

Are you acquainted with “Predatory” conference?



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A PARAJITA Alam has been working as a senior lecturer at a renowned university. One day, she checked her email and got an invitation to attend an international conference as a keynote speaker. She was overwhelmed to see this email because she is far from becoming an expert in her field. She pondered how she could be selected as a keynote speaker of an international conference. The organiser of this conference also offered her two-day trip which will mix with spectacular sightseeing and superb hospitality. However, she needs to pay the registration fee which was so expensive. And yet attending an international conference as a keynote speaker can be one of the highlights of her career. So she was perplexed – whether to join the conference or not.

I am quite sure many academicians face this type of circumstances. If you are not aware of this “Predatory” term, you will get confused or can be cheated. Dictionary meaning of the word *Predatory* is living by killing and eating other animals or wrongly harming or using others for pleasure or profit.

In academic world, *predatory* conferences have been gaining popularity. Thus, the term “*predatory*” publisher was coined by Jeffrey Beall, scholarly Communications Librarian at the University of Colorado, Denver in 2010. Beall maintains a list of suspected “*predatory*” publishers on his website, you can find more information using this link

<https://web.archive.org/web/2017011172309/https://scholarlyoa.com/individual-journals/>. However, many scholarly communications experts choose to use the terms “questionable” or “low-quality.”

Predatory conferences continue to employ and profit from those researchers who are eager to present their research at an ‘international’ conference. The conferences tend to be poorly organised or low-quality as well as with little or without peer review of submitted research. In addition, the organisers have a tendency to promote the sightseeing or major attractive cities such as London, Paris, Dubai etc. and hospitality things rather than promoting academic value of the conference.

It is hard to distinguish *predatory* conferences but you should aware and think about the following points:

- Check who are the organisers; many organisers who arrange hundreds of events every year across multiple subject areas, that is absurd. Do the organisers arrange multiple events in the same day/week/month?
- Is the conference is being hosted by a university? Is this university advertising the conference on its website?
- If the conference is organised by a commercial company, then investigate about the partnership with a reputable institution or publisher.
- Is the theme of the conference clear and specific? Is the content of the conference relevant to your field?
- Does the conference prefer the academic value of the conference more than the sightseeing or hospitality matter?
- Assess the content of conference website. Does the website appear efficient about your subject? Look carefully at the spelling or grammar of the contents in the conference website.
- Find the full contact details (email, phone and postal address) so that you can contact them to ask questions?

The above points are important to distinguish *predatory* conferences from real international conference, and academicians should be aware of it.

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