

Game of Funds: Efficiency and Policy Implications of the United Kingdom Research Excellence Framework

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Abstract : Research publication is an essential output of universities because it not only promotes university recognition, it also receives government funding. The history of university research culture has been one of 'publish or perish' and universities have consistently encouraged their academics and researchers to produce research articles in reputable journals in order to maintain a level of competitiveness. In turn, the United Kingdom (UK) government funding is determined by the number and quality of research publications. This paper aims to investigate on whether more government funding leads to more quality papers. To that end, the paper employs a Network DEA model to evaluate the UK higher education performance over a period. Sources of efficiency are also determined via second stage regression analysis.

Keywords : efficiency, higher education, network data envelopment analysis, universities

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