

Recent developments in the assessment of Artistic Research

ECOOM-colloquium 2011

Walter Ysebaert, Vrije Universiteit Brussel



Vrije Universiteit Brussel

1. Contexts & definitions
2. United Kingdom
3. Australia
4. Flanders & European countries

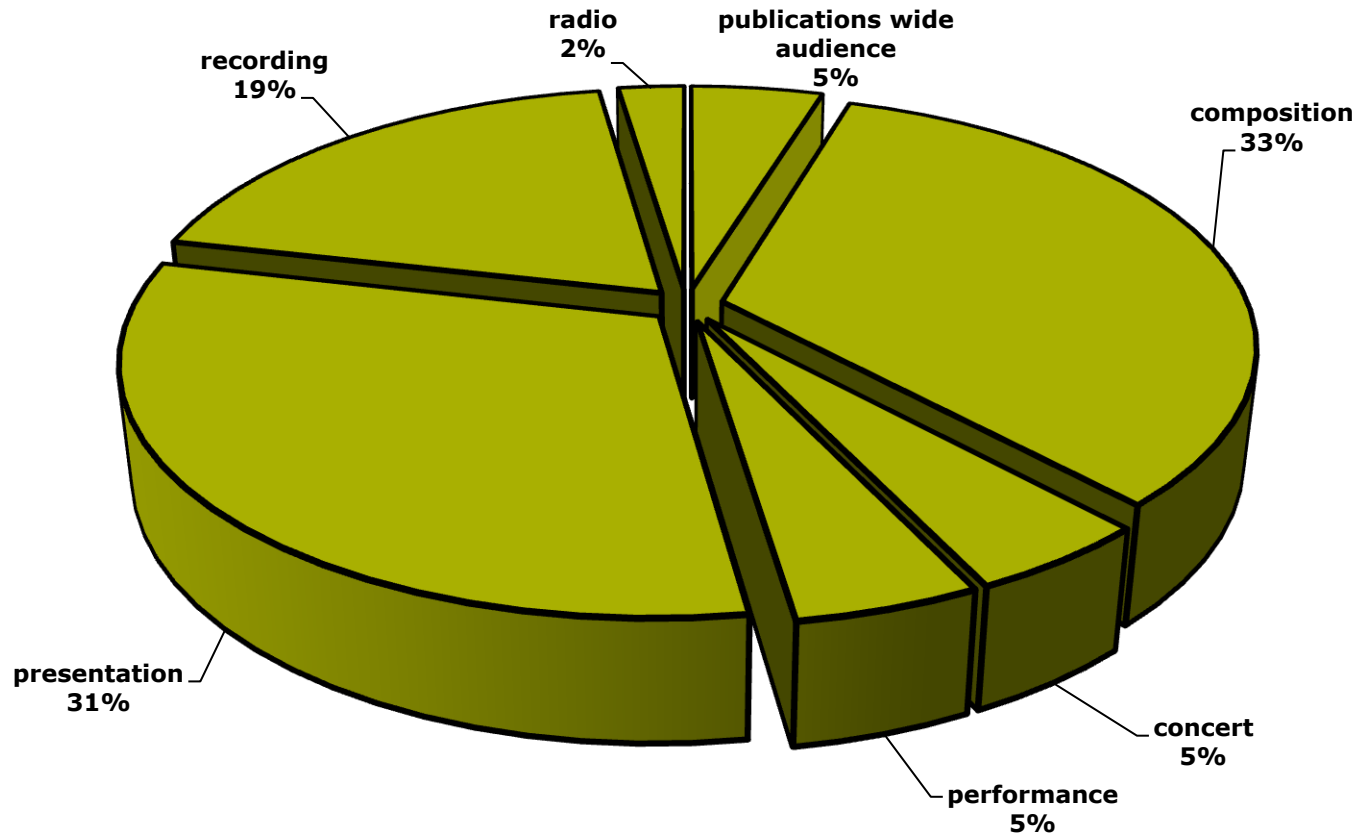
1. Contexts and definitions: artistic research

- What is 'artistic' 'research'?
 - Disciplines involved:
 - » visual arts and music
 - » performing arts
 - » architecture and design
 - Not over/on the arts, but 'in' the arts: practice based, practice led, practice as research
 - Process / creation is fundamental
 - Relation between education and research
 - Research output?

Events & performances	weging	Published productions	weging
film short		film short	
film long		film long	
animation		animation	
video installation		video	
video art		screenplay	
sound project		sound project	
soundtrack		soundtrack	
composition		composition	
arrangement/transcription		arrangement/transcription	
performance		performance	
recording		recording	
television		television	
radio		radio	
drama/theatre		drama/theatre	
scenography		scenography	
choreography		choreography	
Dance		dance	
photography		photography	
live art		Visual essay	
		Live art	
Presentation		Presentation	
Demonstration		Demonstration	
manifestation			
installation		installation	
multimedia		multimedia	
new media		new media	
Virtual reality		virtual reality	
digital and interactive art		digital and interactive art and	
technology and computer		technology and computer application	
		website	
exhibition solo		exhibition solo	
exhibition group		exhibition group	
		drawing	
		painting	
		sculpture	
		Design (product, industrial, graphic,	
		illustration)	
		cartography	
		poster	
other (specify)		other (specify)	

Research output

B. Kuijken/P. Swinnen/J. Michiels





assessing artistic research

= / ≠

assessing scientific research

- **Recent developments:**

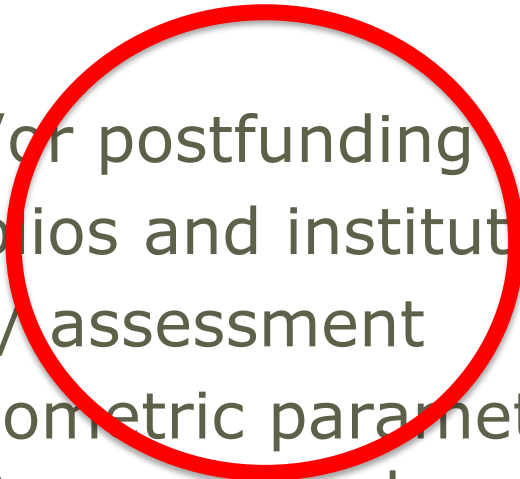
(Borgdorff, Kälvemark, Schwärz, Öberg, Biggs, Hannula, Sullivan, Frayling)

- Long tradition in USA, UK, Australia
- Bologna & tertiary education
- Creative industry
- Quality assessment & research funding
- Inter-, multi-, transdisciplinarity
- **Many differences!**


- How to finance – excellent - artistic research?



- prefunding and/or postfunding
- individual portfolios and institutional funding
- evaluation / assessment
- discussion: bibliometric parameters vs (peer reviewed) (panel) assessment models



2. United Kingdom

- Context: research funding?
 - AR: long tradition of assessment(1989/1992)
 - RAE  REF (HEFCE; 2009-)
 - Outputs (70 → 60%)
 - Impact (20 → 25%)
 - Environment (10 → 15%)
 - REF: 4 main panels, 15 sub-panels, use of citation information, panel 'arts and humanities'.
 - Expensive procedure
- Assessment against appropriate criteria for excellence; rated by the expert panels on a five point scale

3. Australia

1989-2007

Year	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Total
1989	4	55	-	8	4	-	21	10	102
1990	3	66	-	8	6	1	29	13	126
1991	5	85	-	16	5	1	37	15	164
1992	5	99	-	17	3	1	41	16	182
1993	5	119	-	31	4	2	48	11	220
1994	6	147	-	41	5	2	60	16	277
1995	5	172	-	45	8	5	68	19	322
1996	5	214	-	52	8	16	93	16	404
1997	2	208	-	71	8	24	119	18	450
1998	5	207	-	77	9	29	89	20	436
1999	9	229	-	85	11	30	98	19	481
2000	7	283	-	79	27	38	116	11	582
2001	20	356	2	137	27	34	119	31	726
2002	24	413	2	158	33	30	141	39	840
2003	28	433	4	194	33	33	164	49	938
2004	31	457	4	221	36	41	202	59	1051
2005	29	448		255	37	43	228	47	1087
2006	34	465	5	291	37	47	272	51	1202
2007	40	464	4	313	41	38	274	56	1230

- **Publications:**

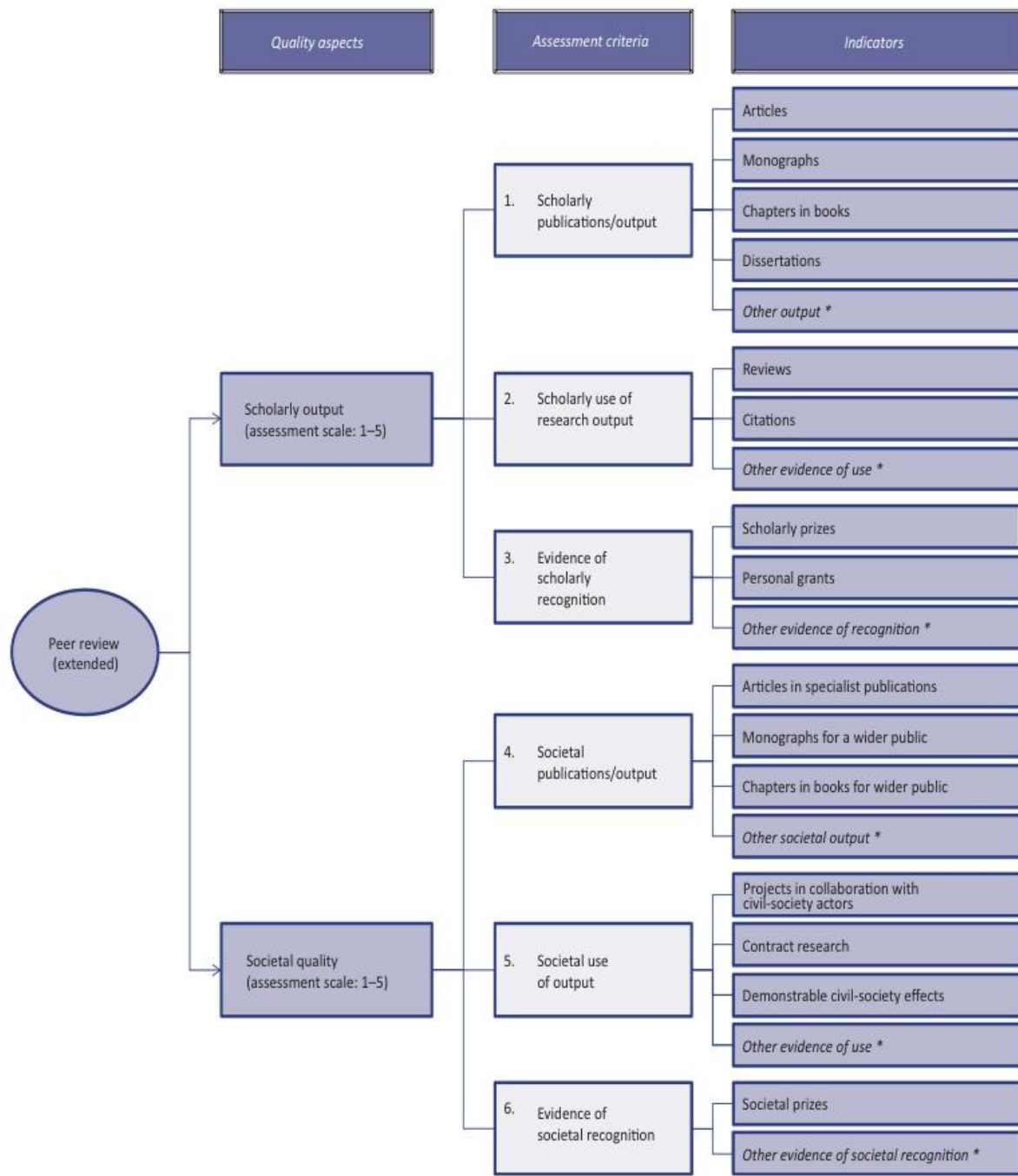
- Creative works
- Architecture journals
- Books and book chapters
- Exhibitions
- Awards and prizes
- Competitions

- **Esteem indicators (quality and**

esteem): ranked journals, membership of panel, recipient of a prestigious prize, recipient of a nationally competitive research fellowship, ...

4. Flanders - European countries

- Specificity of financing system: essentially based on **output**
- Bibliometric vs peer reviewed/assessment panel model
- **how to assign value / esteem?**
- **output + esteem + environment + ...?**
- Quid in N, G, F, Sc. countries, ...?



* discipline-specific/context-specific indicators



... ongoing process ...

Thank you !