

PHILOSOPHY

WORTHLESS CITATION COUNTS?

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from [referee3](#)

Even citation counts, the supposed gold standard, are close to worthless: only a tiny fraction of citations represent serious evaluation or validation, whereas the great majority represent nothing more than lazy copying and fashion-following. Two anecdotes demonstrate just how worthless citation counts can be: Some of the most highly-cited researchers in the world have been exposed as [gaming the citation system](#) and as charlatans. [Papers with thousands of citations](#) turn out to be false; obviously not one of those citations represented a serious validation.

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