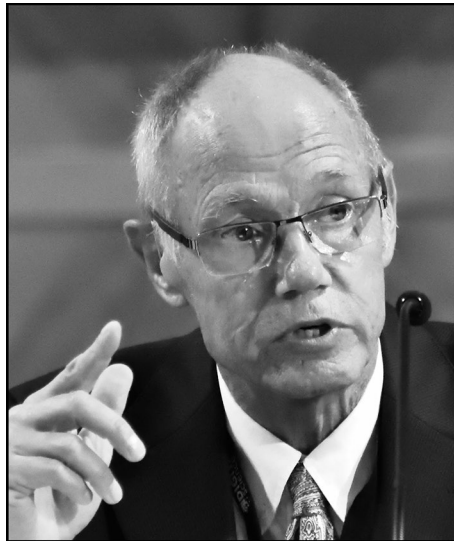




Obituary

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Henk F. Moed (1951–2021)

Professor Henk F. Moed was one of the outstanding and world-leading contributors to the advancement of Scientometric methodologies with a special focus on research evaluation. His rich scientific work is characterised by a high scientific rigour, an innovative approach and a sustainable approach to the dissemination and application of research evaluation methodologies since the early 1980s.

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Henk started his work at the Department of Science Studies of the “Leids Instituut voor Beleidsonderzoek Nederland” (LISBON) at Leiden University in 1981 and received his PhD degree at Leiden University in 1989. The same year, the “Centrum voor Wetenschaps- en Technologiastudies” (CWTS) at the Leiden University was founded, headed by Anthony van Raan. Henk was the head PI of that institute. His success at Leiden University led to the expansion of advanced evaluation studies based on bibliometric data to Flanders, Belgium. Together with Marc Luwel, he managed to transform these studies into a standard procedure within the Flemish Community. This resulted in the foundation of the Expertise Centre for R&D Monitoring in Flanders (ECOOM) headed by Koenraad Debackere and Wolfgang Glänzel.

Henk’s scientific work contributed significantly to the re-engineering of processes and the organisation of research evaluation activities. He has published more than 170 scientific articles including several contributions and comments in the prestigious journal *Nature* and the most important specialised journals with particular focus on impact factor of the journals (1996); to the effects of funding on the progress of research (1998, 1999) and to the criteria for the correct use of bibliometric indicators in the evaluation of research (2002). He published several monographs among which are “Citation Analysis in Research Evaluation” (Springer, 2005), “Applied Evaluative Informetrics” (Springer, 2017) which became classical textbooks in the studies of bibliometrics. Henk was also a member of the editorial board of several journals in the field of research evaluation and co-editor of the prestigious “Handbook of Quantitative Science and Technology Research: The Use of Publication and Patent Statistics in Studies of S&T Systems” (Kluwer, 2004), and of the new edition of the “Springer Handbook of Science and Technology Indicators” published in 2019.

Among his numerous achievements, Henk was also the winner of the Derek de Solla Price Award in 1999, a prestigious award periodically awarded by the journal *Scientometrics* to scientists with outstanding contributions to the fields of quantitative studies of science.

In Leiden, Henk was known as a supportive colleague for many researchers at CWTS, always happy and available to explain and discuss methods and approaches in detail. He was also a dedicated program chair for many *Science and Technology Indicators* (STI) and *International Society for Scientometrics and Informetrics* (ISSI) conferences, and was frequently asked to chair the ISSI conference. It was no secret that he loved attending these conferences to discuss new ideas and approaches, not only on stage but also more informally, during coffee breaks, receptions, dinners, and other social events.

In the new millennium, Henk shifted the focus of his activities from the Netherlands and Flanders to Spain and Italy. In Spain, the University of Granada, and in Italy the University Sapienza in Rome were his hubs and favorite places to spread the word. In 2009, Henk was appointed professor at the Leiden University as recognition for his tremendous contribution to the development of CWTS. He received several prestigious international assignments and carried out various research projects for the European Commission and different agencies and institutions in the Netherlands, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Germany, and many other countries, in which he contributed significantly to the introduction of the most appropriate methodologies in the evaluation of university systems, research, and the application of the results to the allocation of public and private resources. In 2010, Henk took a new challenge as a senior research advisor at Elsevier, Amsterdam (The Netherlands) as senior where he fulfilled this position until 2014.

Henk Moed has been working for several years with Sapienza University, where he has been visiting professor in courses for interdisciplinary graduate students, visiting scholar at the Sapienza School for Advanced Studies and where he collaborates in the development of

various research projects at the Department of Computer, Control and Management Engineering Antonio Ruberti (DIAG) of Sapienza University. He was also an active contributor in the institutional activities carried out at the University with his participation in the Board of Evaluation of the University during 2015–2017.

Due to his high scientific profile, the scientific committee and the university organised a “Special Plenary Session in Honour of Henk F. Moed on: Evaluative informetrics – The art of metrics-based research assessment” as part of the ISSI 2019 International Conference, which was held at Sapienza University in September 2019, during which the book in his honour entitled “Evaluative informetrics—The art of metrics-based research assessment, Festschrift in honour of Henk F. Moed” (Springer, 2020) was presented. On September 5th, 2019, he received a Doctor Honoris causa from Sapienza university of Rome "In recognition of his fundamental scientific contribution to the development of Research Assessment methodologies which represents one of the areas of greatest interest and innovation in the field of research on the themes of the evaluation of the institutional activities of universities and research bodies".

In a late phase of his career, he decided to start up editorial work to bridge the still existing gap between theory and methodologically sound policy relevant application in research assessment. In 2019, Henk launched the Open Access journal “Scholarly Assessment Reports” (Levy Library Press) to publish articles from top researchers in various fields. The journal proved great success, publishing 27 full research articles on various topics pertaining to practical applications of bibliometrics to research evaluation.

Unfortunately, we will never get to know the fruits and the full impact of his innovative endeavour in the last chapter of his professional life. With his sudden passing, our scientific community has lost one of its great leaders and most influential minds.