



HAL
open science

Science vs Propaganda: The case of Russia

Oleksii Plastun, Inna Makarenko, Tetiana Berger-Hrynova

► **To cite this version:**

Oleksii Plastun, Inna Makarenko, Tetiana Berger-Hrynova. Science vs Propaganda: The case of Russia. Sumy State University; CNRS. 2024, pp.15. hal-04669865v2

HAL Id: hal-04669865

<https://hal.science/hal-04669865v2>

Submitted on 13 Oct 2024

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License

ANALYTICAL REPORT

Science vs Propaganda: The case of Russia

Alex Plastun

Sumy State University, Ukraine

Inna Makarenko

Sumy State University, Ukraine

University of Helsinki, Finland

Tetiana Hryn'ova

CNRS, France

October 2024

This note highlights how Russia uses the international academic sphere—including scientometric databases, international publishers, and international organizations—as a propaganda tool to legitimize its appropriation of Ukrainian territories.

Science vs Propaganda: The case of Russia

Following unprovoked and unjustified aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, numerous sanctions targeting the Russian Federation, Russian companies, and Russian individuals across various sectors, including the military, economy, culture, sports, and science have been implemented. Currently, over 22,000 different sanctions are active against Russia, the highest number in human history. Russia is now more than three times more sanctioned than Iran and more than five times more than Syria or North Korea (<https://www.castellum.ai/russia-sanctions-dashboard>).

The application of sanctions in the field of science is particularly controversial due to a myth that science is outside of politics. Despite the ongoing debate and opposition (both silent and vocal) against sanctions, many measures have been

adopted. These include funding restrictions, halting collaborations with Russian institutions and closing joint projects, imposing restrictions and limitations on equipment and reagents, and scientists have refused to participate in scientific conferences and international events organized by Russian institutes.

Despite the above, the existing sanctions against Russian science are insufficient, allowing the Russian scientific community to spread its propaganda through international academic journals and papers. The most commonly observed cases include:

- ***Appropriation of Ukrainian territories***: This involves providing affiliation with the Russian Federation to various Ukrainian regions in editorial boards or academic papers and books.
- ***Spread of Russian propaganda narratives to support its aggression against Ukraine***: This appears in academic papers that justify and support Russia's actions.
- ***Support and justification of aggression by Russian academic organizations***: Notable examples include the so-called [Russian Rectors' letter](#) and statements by the Russian Academy of Sciences and its Presidium. The Academic Council of Lomonosov Moscow State University also issued [a statement in support of the war](#), along with individual academics from institutions like [Saint Petersburg State University](#) and [others](#).

This report focuses on the first case - the legitimization of the annexation of occupied Ukrainian territories by the Russian Federation - within the international academic sphere.

Appropriation of Ukrainian Territories

One of the most common methods of propaganda by Russia in the academic journals is providing affiliation with the Russian Federation to Ukrainian regions, either through institutions of authors or editorial board members, or conference locations or in abstracts and references. This practice is wide-spread on the websites of most international publishers as detailed below.

Study 1: Authors, Journals in the Scopus database and Springer journals

Our investigation includes data from the Scopus database and Springer journals. The most typical illustrations of this method can be found in the screenshots provided in Appendix A (Scopus) and Appendix B (Springer Nature).

The Scopus platform not only allows us to identify individual cases but also provides the means to extract statistics related to the frequency of such situations, proving that this is a systematic issue and not an isolated incident.

Search Algorithm

The search algorithm was as follows: a Ukrainian city of interest is queried. For example, “Donetsk”. This allows us to see the total number of publications affiliated with Donetsk. Next, we filter it with the limitation of the territory “Russian Federation”. This allows us to find the number of publications where Donetsk is affiliated with Russia. In the resulting list an additional search is performed for a mention of “Ukraine” in the affiliation to make sure that the resulting combination is not spurious due to the presence of another institute based in Russia in the author list. Such cases are manually removed from the count.

Here is an example of a search query link for the case of Donetsk: Scopus Search Query for Donetsk:

<https://www.scopus.com/results/results.uri?sort=plf-f&src=s&st1=Donetsk&sid=9f3aa224b52d0904fc105b3f9ec2f63e&sot=b&sdt=b&sl=18&s=AFFILCITY%28Donetsk%29&origin=searchbasic&editSaveSearch=&yearFrom=Before+1960&yearTo=Present&sessionSearchId=9f3aa224b52d0904fc105b3f9ec2f63e&limit=10>

The following Ukrainian territories were used as objects of analysis:

- Donetsk
- Lugansk
- Sevastopol
- Simferopol
- Yalta
- Kerch
- Crimea

- Mariupol

This is not an exhaustive list of Ukrainian territories marked as Russian (other examples include Feodosia, Yevpatoria, Makeevka, Alchevsk, and many others), but for illustrative purposes, this selection is more than sufficient.

Results

The results of our analysis are presented in Table 1. These findings highlight a systematic issue of misrepresenting Ukrainian territories as part of the Russian Federation in academic publications. The fraction of publications affected depends on the duration of the occupation by the Russian Federation and the claimed

annexation date¹. It is over 90% for the cities in Crimea, which were temporarily occupied and claimed to be annexed by Russia in 2014, versus 50% for Donetsk and Lugansk temporarily occupied in 2014 but claimed to be annexed only in 2022. For Mariupol (temporarily occupied by Russia since 2022), it remained zero in 2022 rising to 4% in 2023, which is an unfortunate trend. An interesting case is Kherson, which was briefly occupied for a few months in 2022. No publications affiliated Kherson with the Russian Federation in 2022 and 2023, but in 2024 (two years after it was liberated by Ukraine) two papers published by edpScience appeared in Scopus [1,2]. This is how silent support works. In ten years, we might have a picture similar to Crimean cities in all temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories.

Table 1: Ukrainian Territories Marked as Russian in Scopus

Ukrainian territory/city	2022	2023	% in 2022	% in 2023
Donetsk	154	177		
Donetsk is affiliated with the Russian Federation	16	115	10%	65%
Lugansk	38	46		
Lugansk affiliated as Russian Federation	1	23	3%	50%
Sevastopol (Crimea)	575	633		
Sevastopol affiliated as Russian Federation	556	625	97%	99%
Simferopol (Crimea)	379	444		
Simferopol is affiliated with the Russian Federation	348	413	92%	93%
Yalta (Crimea)	69	81		
Yalta is affiliated with the Russian Federation	60	75	87%	93%
Kerch (Crimea)	27	29		

¹ According to the so-called Constitution of the Russian Federation, both Crimea, Lugansk, Donetsk, Mariupol and Kherson are claimed to be Russian. This annexation is not recognized by the international community. [["General Assembly Adopts Resolution Urging Russian Federation to Withdraw Its Armed Forces from Crimea, Expressing Grave Concern about Rising Military Presence"](#)]. United Nations. 17 December 2018. [Archived](#) from the original.]

Kerch is affiliated with the Russian Federation	19	29	70%	100%
Crimea	11	15		
Crimea is affiliated with the Russian Federation	10	11	91%	73%
Mariupol	100	46		
Mariupol is affiliated with the Russian Federation	0	2	0%	4%

Source: elaborated by authors (in-built Scopus instruments).

Upon our inquiry to Scopus regarding this situation, their response was as follows:

“When displaying third party data in the product, Scopus does not make changes to the data and remains true to the original source and the information and data is shown as such.” In other words, Scopus does not take responsibility for the information provided in its database. This stance implies that Scopus will continue to provide its platform for Russian propaganda.

Scientific entities at the source of mis-affiliations

Main organizations which propagate those mis-affiliations in the Scopus database are detailed in Table 2. At the heart of the problem is that those institutions, which provide affiliations in the occupied territories of Ukraine were created by Russia using the captured Ukrainian scientific infrastructure and often named similarly or the same as the existing Ukrainian institutions-in-exile. This aims to reassure the international scientific community as to the legitimacy of those entities. Russia works to integrate those impostor organizations into the international scientific community through their scientific research (international partnerships², projects and publications), to the detriment of the legal Ukrainian scientific institutions. Many of the institutes on the list have been illegally appropriated by the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS).

In addition, existing institutions from the Russian Federation were encouraged to move or to open branches in the occupied territories to facilitate their integration into the Russian scientific community. One such example shown in Table 2 is Sochi-based Federal State Budgetary Science Enterprise the Institute of Natural and Technical Systems which moved to occupied Sevastopol in 2014 and appropriated two subdivisions of Marine Hydrophysical Institute of NANU:

² For example, in April 2024 [the University of Lucknow signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas, the oldest “Russian” institute of science](#) which was stolen from Ukraine.

Special Design and Technology Bureau and Science and Production Center Ecosi-Hydrophysics. It currently publishes under the name of Institute of Natural and Technical Systems.

Table 2 Main organizations which are used to affiliate Ukrainian territories to Russia, together with a number of affected publications listed by Scopus for 2023.³

Impostor Institutes created by Russia (different spellings exist)	Original Ukrainian Institutes	Changed location	Publications in 2023	Locations
V.I. Vernadsky Crimean Federal University (2014), under sanctions	V.I. Vernadsky Taurida National University currently in Kyiv	Y	376 (355/21)	Simferopol, Yalta, Crimea
Sevastopol State University (2014), under sanctions	Sevastopol National Technical University; Sevastopol City Humanitarian University; Sevastopol National University of Nuclear Energy and Industry; Sevastopol Faculty of Maritime Transport and Sevastopol Maritime College of the Kyiv State Academy of Water Transport (located in Kyiv); Sevastopol branches of South Ukrainian National Pedagogical University (located in Odesa) and Donetsk National University of Economics and Trade (located in Kryvyi Rih)	N	223	Sevastopol, Crimea
Marine Hydrophysical Institute of RAS (2014)	Marine Hydrophysical Institute of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NANU)	N	222	Sevastopol, Crimea
A. O. Kovalevsky Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas of RAS (2014)	A. O. Kovalevsky Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas of NANU renamed in 2014 into Institute of Marine Biology of NANU , currently in Odesa	Y	185	Sevastopol, Crimea

³ Notes: The approximate date of impostor institute creation is given in brackets, if known, together with its current sanctions status. Last two columns show the number of publications in Scopus in 2023 together with their locations which they affiliate to the Russian Federation.

Donetsk National Medical University/Donetsk State Medical University (2014)	Donetsk National Medical University of NANU currently in Kropyvnytskyi	Y	32 (19/13)	Donetsk
Nikitsky Botanical Gardens—National Scientific Center of RAS (2014)	Nikitsky Botanical Gardens - National Scientific Center of National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine	N	29	Yalta, Crimea
Donetsk State University/Donetsk National University (2014)	Vasyl' Stus Donetsk National University which was moved to Vinnytsia	Y	28 (17/11)	Donetsk
Kerch State Maritime Technological University (2014), under sanctions	Kerch State Maritime Technological University	N	25	Kerch, Crimea
All-Russian National Research Institute of Winegrowing and Winemaking “Magarach,” RAS (2014), under sanctions	Institute of grapes and wine "Magarach" of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine	N	25	Yalta, Crimea
A. A. Galkin Donetsk Institute for Physics and Engineering (2016)	A. A. Galkin Donetsk Institute for Physics and Engineering of NANU , currently in Kyiv	Y	24	Donetsk
Institute of Archaeology of Crimea (2014)	Crimean branch of the Institute of Archaeology of NANU , currently in Odesa	Y	24	Simferopol, Crimea
Research Institute of Agriculture of Crimea (2014), under sanctions	Crimean Agrotechnological University , currently in Kyiv	Y	22	Simferopol, Crimea
Institute of Natural and Technical Systems (originally Sochi-based Federal State Budgetary Science Enterprise the Institute of Natural and Technical Systems, 2014), under sanctions	Special Design and Technology Bureau and Science and Production Center Ecosi-Hydrophysics of Marine Hydrophysical Institute of NANU	n/a	21	Sevastopol, Crimea
Donetsk National Technical University (2014)	Donetsk National Technical University currently in Lutsk	Y	15	Donetsk

Lugansk State Pedagogical University (2020)	Taras Shevchenko National University of Luhansk currently in Poltava	Y	9	Lugansk
Crimean Astrophysical Observatory of RAS (2015)	Research Institute "Crimean Astrophysical Observatory" , Ministry of Science of Ukraine	N	9	Nauchny, Katsiveli, Simeiz, Yalta, Crimea

Publishers' Role

Databases, like Scopus, do not correct materials provided to them by journals (although they can decide if to host the illegitimate information on their websites or not). The issue is that journals choose to accept publications with problematic affiliations. Table 3 breaks down the publications in Scopus for the year 2023 shown in Table 1 by publisher. Notably over 30% of the affiliations to Russia per city are propagated through the international publishers, heavily dominated by Springer Nature/Pleiades (Germany/USA), followed by MDPI (Switzerland), EDP Science (France), IEEE (USA) and Elsevier (Netherlands). Individual publications appeared in ASV Publishing, CSIRO, MM Publishing, Science Press, Wolters Kluwer Medknow Publications and World Scientific.

It is not surprising that [Springer Nature/Pleiades Publishing partnership](#) leads the list: together with Pleiades subsidiary Allerton Press, they are the leading global provider of English language journals from the former USSR, publishing over 200 such English-language journals (emanating from over 270 local language journals) on the Springer website.

Table 3 Number of publications by Publisher in Scopus in 2023, affiliating Ukrainian cities to the Russian Federation.

Scopus, 2023	Sevas topol	Simferopol	Donetsk	Yalta	Kerch	Lugansk	Crimea	Mariupol
Total	625	413	115	75	29	23	11	2
Springer Nature, Germany/Pleiades, USA	194	64	40	15	7	10	9	
MDPI, Switzerland	65	25	5	12	2	1		2
EDP Science,	43	32	4	11	8	1		

France						
IEEE, USA	37	8	3	6	7	1
Elsevier, Netherlands/Saunders, USA	24	9	3	0	1	0
SPIE, France	13					
AIP Publishing, USA	11	14		4	1	1
Wiley, USA	10	1				
Taylor and Francis, UK	3					
EcoVector, Russia	3	2				
Frontiers, Switzerland	3					
IOP, UK	1	1		3		
Cambridge, UK		4				
Bentham, UAE		2				1
Science and Innovation Publishing House, USA		5	1	3		

In Appendix C, you can find a list of journals published by Springer Nature where we have detected cases of Ukrainian territories being marked as Russian. This is not the whole list but a selection of examples. We stopped at the letter “P” and explored only journals with international members on the editorial board. Even with these limitations, we identified 50 journals. As can be seen, this is not a coincidence but a system. The number of cases is much higher because there are journals with dozens of instances of Ukrainian territories marked as Russian.

Another major source of problematic contributions is proceedings of conferences held in Russia. These were published by all major publishers, e.g [IOP](#), [PoS/SISSA](#), AIP, edpScience⁴, etc. Some of them have continued to publish not only individual contributions but also proceedings of conferences held in Russia even after the full scale invasion. For example:

- [edpScience BIO Web of Conferences](#) published 3 in 2022, 5 in 2023, 3 in 2024;
- PoS/SISSA published two in 2022 only: [DLCP2022](#) and [MUTO2022](#);
- AIP Publishing: [ICER 2021](#) (2022), [SMARTICAE](#) (2023), [Oil and Gas Engineering](#) (2023), [MIP: Engineering-IV-2022](#) (2024), [MIST: Aerospace-V](#) (2024), etc.

This list is not exhaustive.

Below are a few selected examples of contributions to those conferences which affiliate of Ukrainian territories with Russia:

- APEC-IV-2021: [2022 IOP Conf. Ser.: Earth Environ. Sci. 990 012024](#): Ukrainian city of Sevastopol is affiliated with the Russian Federation
- MIP: Engineering-IV-2022 [AIP Conf. Proc. 3021, 070022 \(2024\)](#): where Ukrainian city of Sevastopol is marked as Russia;
- SMARTICAE: [AIP Conf. Proc. 2910, 020020 \(2023\)](#) where Ukrainian city of Simferopol is marked as the Russian Federation;
- MIST: Aerospace-V 2023 [AIP Conf. Proc. 3102, 020035 \(2024\)](#) where Ukrainian city of Makeevka is marked as Russia.

The issue spans various disciplines, including Chemistry, Physics, Astronomy, Biology, Engineering, Mathematics, Entomology, Physiology, Medicine, and Ichthyology. Traces of Russian propaganda can be found everywhere in the academic sphere.

Some publishers are aware of potential issues, and highlight them in some of their publications, as noted in Table 4 below. Unfortunately these are not applied systematically neither in the case of those publishers nor across the industry.

Table 4 Examples of publisher notes in articles with illegitimate author affiliations

Publisher	Source	Comment
Springer, Germany	<i>Russ. Meteorol. Hydrol.</i> 48 , 871–878 (2023),	“Allerton Press remains neutral with regard to

⁴ Over 30 conferences published in BIO Web of Conferences only between 2017 and 2021.

	https://link.springer.com/article/10.3103/S1068373923100060	jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.”
IOP Publishing, UK	<i>Astrophysical J.</i> 891 170 (2020), https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.3847/1538-4357/ab765d	“While the AAS journals adhere to and respect UN resolutions regarding the designations of territories (available at http://www.un.org/press/en), it is our policy to use the affiliations provided by our authors on published articles.”

It is worth mentioning the example of a responsible position taken by the international publisher Brill regarding the Russian journal “Scrinium.” Right after the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Brill contacted the chief editor of “Scrinium” directly to clarify his position regarding the war and relationship with the RAS. After successfully ensuring compliance, Brill decided to continue publishing “Scrinium.” Additionally, Brill ensures that it does not accept funding from the Russian Federation.

Study 2: Editorial Boards

During our investigation, we identified several instances where Ukrainian cities were incorrectly marked as part of the Russian Federation in editorial boards. Below are a few examples:

- [Journal “Russian Journal of Coordination Chemistry”](#) (published by Springer). Editorial member Victor F. Shul’gin is affiliated with the Ukrainian city of Simferopol, but the journal lists it as part of the Russian Federation.
- [Journal “Water Resources”](#) (published by Springer). Editorial member Sergey K. Konovalov is affiliated with the Ukrainian city of Sevastopol, but the journal lists it as part of the Russian Federation.
- [Journal “Construction Materials and Products”](#) (indexed by Scopus): Editorial board member Oleg Nikolaevich Zaytsev is affiliated with the Ukrainian city of Simferopol, but the journal lists it as part of the Russian Federation;
- [Journal “Ecosystem Transformation”](#) (indexed by Scopus): Associate Editor Irina I. Rudneva is affiliated with the Ukrainian city of Sevastopol, but the journal lists it as part of the Russian Federation.

- [*Journal “Arkheologiya Evraziiskikh Stepei”*](#) (indexed by Scopus): Executive Editor Sergei G. Bocharov is affiliated with the Ukrainian city of Sevastopol, but the journal lists it as part of the Russian Federation. The same misrepresentation applies to Editorial Board member Vladimir P. Kirilko.
- [*Journal “Vestnik Vosstanovitel'noj Mediciny”*](#) (indexed by Scopus): Editorial board member Vladimir Vladimirovich Ezhov is affiliated with the Ukrainian city of Yalta, but the journal lists it as part of the Russian Federation.

Study 3: Conferences held in the occupied territories of Ukraine

In the past ten years, a number of international publishers accepted and spread proceedings of conferences held in the occupied territories of Ukraine (which are advertised on their websites as part of the Russian Federation). Here are a few examples:

- Yearly International Scientific Workshops in Memory of Professor V.P. Sarantsev “Problems of Colliders and Charged Particle Accelerators” are organized by the Joint Institute of Nuclear Research (Russia) in the occupied Alushta, Crimea. The proceedings for 2017 were published by Springer in the JINR-run journal [Physics of Particles and Nuclei Letters Volume 15, Issue 7 \(2018\)](#).
- The International Conference on Modern Trends in Manufacturing Technologies and Equipment (ICMTMTE) was regularly held in the occupied Sevastopol, Crimea. Its proceedings for
 - 2017-2019 were published in [MATEC Web of Conferences Volume 129 \(2017\)](#), [Volume 224 \(2018\)](#) and [Volume 298 \(2019\)](#) by EDPScience (which has as partners French Physics Society, French Chemical Society, French Optics Society, etc);
 - 2020 were published in [2020 IOP Conf. Ser.: Mater. Sci. Eng. 971 011001](#) by the IOPScience (the publishing company of the Institute of Physics from the UK);
 - 2021 were published in [AIP Conf. Proc. 2503, 010001 \(2022\)](#) in October 2022, half a year after the start of the full-scale invasion, by AIP Publishing (subsidiary of the American Institute of Physics, USA).
- The International Scientific-Practical Conference “Modern Trends of Science, Innovative Technologies in Viticulture and Winemaking” has been regularly held in the occupied Yalta, Crimea. Its proceedings for 2021-2023 were published [BIO Web of Conferences, Volume 39 \(2021\)](#), [BIO Web of](#)

[Conferences, Volume 53 \(2022\)](#) and [BIO Web of Conferences, Volume 78 \(2023\)](#) by EDPScience. Two of them were published after the start of the full-scale invasion.

Study 4: Expanding the Issue Beyond Scopus database

All the key issues discovered in our study for the publications listed in the Scopus database are also true for other participants in the academic publication industry, including:

- Web of Science / Clarivate
- International organizations (e.g., ISSN)
- Repositories and archives of preprints and academic papers (e.g. arXiv, SSRN, inspireHEP, etc)
- Academic Social Nets (e.g. ResearchGate)

International organizations: the case of the ISSN

The ISSN, an international organization responsible for the registration of academic journals, has decided not to adhere to ISO 3166. As a result, it provides registration to Russian journals situated in occupied Ukrainian territories (Crimea, Donetsk, and Lugansk regions). No compliance measures have been taken, and no sanctions have been imposed against these journals for spreading propaganda.

SSRN

The Social Science Research Network (SSRN) is a repository for preprints devoted to the rapid dissemination of scholarly research in social science. It currently provides no compliance and affiliates Ukrainian territories with Russia, e.g. in [papers](#) and for [authors](#) (in these examples Ukrainian city of Sevastopol is marked as part of the Russian Federation). It also directly spreads Russian propaganda as discussed in Case 5.

Arxiv/inspireHEP

arXiv is a free distribution service and an open-access archive for nearly 2.4 million scholarly articles. Below are a few examples of cases when Ukrainian territories are marked as Russian in either references or author affiliations:

- <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2108.11166>, where Ukrainian city of Sevastopol is marked as Russian Federation in author affiliation
- <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2311.10570>, <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2311.14287>, where Ukrainian city of Alushta is marked as Russian Federation in references

- <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2203.09956>, <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2310.20422>, <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2207.09544>, where Ukrainian city of Simferopol is marked as Russian Federation in author affiliations

Although it is not possible to find such articles easily through arxiv search feature, some additional cases have been identified through [inspireHEP database](#) search for “Crimea”, “Sevastopol” and “Simferopol”, in which over 70 publications with mis-affiliations can be found. Since inspireHEP covers only a limited number of categories in arXiv, the total number of problematic entries present could be significantly higher.

Academic Social Networks (the case of ResearchGate)

ResearchGate provides affiliation with Russia to Ukrainian territories, both for the case of authors (<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Vadim-Kramar-2> or <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Semen-Osipovskiy>, where Ukrainian city of Sevastopol is marked as Russian Federation) and papers (Kebkal, Konstantin & Kabanov, Aleksey & Kramar, Oleg & Dimin, Maksim & Abkerimov, Timur & Kramar, Vadim & Kebkal-Akbari, Veronika. (2024). Practical Steps towards Establishing an Underwater Acoustic Network in the Context of the Marine Internet of Things. Applied Sciences. 14. 3527. 10.3390/app14083527, where Ukrainian city of Sevastopol is marked as Russian Federation).

Study 5: Examples of academic studies which propagate Russian propaganda narratives in support of aggression against Ukraine

During our investigation, we observed hundreds of cases of spread of Russian propaganda narratives and support of aggression against Ukraine in academic papers published in both Russian and international journals. Some examples are provided in Table 5.

Table 5. Russian Propaganda in Academic Papers: Selected Cases indexed in Scopus or published by international publishers

Journal Title	Example of propaganda
Russian Social Science Review, published by Taylor and Francis, UK	A justification of the legality of the Crimea annexation
Eurasian Geography and Economics, published by Taylor and Francis, UK	A justification of the Crimea annexation
Public Health and Life Environment, published by Federal Center for Hygiene and Epidemiology of the Russian Federation	Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics, former Donetsk and Lugansk regions), Zaporozhye and Kherson regions are mentioned and discussed as

	parts of Russian Federation (found through Scopus)
Almanac of Clinical Medicine, Published by EcoVector, Russia	Ukrainian city of Donetsk is mentioned as a part of Russian Federation (found through Scopus)
Kutafin Law Review, published by Kutafin Moscow State Law University, Russia	Justifies so called DNR and LNR (found through Scopus)
Psychology and Law, published by Moscow State University of Psychology and Education, Russia	So called Donetsk People’s Republic is mentioned instead of Donetsk Region of Ukraine (found through Scopus)
RUSI Journal, published by Taylor and Francis, UK	A propaganda of the Crimea annexation

Another example is a yearly ebook entitled [“The Territories of the Russian Federation”](#) published by Taylor & Francis which “includes surveys covering the annexed (and disputed) territories of Crimea and Sevastopol” (although they are marked as such). Taylor & Francis reprints in its Journal ["Welding International"](#) papers from Russian-language Journal ["Сварочное Производство" \(Svarochnoe Proizvodstvo\)](#), which is promoted on its website to [“the defense industries in terms of dynamic rearmament.”](#) Taylor & Francis responded to our request for comment: “We cannot comment on T&F’s contractual relationships publicly.”

Also, there are cases with direct support of Russian aggression against Ukraine and annexation of Ukrainian territories present in the SSRN repository. For example: Burke, John J. A. and Panina-Burke, Svetlana, *The Reunification of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol with the Russian Federation: Logic Dictating Borders* (June 2, 2017). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2979268> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2979268> where the following is mentioned (a direct quote): “Crimea and the City of Sevastopol justifiably separated from Ukraine and reunified with the Russian Federation in 2014.” Overall hundreds of cases are observed.

Conclusions

This note highlights how Russia uses the international academic sphere (scientometric databases, international publishers, and international organizations) as a vehicle for legitimization of its appropriation of Ukrainian territories. It is important that the international scientific community put an end to this misuse of its resources. In particular, the academic journals, publishers and scientometric databases should monitor the material published on their websites to prevent the publication, indexing and display of the Russian propaganda related to its








appropriation of the Ukrainian territories and to sanction the organizations and authors who produce propaganda. By ensuring responsibility and accountability, the academic community can protect the integrity of scholarly work and uphold the principles of truth and objectivity in research.

Appendix A

The Ukrainian city of Simferopol is mentioned as part of the Russian Federation by Russian journal “Reviews on Clinical Pharmacology and Drug Therapy” on the site of Scopus (Elsevier)

Reviews on Clinical Pharmacology and Drug Therapy • Открытый доступ • Том 21, Выпуск 4, Страницы 357 - 366 • 2023

Tissue oxidative metabolism and microhemodynamics of the skin in rats exposed to stress factors of different durations and combinations

Ravaeva, Marina Yu.^a  ; Cheretaev, Igor V.^a  ;
Chuyan, Elena N.^a  ; Galenko-Yaroshevskii, Pavel A.^b  ;
Dzheldubaeva, Elviza R.^a  ; Mironyuk, Irina S.^a 
 Сохранить всех в список авторов

^a V.I. Vernadsky Crimean Federal University, Simferopol, Russian Federation

^b Kuban State Medical University, Krasnodar, Russian Federation

1 48th percentile
Цитата в Scopus [Просмотреть все параметры >](#)

 [Просмотр PDF](#)  [Опции полного текста](#)  [Экспорт](#) 

<https://www.scopus.com/record/display.uri?eid=2-s2.0-85184896742&origin=resultslist&sort=plf-f&src=s&sid=4410ad20f3619bc208c3fbe300355ebd&sot=b&sdt=b&s=DOI%2810.17816%2FRCF609553%29&sl=23&sessionSearchId=4410ad20f3619bc208c3fbe300355ebd&relpos=0>

Appendix B

The Ukrainian city of Sevastopol is mentioned as part of the Russian Federation by Russian journal “Bulletin of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Physics” published by Springer Nature

SPRINGER LINK Log in

Find a journal | Publish with us | Track your research | Cart

Home > Bulletin of the Russian Academy of Sciences: Physics > Article

Automated Way of Calculating Gas Emissions in Shallow-Water Methane Seeps Using a Passive Method

Published: 21 March 2021
Volume 85, pages 206–209, (2021)

T. V. Malakhova
Kovalevsky Institute of the Biology of the Southern Seas, Russian Academy of Sciences, 299011, Sevastopol, Russia

[View author publications](#) | You can also search for this author in [PubMed](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

I. N. Ivanova, A. A. Budnikov, **T. V. Malakhova** & Yu. A. Iakimychev

52 Accesses | 2 Citations | [Explore all metrics](#) →

Abstract

An algorithm is developed that allows automatic calculation of the number of gas bubbles seeping from a point source. The algorithm is based on an analysis of recorded acoustic signals generated by the bubbles. The algorithm is tested under field and laboratory conditions. It can be used to calculate gas flows during long-term sessions of monitoring natural methane seeps.

Access this article

[Log in via an institution](#) →

[Buy article PDF 39,95 €](#)

Price includes VAT (Netherlands)
Instant access to the full article PDF.

Rent this article via [DeepDyve](#) ↗

[Institutional subscriptions](#) →

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.3103/S1062873821010135>

Appendix C

The list of 50 Springer Journals spreading the Russian propaganda

#	Title	Link with example
1	Chemical and Petroleum Engineering	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10556-018-0385-3
2	Applied Magnetic Resonance	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00723-015-0723-y
3	Astronomy Reports	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S1063772914120117
4	Astrophysical Bulletin	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S1990341319040114
5	Atmospheric and Oceanic Optics	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S1024856023060052
6	Automation and Remote Control	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S0005117919120099
7	Biochemistry (Moscow)	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S000629792008012X
8	Bulletin of Experimental Biology and Medicine	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10517-022-05381-x
9	Bulletin of the Russian Academy of Sciences: Physics	https://link.springer.com/article/10.3103/S1062873818030346
10	Colloid Journal	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S1061933X22040111
11	Contemporary Problems of Ecology	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S1995425524700161
12	Differential Equations	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S0012266123040067
13	Doklady Biochemistry and Biophysics	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S1607672922010045
14	Doklady Biological Sciences	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S0012496621060053
15	Doklady Mathematics	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S1064562424701965
16	Entomological Review	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S0013873819080189
17	Eurasian Soil Science	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S1064229322700053
18	Geochemistry International	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S0016702922020082
19	Geotectonics	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S0016852118040027
20	Glass Physics and Chemistry	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S1087659622600223
21	High Energy Chemistry	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S0018143923010137
22	Human Physiology	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S0362119717030057
23	Inland Water Biology	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S1995082923050085
24	Inorganic Materials: Applied Research	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S2075113316020076
25	Journal of Analytical Chemistry	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S106193482305012X
26	Journal of Applied and Industrial Mathematics	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S1990478919030165
27	Journal of Applied Mechanics and Technical Physics	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S0021894418040041

28	Journal of Evolutionary Biochemistry and Physiology	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S0022093019060103
29	Journal of Ichthyology	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S003294522401003X
30	Journal of Mathematical Sciences	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10958-024-06902-x
31	Journal of Mining Science	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S1062739116010137
32	Journal of Russian Laser Research	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10946-019-09797-1
33	Journal of Structural Chemistry	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S0022476619030193
34	Journal of Surface Investigation X-Ray, Synchrotron and Neutron Techniques	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S1027451024020204
35	Journal of Volcanology and Seismology	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S0742046320030033
36	Kinetics and Catalysis	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S002315842401004X
37	Lobachevskii Journal of Mathematics	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S199508022105022X
38	Mathematical Notes	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S0001434623110378
39	Measurement Techniques	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11018-016-0893-5
40	Mechanics of Solids	https://link.springer.com/article/10.3103/S0025654423070105
41	Metallurgist	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11015-023-01483-7
42	Molecular Biology	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S0026893324010114
43	Moscow University Biological Sciences Bulletin	https://link.springer.com/article/10.3103/S0096392522040058
44	Moscow University Chemistry Bulletin	https://link.springer.com/article/10.3103/S0027131421030044
45	Moscow University Geology Bulletin	https://link.springer.com/article/10.3103/S0145875223030122
46	Moscow University Soil Science Bulletin	https://link.springer.com/article/10.3103/S014768742303002X
47	Neuroscience and Behavioral Physiology	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11055-023-01353-4
48	Paleontological Journal	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S0031030120080079
49	Pharmaceutical Chemistry Journal	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11094-020-02166-2
50	Physical Mesomechanics	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1134/S1029959914030047