

PHILOSOPHY

NEGATIVE METRICS IS NOT SUCH A BAD IDEA

7.11.2013

[Nature](#) recently raised an extremely important point

Research metrics are ambiguous — a paper may be cited for positive or negative reasons. Funding agencies and universities focus on positive impact in evaluating research, which increasingly includes alternative metrics. We think that researchers can generate a more complete account of their impact by including seemingly negative indicators — such as confrontations with important people or legal action — as well as those that seem positive.

Yea, yea.

CC-BY-NC Science Surf accessed 12.01.2026 