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Mirror, mirror on the wall : a closer look at the top ten in university rankings

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Abstract

Notwithstanding criticisms and discussions on methodological grounds, much attention has been and still will be paid to university rankings for various reasons. The present paper uses published information of the 10 top-ranking universities of the world and demonstrates the problem of spurious precision. In view of the problem of measurement error inherent in highly fallible educational data, grouping is suggested as an alternative to ranking to avoid precision which is more imagined than real. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)