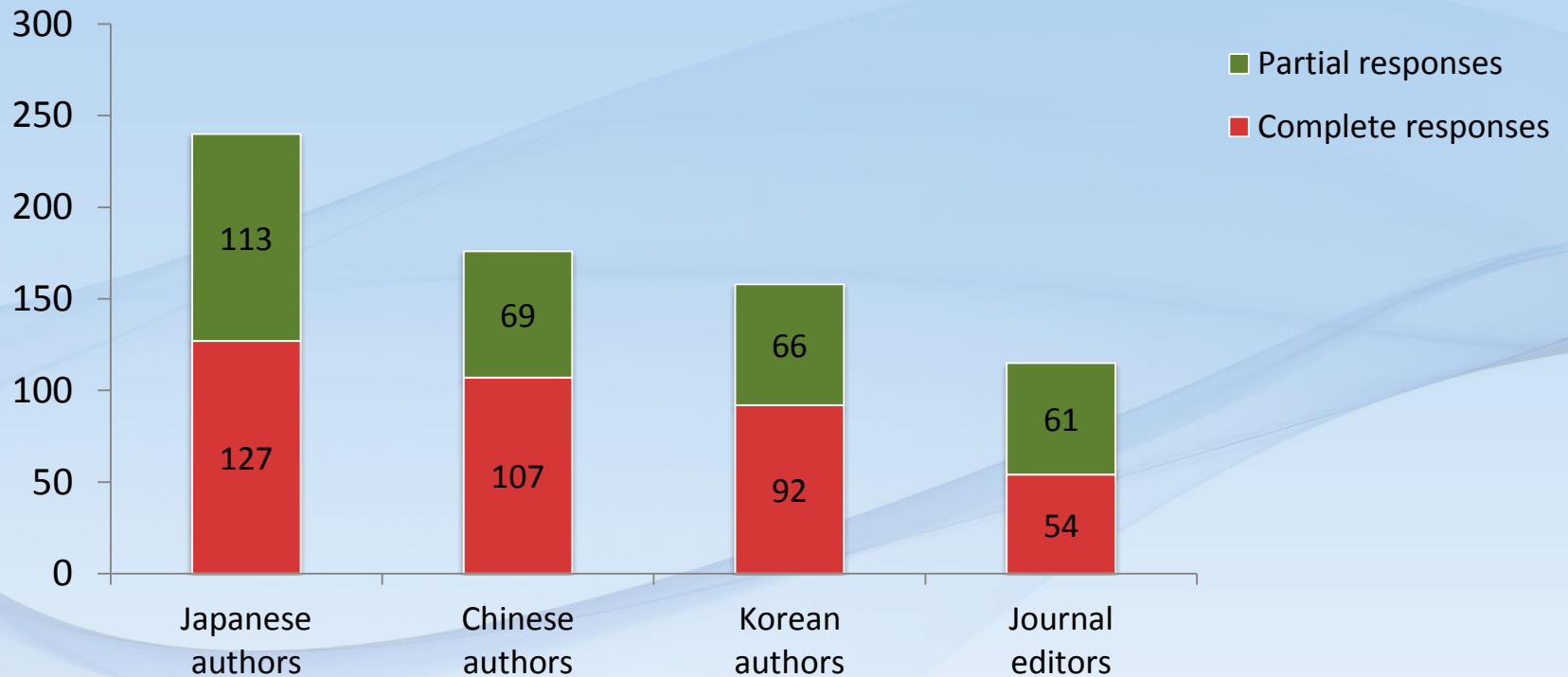
# The East-West Divide

- Two sets of surveys were conducted by Editage

	Survey 1	Survey 2
Target audience	Researchers from East Asia	Editors of International English-language journals
Language	Translated into Japanese, Mandarin, and Korean for dissemination in each country	Disseminated in English
Distribution channels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social media forums for researchers</li><li>• Workshops for academic researchers</li><li>• Academic societies and research universities</li><li>• Japanese science newspaper</li><li>• Editage website</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion groups for editors on LinkedIn and ResearchGate</li><li>• EASE and ALPSP listservs</li><li>• ALPSP blog</li><li>• Emails to journal contacts</li></ul>



# The East-West Divide: Response Rate



- Low response rate despite active outreach, but adequate representation from each population
- Only *complete responses* considered for analysis
- Total respondents: 326 East Asian authors, 54 journal editors



# How Well Do Authors Understand Publication Ethics?

How authors rate their understanding vs. how often journals encounter problems in these aspects

**Parameters:** **A**-Data fabrication and falsification; **B**-Plagiarism; **C**-Salami slicing; **D**-Authorship criteria; **E**-Ethical board approval for methods used; **F**-Conflicts of interest disclosure; **G**-Copyright transfer polices



Scores indicate the average rank assigned to each parameter on a 1-to-7 scale, where 7 = best understood aspect (for authors) or most problematic aspect (for editors)





# How Well Do Authors Know of Tools/Technologies?

- I frequently (informally) survey post-docs and early-career scientists in the life sciences and medical fields about their awareness of the following resources and tools, and am always shocked at their limited awareness.
  - ORCID
  - ScholarlyOA.com/Beall's List
  - Retraction Watch
  - Editorial Manager
  - ScholarOne
  - ResearchGate
  - Mendeley
  - Reference Manager
  - CrossCheck
  - CrossRef
  - iThenticate
  - CHORUS
  - Digital Science
    - Altmetric
    - Figshare
    - Overleaf
    - Readcube
- Education cannot be fast enough, but it is one of the hardest and most costly changes to bring about.



# What Keeps Me Awake at Night

## *Share of Voice* in the Literature

- What is it going to take to get a paper:
  - Accepted
  - Published
  - Read (discoverability)
  - Cited
- Getting a good paper in a good journal is going to be ever-increasingly difficult
- What will institutions and the publishing community need to do to support this challenge?

## Predatory Practices

- The whole ‘axis of publication’ now has elements of a predatory nature in the hands of unethical individuals:
  - Editorial Board solicitation
  - Peer Reviewer solicitation
  - Manuscript solicitation
  - Peer Review practices
  - Predatory Author Services
    - Authorship for sale
    - Plagiarism
    - Writing fraud
    - Data fraud
- In 2-years’ time, an author will have a very hard time identifying ethical practices.





# Question Period / Open Discussion



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