

**Advisory Principles from Delegates Meeting
Compiled by Gordon Mathews, based on insights from
WCAA Delegates Meeting of 7 Feb. 2023.**

Statements of General Principle Regarding the Evaluation of Anthropologists

- 1) Local/regional anthropological publication and international anthropological publication should be treated as being of equal value. Place of publication should not serve as a basis for ranking publications.
- 2) Anthropological publication in non-English languages and anthropological publications in the English language should be treated as being of equal value. Language of publication should not serve as a basis for ranking publications.
- 3) The above two principles, while often endorsed as ideals, are in practice often ignored by hiring committees and review because of the higher status given to Anglo-American journals and English-language publications. This must change over time.
- 4) The consequences of Anglo-American hegemony in university rankings and citation indexes are that anthropologists around the world send their “best” manuscripts to Anglo-American journals, but Anglo-American anthropologists only very rarely send their manuscripts to non-Anglo-American journals. This must change over time.
- 5) Citation indexes favor Anglo-American journals. This must change over time.
- 6) Exclusively relying on a global citation index such as SSCI or Web of Science or Scielo in the evaluation of anthropologists is inappropriate. Any hierarchy of anthropological publications should be done by anthropologists themselves within their own society.
- 7) Anthropological research is presented in monographs, reports, popular books, films, and various other forms. These should all be considered in anthropological evaluation.
- 8) Evaluating anthropologists by the metrics of the hard sciences, or by any set of metrics outside the discipline of anthropology is inappropriate.
- 9) Anthropologists worldwide, and scholars worldwide, need to be educated to shed the underlying assumption that “West is Best” in publication and employment venues.