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HOW DIFFERENT ARE JOHNSON AND WANG? DOCUMENTING DISCREPANCIES IN THE RECORDS OF ETHNIC SCHOLARS IN SCOPUS

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ABSTRACT

Aim/Purpose	This study captures and describes the discrepancies in the performance matrices of comparable Chinese and American scholars as recorded by Scopus.
Background	The contributions of Chinese scholars to the global knowledge enterprise are increasing, whereas indexing bibliometric databases (e.g., Scopus) are not optimally designed to track their names and record their work precisely.
Methodology	Coarsened exact matching was employed to construct two samples of comparable Chinese and American scholars in terms of gender, fields of work, educational backgrounds, experience, and workplace. Under 200 scholars, around a third being Chinese and the rest American scholars, were selected through this data construction method. Statistical tests, including logit regressions, Poisson regression, and fractional response models, were applied to both samples to measure and verify the discrepancies stored within their Scopus accounts.
Contribution	This study complicates the theory of academic identity development, especially on the intellectual strand, as it shows ethnic scholars may face more errors in how their track records are stored and presented. This study also provides inputs for the discussion of algorithmic discrimination from the academic context and to the scientific community.
Findings	This paper finds that Chinese scholars are more prone to imprecise records in Scopus (i.e., more duplicate accounts, a higher gap between the best-statistic accounts, and the total numbers of publications and citations) than their American counterparts. These findings are consistent across two samples and with different statistical tests.

The full paper has been published as the following and is being presented at this conference:

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How Scholarly Different Are Johnson and Wang?

Recommendations for Practitioners	This paper suggests practitioners and administrators at research institutions treat scholars' metrics presented in Scopus or other bibliometric databases with caution while evaluating ethnic scholars' contributions.
Recommendations for Researchers	Scholars and researchers are suggested to dedicate efforts to monitoring their accounts on indexing bibliometric platforms.
Impact on Society	This paper raises awareness of the barriers that ethnic scholars face in participating in the scientific community and being recognized for their contributions.
Future Research	Future research can be built on this paper by expanding the size of the analytical samples and extending similar analyses on comparable data harvested from other bibliometric platforms.
Keywords	ethnic scholars, bibliometric data, research performance, Chinese vs. American scholars

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