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Elements in Publishing and Book Culture

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AUTHORSHIP AND PUBLISHING IN THE HUMANITIES

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Authorship and Publishing in the Humanities

Elements in Publishing and Book Culture

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ABSTRACT: What is the point of publishing in the humanities? This Element provides an answer to this question. It builds on a unique set of quantitative and qualitative data to understand why humanities scholars publish. It looks at both basic characteristics such as publication numbers, formats, and perceptions, and differences of national academic settings alongside the influences of the UK's Research Excellence Framework and the German *Exzellenzinitiative*. The data involve a survey of more than 1,000 humanities scholars and social scientists in the UK and Germany, allowing for a comprehensive comparative study and a series of qualitative interviews. The resulting critique provides scholars and policymakers with an accessible and critical work about the particularities of authorship and publishing in the humanities. It also gives an account of the problems and struggles of humanities scholars in contributing to discourse and being recognised for their intellectual work.

KEYWORDS: publish or perish, Research Excellence Framework, *Exzellenzinitiative*, authorship and publishing, humanities

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Contents

1	Understanding Authorship and Publishing	1
2	How and How Much Scholars Publish: Basic Characteristics of Publishing	21
3	Publish or Perish: The Empirical Reality of the Pressure to Publish	65
4	Being REFable: The UK’s REF and Germany’s Traditionalism	95
5	Publishing as Production and the Meaning of Authorship	120
	Appendix	132
	References	136