

## Conference Wolves in Sheep's Clothing

Shahryar Sorooshian<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract** In some cases, organizing a conference resembles a high-profit business. Some of these conferences are wolves in sheep's clothing. This article draws readers' attention to current examples of such unethical business conferences.

**Keywords** Predatory publishers · Unethical business · Conference

### Letter to the Editor

In recent years, fake journals and conferences (fraudsters/predators) have become a matter of increasing concern in the scholarly world (Sorooshian 2016a). The last few years have witnessed an increased number of predatory publishers. This rise in these unethical activities is usually attributed to the proliferation of scientific communities. Predatory conferences constitute another interesting and serious emerging trend (Dadkhah et al. 2015). These conferences are usually organized by individuals or companies instead of scientific communities or universities (Dadkhah et al. 2015). Their profit originates primarily from registration fees. In many cases, predatory conferences guarantee authors that the best articles will be published in high-impact, highly indexed journals. However, in some cases, the published articles are not the best articles. The published articles are deliberately selected for publication. Predatory conferences abuse trust in the review process. The chosen articles belong to authors who promised the conference organizer that they would bring in a few papers and attendees such that the conference could obtain more registration fees. The same applies to some of the keynote speech opportunities, best paper awards and certificates. Sometimes, organizers approach new journals that are

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✉ Shahryar Sorooshian  
sorooshian@gmail.com

<sup>1</sup> Faculty of Industrial Management, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, Pahang, Malaysia

having difficulty finding papers to publish; the conference offers a few articles for publication in the journal, but only if the journal or the journal's institute will send a participant paper or attendee to the conference. This is a modern side of the scholarly black market that was first reported by Sorooshian (Sorooshian 2016b, c). The aforementioned conference organizers have transformed their event into moneymaking machines to collect substantial registration fees from authors in an unethical manner.

### Compliance with Ethical Standards

**Conflict of interest** None.

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