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Book editors in the social sciences and humanities: an analysis of publication and collaboration patterns of established researchers in Flanders

Truyken L.B. Ossenblok, Raf Guns and Mike Thelwall²
University of Antwerp, and ² University of Wolverhampton (United Kingdom)

ABSTRACT

Book editors in the social sciences and humanities play an important role in their fields but little is known about their typical publication and collaboration patterns. To partially fill this gap, we compare Flemish editors and other researchers, in terms of career stage, productivity, publication types, publications with domestic and international collaboration as well as the number of (international or all) unique co-authors, co-editors and associated book chapter authors. The results show that editors are most established researchers, especially in the social sciences, produce more book chapters and monographs than do other researchers and are more productive. Nevertheless, editors collaborate less than do other researchers, both in terms of publications and in number of co-authors. Including book chapter authors in the editors' collaboration networks makes those networks substantially larger, demonstrating that editors do not mainly call upon authors from their existing collaboration network when choosing book chapter authors in the edited books. Finally, editors seem to co-author with their book chapter authors slightly more often after the publication of the edited book than before.

KEY POINTS

- Editorship is especially important for humanities researchers as more than 10% have edited one or more books.
- Book editing is undertaken by both established and non-established researchers in the humanities and mostly by established researchers in the social sciences
- Book editors are more productive overall than are other researchers
- Adding book chapter authors to a co-authorship network increases its diversity and internationalism
- A minority of editors collaborates with book chapter authors before (28%) or after (36%) the edited book.

INTRODUCTION

Editing books is an important task in some disciplines ^{1, 2}, especially in the Humanities. Despite this, little is known about types of people that edit books, how they fit into their fields, and what impact editing a book has on their careers. In response, this article focuses on publication and collaboration patterns of Flemish book editors, contrasting book editors with other researchers. A book editor in this study is defined as an academic who gathers and harmonizes a collection of book chapters written by different authors which are published in an edited book ³. Typically, the names of the

academic book editors appear on the cover of the edited book. These editors presumably (co-)determine the choice of the book chapter authors, guided by the needs of the book theme as an edited book can come into being at the initiative of the publisher, the editor(s) and/or as a result of a scholarly meeting or conference⁴. Although different types of editors are involved with publications (e.g., series editors, acquisitions editors, manuscript editors, copy editors), in this study we focus solely on the academic book editor, from here on referred to as the editor, whether or not they fulfil other editorial roles. The editor influences the quality of the edited book through the editing process and the possibility of uniting the chapters into a whole^{5, 6}. Thomas and Hrebennar⁷ state that editing a book consist of 25% organizing and managing, 25% communication and 50% academic work. Overall, few empirical studies have focused on the edited book and their editors³, and none have analysed the relationship between the editor and their book chapter authors.

In Flanders, out of all peer reviewed publications in the period 2000-2011, about one in five in the humanities and one in 14 in the social sciences is a book-related publication, either a monograph, a book chapter or an edited book. In the humanities about 17% of all book-related publications are edited books and about 75% are book chapters. In the social sciences about 9% are edited books and about 81% are book chapters⁸. Furthermore, a small increase in number and share of edited books and book chapters has been observed in Flanders between 2000-2002 and 2009-2011⁹. This implies that edited books are an important publication output, especially in the humanities. In addition, edited books have a higher citation rate than monographs, especially in the social sciences², and book chapters can be highly cited too^{1, 10, 11}, indicating that edited books are an important publication source for scholarly research. Although it seems there has been no empirical research into the reasons why authors create edited books, Nederman⁶ and Edwards¹² state that editing a book can be time saving, compared to writing a monograph. Moreover, different authors^{4, 5, 7, 12-14} point out the possible academic and educational value of an edited book to the field, as the edited books often have multiple perspectives, a broad scope, elaborated data analysis, multi-disciplinary research and a wide variety of methodologies. Furthermore, they often combine authoritative thinkers to contemplate a common problem and foster dialogue or debate about some key issues or theses⁶. All considered, the edited book can be useful for academics, professionals, undergraduates and others from different disciplines. Despite this, editing a book appears to be undervalued for academic careers^{6, 7, 12} as their intellectual and community building value might not be fully appreciated by tenure or promotion committees¹² and are often not included in the national performance based research funding systems. However, edited books have been included in the research funding system in Flanders since 2010⁸. National incentives like this are probably reflected at the institutional and individual levels^{15, 16}, although there is little real evidence of this^{17, 18}. Therefore, in Flanders, individual researchers may well be encouraged to take on book editorships, at least from the second half of the period under study (2000-2011) onwards. Scientific collaboration in the social sciences and humanities, both domestic and international, is on the rise worldwide¹⁹⁻²¹. The nature of a collaboration depends on factors such as the research environment, the nature of the problem and the methods used²²⁻²⁴ and the potential benefits and challenges of scientific collaboration may depend on the type of collaboration, the discipline and the country or countries involved²⁵. Scientific collaboration has benefits, such as sharing of knowledge, cross-fertilisation of ideas and intellectual companionship, as well as challenges, such as time consuming discussions, for which a common language is essential^{26, 27}, travel costs and increased administration^{23, 28}. In addition, collaboration may increase productivity^{23, 28} and citation impact^{25, 28-31}. Many different

methods have been used to analyse scientific collaboration, from bibliometrics to interviews³². In the present article, collaboration will be measured using co-authorship, which is, despite some limitations^{23, 24}, a widely used, easily calculated and thus comparable indicator^{22, 33, 34}. Ossenblok, Verleyen and Engels²⁰ demonstrated in a previous study that large differences exist in Flanders between collaboration patterns measured through co-authorship in articles and book chapters of social scientists compared to humanities researchers; the latter having fewer co-authored publications and fewer authors per co-authored publication. Overall, collaboration, as measured by co-authorships, is less frequent within the humanities than it is in the social sciences, and this is also true for edited books. However, previous research³ showed the number of book chapters per edited book is higher in the humanities than in the social sciences, confirming co-authorship might not suffice to measure collaboration^{35, 36}, especially in the humanities, where edited books often occur and there is some degree of collaboration between the editors and chapter authors.

Defining collaboration is difficult and subject to social conventions²³. Sonnenwald³² defines scientific collaboration as “the interaction taking place within a social context among two or more scientists that facilitates the sharing of meaning and completion of tasks with respect to a mutually shared, superordinate goal”. Building on this definition, collaboration practices in edited books then comprise the collaboration between the editors, measured by co-editorships, between the authors of one book chapter, measured by co-authorship, and between the editors and their book's chapter authors. Ossenblok and Engels³ demonstrated that the more co-authorship was found in articles within a discipline, the more co-authorship was found in book chapters, but not in co-editorship of a book, indicating the special nature of book editing collaboration. Overall, co-editing for books is more common than co-authoring for articles and book chapters. Most edited books in both the humanities and the social sciences have more than two editors, irrespective of the number of book chapters, number of authors and number of unique authors in that book. Furthermore, as the choice of the contributors helps to determine the value of the edited book and the chances of success in finishing the work^{4, 6, 13, 37}, so editors need a large network and good networking skills^{7, 12}. Therefore, we expect editors to be established and highly collaborative researchers with a large and diverse network. Equally, we expect editors to draw upon their co-authorship network for their book chapter authors.

Previous research³ has demonstrated the international character of the edited book, as reflected by the publication language and the scope of the publisher involved. English is the dominant publication language in edited books for both the social sciences and the humanities. In addition, half of all edited academic books are published in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, both housing large international publishing houses³. The use of English and the involvement of international publishing houses contribute to worldwide accessibility of books and other scholarly publications^{38, 39}. Moreover, Edwards¹² argues that edited books offer the space required for authoritative comparative perspectives across dimensions, such as time and geographic location. Overall, we hypothesize that international collaboration within edited books would be more common than in other publication types.

In this article we address the following specific questions:

- * Are editors more likely to be established researchers than are other researchers?
- * Are editors more productive than other researchers?
- * Are editors more collaborative, both domestically and internationally?

* Do editors use their co-authorship network when appointing book chapter authors?

Although these questions are international they will be addressed only for publications with at least one Flemish editor. Flanders is an appropriate scope for the study because it maintains a comprehensive publication database for its academics that is tied to funding.

DATA AND METHODS

The data set consists of 8966 Flemish Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)-affiliated authors who have at least one peer reviewed publication in the period 2000-2011, whether a journal article, monograph, edited book chapter and/or proceedings paper, in the Flemish Academic Bibliographic Database for the Social Sciences and Humanities (VABB-SHW). The VABB-SHW is used in the performance based research funding system (PRFS) in Flanders and the coverage of this database appears to be close to exhaustive (for a full account see: Engels, Ossenblok & Spruyt, 2012⁸).

Author names were standardized manually for the Flemish researchers and the non-Flemish researchers with a co-authorship, co-editorship or editor-book chapter author relationship with a Flemish researcher. In addition, all Flemish authors were assigned to one of the 18 disciplines registered in the VABB-SHW. All publications in the database are assigned to one or more SSH disciplines, according to the affiliation(s) of all the co-authors or co-editors with one or more departments or research groups at one of the five Flemish universities. Unfortunately, the authors' affiliation(s) in the VABB-SHW are not published. Therefore, we counted the number of times a discipline was linked with the publications of the Flemish researchers. When multiple disciplines were linked to an author name, the discipline that occurred most often was chosen. In 6.2% (n=564) of all cases two disciplines were equal and the first discipline according to alphabetical order was chosen. The disciplines include: (1) in the humanities: Archaeology; Art History (including Architecture and Arts); Communication Studies; History; Law; Linguistics; Literature; Philosophy (including History of Ideas); Theology (including Religious Studies); Humanities General (e.g., gender studies) and (2) in the social sciences: Criminology; Economics & Business (including Library and Information Science); Educational Sciences; Political Science; Psychology; Social Health Sciences; Sociology; Social Sciences General (e.g., Geography). In this study the humanities and the social sciences are studies as a whole. A more detailed analysis of the individual disciplines can be found on figshare <http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.1485611>.

In this study a comparison is made between two subsets: book editors, i.e. researchers who have published a minimum of 1 peer reviewed edited book in the period under study; and all other researchers, called here non-editors although they may be journal editors, editors of non-peer reviewed edited books or may have edited books during other periods of time. Furthermore, we differentiated for career stage between established and non-established researchers. In this article we focus on established researchers only, who are defined as having at least 12 publications and at least one publication in a minimum of 6 different years in the period 2000-2011. These heuristics were chosen after inspection of typical properties of authors in the database. Of course, non-established researchers may have many publications within up to five years, may have a prolific consistent set of outputs before or after the period analysed, or may have many outputs of a type not recorded in the database (e.g., book reviews, performances). Nevertheless, the criteria seem to

be effective at selecting a group of researchers that can reasonably be thought of as being established.

For each author, two publication counts were calculated: the whole publication count, i.e. all publications are counted as 1 irrespective of the number of authors, and the fractional publication count, i.e. all publications are fractionalized according to the number of authors per publication (e.g. a paper with 4 authors gives a fractional count of 0.25 to each author). As the maximum number of authors per publication registered in the database is 20, the fractional count varies between 0.05 (publications with 20 co-authors) and 1 (single authored publications). Both the whole and fractionalized publication count were then weighted using the weights used in the Flemish performance based funding model, the BOF-key⁹, where articles, book chapters and edited books receive a weight of 1, whereas monographs have a weight of 4 and proceedings have a weight of 0.5. Additionally, the Degree of Collaboration⁴⁰ ($DC = 1 - \frac{f_1}{N}$) was calculated, where f_1 is the number of publications having 1 author and N is the total number of publications. This formula could also be interpreted as the ratio of number of publications with minimum 2 authors over the total number of publications. Analogously, the Degree of International collaboration ($DIC = \frac{N_1}{N_c}$) was calculated, where N_1 is the number of publications having at least one non-Flemish co-author and N_c is the total number of publications with two or more authors.

Finally, to compare the different groups under study, three statistical measures were applied Cramer's V, the Mann-Whitney U test and the Wilcoxon signed-rank test. For further details on the statistical analysis please contact the authors or see <http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.1485611>.

RESULTS

Career stage of the editors

Figure 1 shows the number and share of established and non-established editors and non-editors in the humanities and the social sciences in Flanders. Of all editors in our data set ($n=676$), 76.5% belong to the humanities and 23.5% to the social sciences and, overall, 55.9% are established researchers (Figure 1). In the humanities, 13.1% of all researchers ($N=3951$) are editors whereas in the social sciences only 3.2% of all researchers ($N=5015$) have edited one or more books. For both the humanities and the social sciences, the total number of established researchers is smaller than that of non-established researchers: 16.9% ($n=686$) and 16.1% ($n=808$) respectively. However, of all editors in the humanities, 51.6% ($n=517$), are established researchers, whereas in the social sciences 69.8% ($n=159$) are established researchers. For the non-editors the difference between humanities and social sciences is smaller as respectively 11.7% and 14.4% are established researchers. In the humanities 40% of all established researchers ($n=668$) are editors whereas only 8% of all non-established researchers are editors. In the social sciences, 8% of all established researchers and 1% of all non-established researchers are editors. A preliminary study on editors⁴¹ found a low correlation between gender and editorship, with more than 7 in 10 editors being male. Furthermore, male researchers are more likely to be established than are their female counterparts and this difference is more pronounced for non-editors than for editors. As career stage in this study is defined through

numbers of publications and publication years, these findings confirm that male researchers tend to be more productive.

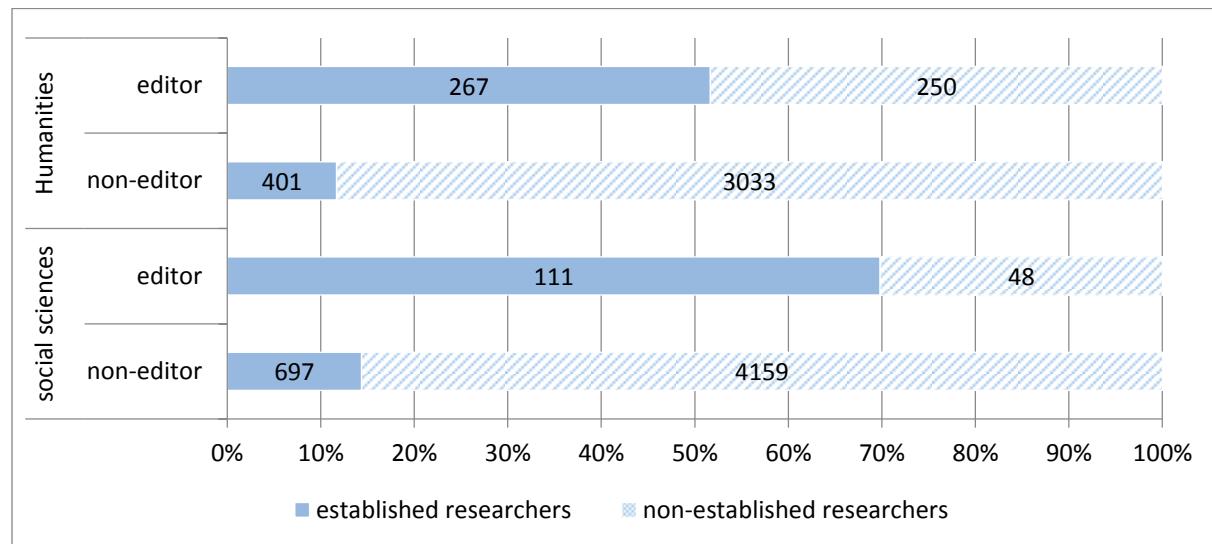


Figure 1: Number and share of established and non-established editors and non-editors in the humanities and the social sciences (Flanders, 2000-2011).

Productivity and publication types of the editors

From this point onwards, only established researchers (both editors and non-editors) are included in the comparisons. In both the humanities and the social sciences, the average total publication count and the average weighted fractional publication count are higher for the editors than for the non-editors (Table 2). In the humanities, editors have on average 6.4 and 7.4 more weighted whole and fractional counted publications than do non-editors. In the social sciences, these differences are larger, with editors having on average 10.5 and 8.8 more weighted whole and fractional counted publications than do non-editors. Overall, editors seem to be more productive than non-editors. However, researchers in the humanities have fewer weighted whole counted publications than do their colleagues from the social sciences. Conversely, when looking at the weighted fractional publication count, the humanities scholars outnumber the social scientists. This might be related to differences in publication cultures, with humanities scholars publishing more monographs, which have, in this study, a weight of 4. Furthermore, the difference between whole counts and fractional counts is more pronounced in the social sciences than in the humanities, pointing towards a higher number of co-authors in the social sciences, confirming previous research²⁰.

Table 1: Average weighted whole publication count and average weighted fractional publication count for established editors and established non-editors editors and non-editors for both the humanities and the social sciences (2000-2011).

		Established	
		editor	non-editor
Humanities	Average weighted whole counted publications	29.9	23.5
	Average weighted fractional counted publications	21.8	14.4
Social Sciences	Average weighted whole counted publications	42.4	31.9
	Average weighted fractional counted publications	19.1	10.3

Contrasting with Table 2, the publication counts in Figure 2 are not fractionalized nor weighted. In both the humanities and the social sciences, articles are the most popular publication type for both editors and non-editors, varying between 15.9 articles per editor in the humanities and 31.9 in the social sciences. Especially for the editors, book chapters are the second most popular publication type, with 8.4 book chapters per academic in the humanities and 6.6 in the social sciences. Overall, in both the humanities and social sciences, editors write on average more book chapters and monographs than do non-editors. In the humanities, editors publish on average fewer articles than do non-editors whereas in the social sciences, editors and non-editors have on average the same number of articles and proceedings papers.

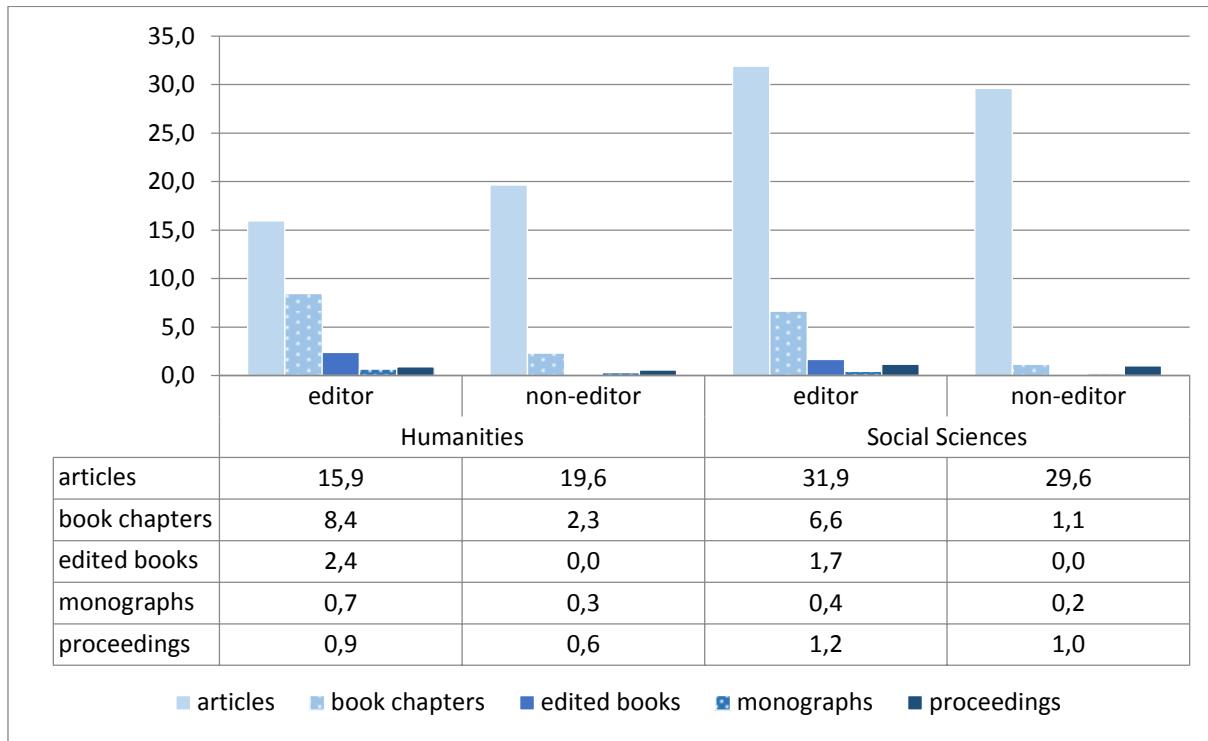


Figure 2: Average number of articles, book chapters, edited books, monographs and proceedings per established editor and established non-editor for both the humanities and the social sciences (Flanders; 2000-2011).

Collaboration patterns of the editor(s)

The following part investigates the collaboration patterns of the editors, both total and international collaboration, by focussing on both their publications in (international) collaboration and their (international) collaboration networks, i.e. the number of (international) unique co-authors and co-editors.

Collaborative publications

Table 2: Total number of publications, number and share of publications in collaboration and in international collaboration, for both established editors and non-editors, in the humanities and the social sciences (2000-2011).

		Total number of publications	Collaboration		International collaboration	
			#	#	%	#
Humanities	Editor	7562	3375	44.6	1413	41.9
	Non-editor	9142	5398	59.0	2153	39.9
Social Sciences	Editor	4635	3873	83.6	1945	50.2
	Non-editor	22,231	20,669	93.0	11,095	53.7

In general, the share of collaborative publications in the humanities (52.5%; n=8773) is lower than the social sciences (91.3%; n=24,542) (Table 3), confirming previous research ²⁰. Furthermore, the humanities have a lower share of collaborative articles with one or more international authors (respectively: 40.6%; n=3566 and 53.1%; n=13,040), also confirming previous research ⁴². Overall, editors have fewer collaborative publications than do non-editors, both for the humanities and the social sciences. Differences are larger for the humanities researchers (Δ , i.e. difference =14.4%) than for the social scientists (Δ =9.4%). However, when looking at the share of internationally collaborated publications of all collaborative papers, differences between editors and non-editors are smaller. In the humanities, editors have slightly more internationally collaborative papers than do non-editors (2.0%), whereas in the social sciences, editors publish fewer internationally co-authored publications than do non-editors, although the difference is small (Δ =3.5%).

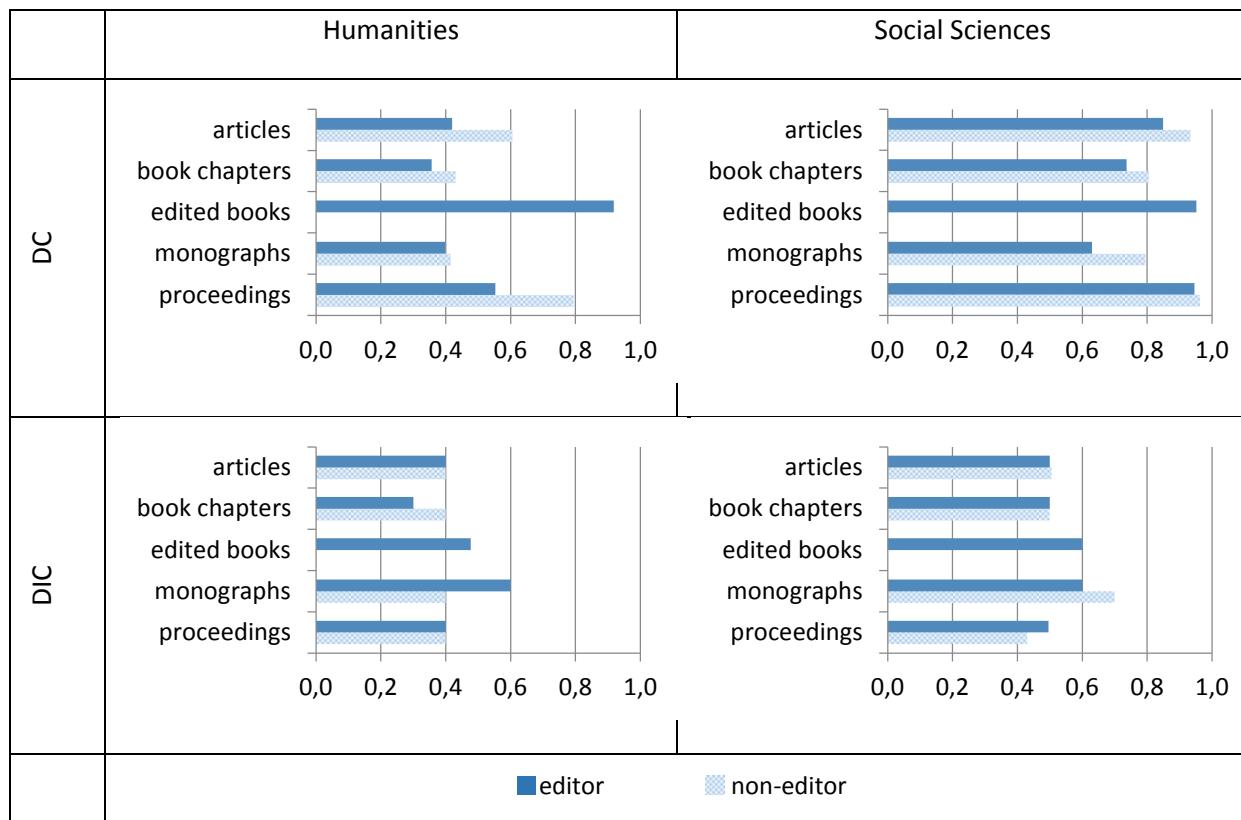


Figure 3: Degree of collaboration (DC) and Degree of international collaboration (DIC) of articles, book chapters, edited books, monographs and proceedings; for established editors and established non-editors in the humanities and the social sciences (2000-2011).

Co-authorship & co-editorship networks

Overall, the social sciences have a more diverse author pool, measured by the number of unique co-authors, than the humanities (Table 4), confirming previous research³. For the purpose of the current article, we understand the diversity of a researcher's network as the number of unique co-authors. Other interpretations of diversity exist; see⁴³ for an overview. In both the humanities and the social sciences, editors have on average a less diverse co-authorship network than do non-editors (H: $\Delta=3.8$ and SS: $\Delta=9.3$). When including the co-editors, the differences are smaller (H: $\Delta=3.6$ and SS: $\Delta=7.8$) but the trend remains. However, when adding co-editors to the co-authorship networks, the median number of unique co-authors and co-editors is the same, pointing towards a more skewed distribution for the non-editors compared to the editors. In addition, the average and median number of unique book chapter authors in books edited by the researcher(s) was calculated (i.e. when one editor edits more than one book, the unique authors of all books are taken into account). Humanities researchers have a more diverse book chapter author pool than do the social scientists. This might be explained by the higher number of editors with two or more edited books, using diverse unique authors for each book. In addition, humanities researchers have on average fewer international unique co-authors and co-editors than do social scientists, and in both the humanities and the social sciences editors and non-editors have the same share of international collaborators, also when including the co-editorships. In general, the co-editor pool is less international than the co-author pool for both the humanities and the social sciences. Still, the international share of unique book chapter authors in the edited books is higher than for co-authors

and co-editors. This indicates that edited books are relatively international. As shown in Figure 4, few of the book chapter authors have published with the editors in articles, monographs, book chapters or proceedings. Therefore, adding the book chapter authors to the co-authorship and co-editorship networks increases their diversity (i.e. the number of unique co-authors and co-editors) and their internationality (i.e. the number of international unique co-authors and co-editors).

Furthermore, about 80% of the unique book chapter authors are non-Flemish, indicating the international character of edited books. It is therefore logical to assess whether the network of book chapter authors overlaps with the network of co-authors and co-editors, indicating the use of the network for creating the edited book, an issue that is addressed next.

Table 3: For all established editors and non-editors in both the humanities and social sciences, the mean and median number of unique co-authors; co-editors; co-authors & co-editors and book chapter authors in edited books and share (%) of international unique co-authors; co-editors; co-authors & co-editors and of unique book chapter authors (Flanders, 2000-2011).

		Humanities		Social Sciences	
		Editors	Non-editors	Editors	Non-editors
# unique co-authors	Mean	11.0	16.8	39.9	49.2
	Median	6	9	22	33
	% International co-authors	46.0	47.0	57.6	57.7
# unique co-editors	Mean	3.49	-	2.9	-
	Median	3	-	2	-
	% international co-editors	42.7	-	50.9	-
# unique co-authors & co-editors	Mean	13.2	16.8	41.4	49.2
	Median	9	9	23	33
	% international co-authors & co-editors	47.5	47.0	57.9	57.7
# unique book chapter authors in one or more edited books	Mean	40.3	-	32.3	-
	Median	29	-	26	-
	% international book chapter authors	81.7	-	77.1	-

In both the humanities and the social sciences, the edited book is the publication type most often published in collaboration (Figure 3). Nevertheless, only small differences exist between editors and non-editors for the share of internationally co-authored publications. Furthermore, edited books are more often internationally co-authored than are the other publication types except for monographs.

In both the humanities and the social sciences, monographs have an even larger Degree of International Collaboration (DIC) than edited books.

Overall, monographs are often written with one or more international co-authors. In the humanities, editors have on average more international collaboration in monographs than in edited books, whereas in the social sciences editors collaborate equally internationally in monographs and in edited books.

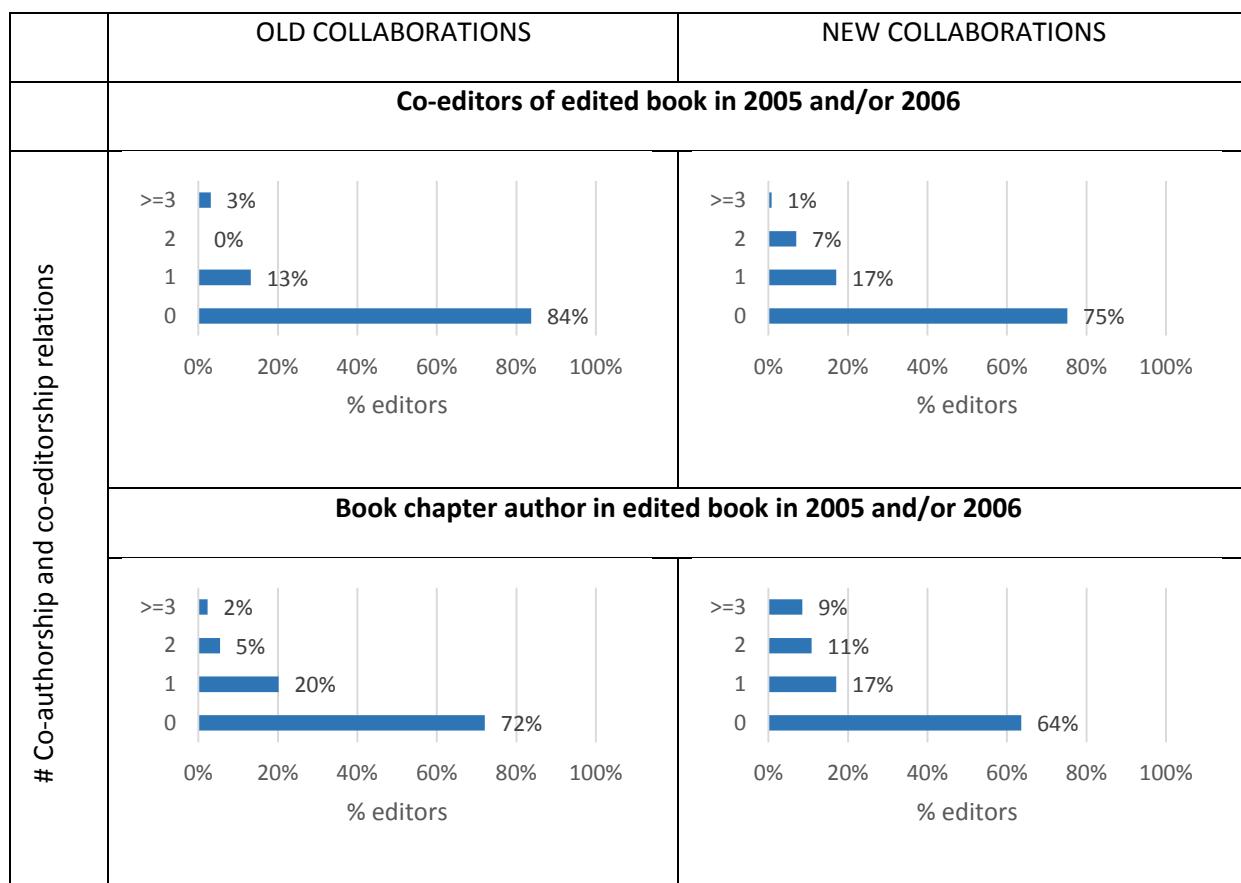


Figure 4: Share of editors collaborating with co-editors and book chapter authors before , i.e. old collaboration, and after, i.e. new collaboration, the publication of the edited book in 2005 or 2006.

Figure 4 presents on the X-axes the share (%) of editors with edited books in 2005 and/or 2006 (total 129 editors editing 88 books). On the Y-axes are the number co-authorship and co-editorship relationships, i.e. collaborations for an article, monograph, book chapter, proceedings paper or another edited book, of the editor with one or more of the co-editors and book chapter authors of the edited book. In addition, the graph differentiates between old and new collaborations, i.e. collaborations before and after the publication of the edited book. Due to the small share of editors collaborating with more than three of their co-editors and book chapter authors, the numbers on the Y-axes are limited to three or more.

Previous research³ has shown that there are on average 2.7 editors (median 2) and 19.7 (median 17) unique authors per edited book. However, as shown in Figure 4, few editors have collaborated with one of the co-editors and/or book chapter authors before or after the publication of the edited book.

The maximum number of old collaboration partners for co-editors and for book chapter authors is 3, and of new collaboration partners it is 4 for co-editors and 8 for book chapter authors. Nevertheless, there are slightly more collaborations after than before the publication of the edited book (see for statistical details: <http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.1485611>). More specifically, 16% of the editors have co-authored or co-edited with at least one of their co-editors before the edited book and 25% after. In addition, 28% of the editors have co-authored or co-edited with at least one of their book chapter authors before and 36% of them have after publication of the edited book. Moreover, 1 in 3 book chapter authors that have collaborated before or after publication of the edited book with the editor, is also a co-editor of the book, indicating a different relationship between the researchers.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Table 4: Main conclusions

Aspect		Editors compared to non-editors
Discipline		Greater frequency of editorship in the humanities
Career stage		More often established researchers
Productivity		Have more fractional and whole counted publications
Publication types		Publish more book chapter and monographs and, only in the Humanities, fewer articles.
Collaborative publications		Have fewer publications with two or more authors than do non-editors
Internationally collaborated publications		[No difference in the share of publications with 1 or more non-Flemish co-authors]
Diversity in network		Have fewer unique co-authors, except when looking at individual disciplines
Internationality of network		[No difference in the share of international unique co-authors]
When including book chapter authors in the collaboration network of editors		
Adding book chapter authors in the edited books		- Increases the diversity in network - Increases the internationality of network
Use of co-authorship network in edited books		- Few collaborations before publication - More collaborations after publication

This research focusses on the special publication and collaboration practices of Flemish academic book editors in the social sciences and humanities, as a follow-up to a first empirical analysis of edited books and co-authorship³. Overall, editorship is especially important in the humanities as more than 1 in 10 researchers have edited one or more edited books, in contrast with the social sciences where only 1 in 30 researchers are book editors. Moreover, in response to our first research question, whether editors are more likely to be established researchers than are other researchers, we found that in the humanities both established and non-established researchers edit books, whereas in the social sciences book editing is more often undertaken by established researchers.

The picture emerging of the typical book editor is that of a significantly more productive researcher as regards monographs and book chapters, and having more fractional weighted publications overall, answering our second research question, about whether editors are more productive than other researchers. There are also differences in collaboration patterns, as addressed in our third research question, about whether editors are more collaborative, both domestically and internationally. Measured by the relative frequency of co-authored publications and number of unique co-authors, SSH book editors are less collaborative overall, and less well embedded in a diverse network of unique co-authors and co-editors. Additionally, there are few differences in the share of international collaborative publications and of unique co-authors and co-editors between established editors and non-editors. To answer our last research question, i.e. whether editors use their co-authorship network when appointing book chapter authors, the editors in our study do not seem to rely on their existing co-authorship network when appointing the book chapter authors, but the edited book might fulfil a good networking opportunity as more co-authorships and co-editorships between the editors and their book chapter authors occur after publishing the edited books. It may also be the case that editors do rely on their network when appointing book chapter authors, but that the network is only partially visible through co-authorships.

As a venue for collaborating with a broad network of both domestic and international colleagues, in many SSH disciplines (in Flanders at least and more so in the humanities than in the social sciences) edited books are likely to be at least as important as journals. This implies that collaboration studies for the SSH which analyse solely journal articles are strongly biased towards social science disciplines which rely mostly upon this publication type (e.g. in the Flemish data: Psychology, Economics and Social health sciences²⁰). For the far more book-oriented humanities, the inclusion of book data in bibliometric analysis shows them to be significantly more collaborative and internationally oriented than analyses based on articles only²⁰.

Overall, the results thus both confirm and contradict the existing image of editors apparent in the scarce current literature. While it is true that such authors still often prefer to work alone (e.g., when writing a monograph or a book chapter²⁰), and are less collaborative for journal articles - another, partially separate scholarly publication universe appears to exist, in which the (edited) book is a prime focus of collaboration and internationalization. The main causes of this difference in authors' publication output preferences are unclear. While varying disciplinary epistemic cultures are likely to be important, the divergent orientation of research units and individual researchers, whether intrinsic or strategic, should also be taken into account. Humanities scholars seem to enoble single authored papers²⁰, not all collaboration is converted into co-authorship, and these ghost authorships

are not often included in collaboration studies. Inter-disciplinary and inter-author differences in publication patterns therefore need to be studied more in depth, also making use of complementary qualitative methods. These could clarify the precise socio-academic and corporate publishing contexts in which SSH publication outputs, among them edited books, come into being.

Limitations and future research

The present study has several limitations. First, the data set is relatively small and focusses only on Flanders. Future research, comparing and combining different local and international data sets, is needed to assess the extent to which the results are specific to Flanders. Second, this study focusses on differences between humanities and social sciences and between some of the more book oriented humanities disciplines. However, as interdisciplinary publication cultures are common, it is important to examine the differences in the nature of the research methods and research topics related to publication and collaboration practices. Third, when analysing the edited book network, only a short period of time could be taken into account (5 or 6 years before and after the edited book). In addition, publication delays were not taken into account. The edited book, in some cases, might take longer to finish than an article, or vice versa. Therefore, it is difficult to state when a co-authorship or co-editor relation was first initiated. A longer period under study might clarify the start of a co-authorship and co-editorship relationship as well as adding the number of times editors collaborate with their book chapter authors. As the literature states, editing a book is a risk that can be reduced by knowing the book chapter authors¹², but it is not clear whether co-authorship and co-editorship relationships are sufficient to identify the collaboration network of the editors before and after the edited book. An additional study would be needed to identify existing relations between the editor and the book chapter authors, which are not visible when measuring collaboration through co-authorship and co-editorship. Fourth, the choice of the book chapter authors might be influenced by the publisher and the readership of the edited book, e.g. more international authors are asked to meet the international market. All in all, this research helps to further understand the publication and collaboration practices of researchers in the social sciences and humanities, however several questions remain unanswered, especially concerning the motivations of the editor(s), the book chapter authors and the publishers in choosing the edited book as a publication type or not. Future research can shed more light on this interesting and rather peculiar publication type.

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Authors:

Truyken L.B. Ossenblok

Centre for Research & Development Monitoring (ECOOM), Faculty of Social sciences, University of Antwerp, Middelheimlaan 1, 2020 Antwerp (Belgium) (corresponding author)

Email: Truyken.Ossenblok@uantwerpen.be

Raf Guns

Institute of Education and Information Sciences, Venusstraat 35, 2000 Antwerpen, (Belgium) : Centre for Research & Development Monitoring (ECOOM), Faculty of Social sciences, University of Antwerp, Middelheimlaan 1, 2020 Antwerp (Belgium)

Email: Raf.Guns@uantwerpen.be

Mike Thelwall

Statistical Cybermetrics Research Group, Faculty of Science and Engineering, University of Wolverhampton (United Kingdom)

Email: M.Thelwall@wlv.ac.uk