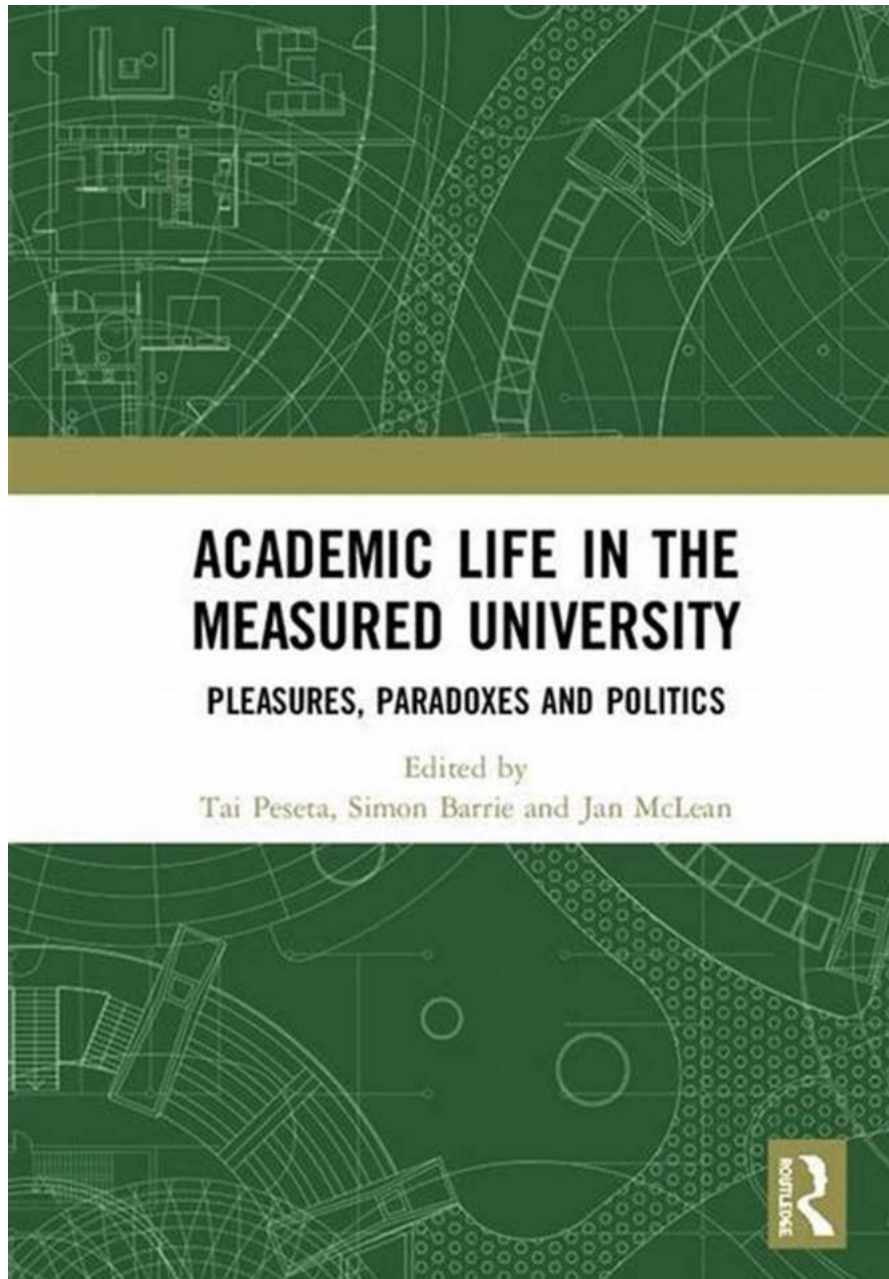


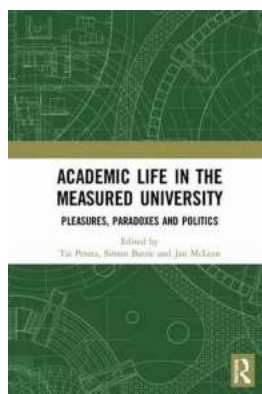
Is Academic Life in the Measured University Really Measuring Up?



Welcome to the world of academia, where knowledge is sought, wisdom is imparted, and dreams are nurtured. But is academic life truly reflecting these ideals in the modern era?

The Rise of the Measured University

Over the past decade, universities around the world have increasingly embraced a culture of measurement, driven by the need to provide quantifiable evidence of their academic performance. This culture has permeated every aspect of academic life, from research output to student evaluations, shaping the way universities and academics operate.



Academic Life in the Measured University: Pleasures, Paradoxes and Politics

by Chanda Hahn (1st Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3459 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Print length	: 204 pages



But what exactly does it mean to be part of the Measured University? How does it affect the daily lives of those involved?

The Quest for Metrics

In the Measured University, metrics reign supreme. From publication counts to citation indices, academics are constantly evaluated and ranked based on a wide range of indicators. The pressure to produce measurable results can be immense, leading to a focus on quantity over quality.

As a consequence, researchers may find themselves prioritizing high-impact, prestigious journals over more niche, but potentially groundbreaking outlets. The pursuit of citations and impact factors becomes a primary goal, often overshadowing the pursuit of true knowledge and innovation.

The Struggle for Funding

In this age of measurement, securing funding is more competitive than ever. Grant applications and research proposals must align with the latest trends, promising tangible outcomes within tight timelines. The pressure to conform to funding criteria can stifle creativity and discourage risky, yet potentially transformative, research ideas.

Additionally, the Measured University may prioritize market-driven disciplines over humanities and social sciences, as the former tend to yield more immediate and quantifiable results. This institutional bias can have long-term consequences, compromising the diversity and breadth of knowledge produced.

Student Experience and Mental Health

While universities aim to provide a stimulating learning environment, the pressure to perform in the Measured University can take a toll on student well-being. Students may feel the weight of expectation, struggling to balance academic demands with personal growth and development.

The of continuous assessment and standardized testing places an added burden on students, leaving little room for exploration and reflection. As a result, mental health issues such as anxiety and depression are on the rise, highlighting the need to reassess the impact of academic measurement on student experience.

Navigating the Measured University

Despite the challenges posed by the Measured University, academics and students alike have found ways to navigate this new landscape. Collaboration, interdisciplinary research, and a focus on mentorship and personal growth have emerged as important strategies to counterbalance the pressures of metrics.

Furthermore, universities are starting to acknowledge the limitations of a solely quantitative approach to academic evaluation. Efforts to incorporate qualitative indicators, such as peer-reviewed feedback and personal impact statements, are gaining traction, promoting a more holistic understanding of academic contributions.

Looking Towards the Future

As the Measured University continues to evolve, it is crucial to reassess its impact on the core values of academia. Are we truly fostering a culture of critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, and lifelong learning? Or are we merely churning out numbers, producing knowledge that serves only to fulfill predetermined metrics?

By critically examining the role and influence of measurement in academic life, we can strive to strike a balance between accountability and intellectual freedom. It is through such introspection and dialogue that the authentic spirit of academic pursuit will be preserved, ensuring that the Measured University truly measures up to its noble ideals.

Academic Life in the Measured University: Pleasures, Paradoxes and Politics

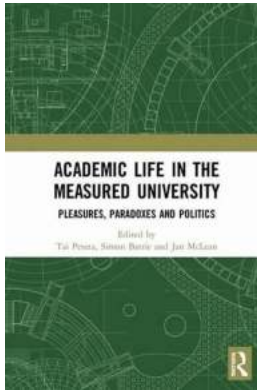
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While a life in academia is still one bestowed with enormous privilege and opportunity, on the inside, its cracks and fragility have been on display for some time. We see evidence of this in researchers bemoaning time spent applying for grants rather than doing research; teachers frustrated at the ways student feedback data are deployed to feed judgements about them; and doctoral students realising that they have little chance of securing full-time academic work. Yet in the public policy domain, the opposite appears true: academics left to their own devices in their elite ivory towers, rarely ever do enough.

This collection addresses the fact that academic life deserves to be rigorously researched. Its emphasis on the measured university traces how academic life had ceded itself to the logics of perverse measures, and raises questions about whether the contemporary university may well have become too measured to adequately counter the political times now upon us. The contributors explore the ways in which measurement inhabits paradoxical positions in these spaces. It sketches the contours and consequences of mismeasurement, including the personal costs to academic staff. It examines our desires and fumbled efforts at institutional transformation, and it puts on display our own ethical conduct. The

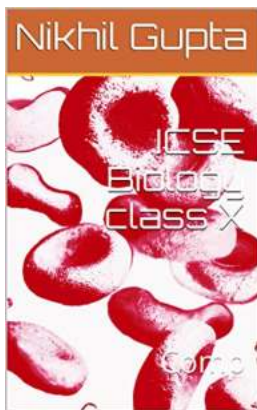
collection concludes with a call to chart a course for a revitalized moral economy of academic labour.

This book was originally published as a special issue of Higher Education Research & Development.



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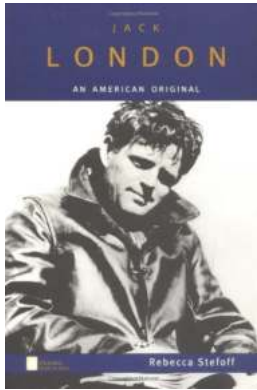
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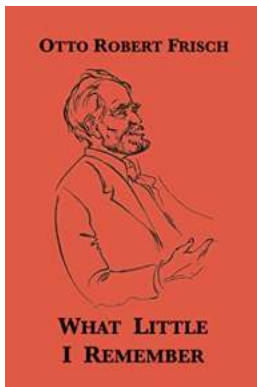
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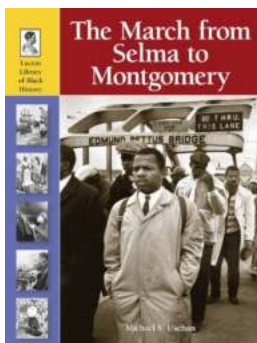
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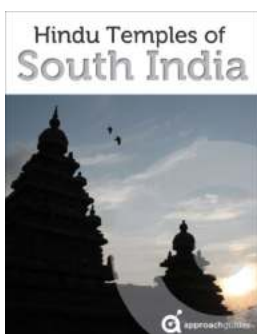
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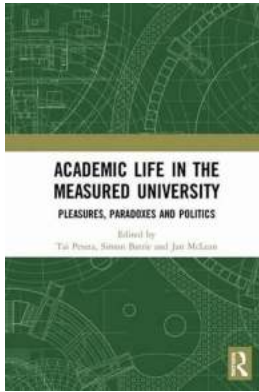
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