

Uneven writing spaces in (old) academic publishing: A case study on internationalisation in the disciplines of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

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International publication spaces are dominated by US and UK-based research (Paasi, 2015). Practices such as a high output of UK and US bases authors (Gutierrez and Lopez-Nieva, 2001; Rosenstreich and Wooliscroft, 2006; Bański and Ferenc, 2013), a high percentage of US-based editorial members (Rosenstreich and Wooliscroft, 2006) and a domination of English language journals (Paasi, 2015) are a consequence and a confirmation of spatial disparities in knowledge production and have created uneven writing spaces. In this context, this research seeks to deepen the debate by focusing on a new research unit: references; which create representational designs in the disciplines, and precede all old and new intellectual work and knowledge representation (Cope and Kalantzis, 2014). Through case studies on the referencing of six papers of the three higher impact journals in the disciplines of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (PLoS Biology, Cell, and Reviews of Biochemistry) it was possible to identify, describe and visually represent the spatial patterns of knowledge production. The main findings support previous literature; 74.9% of the references surveyed had at least one author from either the US or the UK. Moreover, there was a notable predominance of authors from the US (69.9%). Furthermore, there was a high preponderance of authors from English speaking countries (88.32%). As a conclusion, a series of managerial and linguistic suggestions for academic publishers are provided in order to promote ethnic diversity and genuinely global journal publishing spaces.