

Brief Bio and (PR)²: Problems & Pitches – Rants & Raves by {Peter van den Besselaar}

Self Introduction: Peter van den Besselaar

- photo of yourself

Is already on the website

- brief biography of about 250 words

Peter van den Besselaar (1953) is currently head of department and research director of the *science system assessment department* at the Rathenau Instituut. He is also a professor of communication science at the University of Amsterdam, with a special chair in e-social science. His research interests are the dynamics of science, technology and innovation; science and innovation policy; users and design; the effects of ICT on social change.

Previously, he was director of the Netherlands Social Science Data Archive (2002-2005) and an associate professor of social informatics at the University of Amsterdam (1986-2002). In the latter position, he directed a research program on ICT based innovation and on technology assessment. He has been a partner in a variety of large international research projects, funded by the European Commission in the various Framework Programs.

Peter van den Besselaar has extensive experience in teaching at undergraduate and graduate levels, in management, and in consulting. He authored many research publications and is in editorial board of several scholarly journals, among others The Information Society, Scientometrics and the Communications of the ACM.

He obtained a first degree in *Mechanical Engineering* (propedeuse; Technische Universiteit Eindhoven), a BSc *Mathematics* (kandidaatsexamen, Universiteit Utrecht), an MA in *Philosophy* (cum laude) and a PhD from the Faculty of *Psychology* (both: Universiteit van Amsterdam).

- up to five major publications
1. Peter van den Besselaar, Gaston Heimeriks, Mapping research topics using word-reference co-occurrences: a method and an exploratory case study *Scientometrics* **68** (2006) pp.377-393
 2. Anne-Marie Oostveen & Peter van den Besselaar, Trust, identity and the effects of voting technologies on voting behavior. *Social Science Computing Review* **23** (2005) pp304-311.
 3. Peter van den Besselaar & Gaston Heimeriks, Disciplinary, Multidisciplinary, Interdisciplinary: Concepts and Indicators. In M. Davis & C.S. Wilson (eds), *Proceedings 8th International Conference on Scientometrics and Informetrics – ISSI 2001*. Sydney: UNSW 2001. pp. 705-716
 4. The future of employment in the information society, a comparative and multi-level study. *Journal of Information Science* **23** (1997) pp 373-392.

5. Peter van den Besselaar & Loet Leydesdorff, Mapping change in scientific specialties; a scientometric case study of the development of artificial intelligence. *Journal of the American Society of Information Science* **47** (1996) 5.

- link to your home page and

<http://www.rathenau.nl/showpage.asp?stelID=1&item=1827>

<http://home.medewerker.uva.nl/p.a.a.vandenbesselaar/>

- links to data or software you serve (if applicable).

General Questions – a quick answer

1) What is (are) your main interest(s) in attending the workshop?

Exchange of ideas and hopefully to create collaboration.

2) What information/knowledge management needs do you have?

I direct a research program on the dynamics of the science system and on the development of research fields. For this, data collection tools (also for new types of data) and analytical and visualization tools are an important step forward. Actually, if one accepts the idea that new data collection and analysis tools are the driving force behind scientific progress, it is the first issue to focus on.

We use data from different sources, and a main challenge is the harmonization. Apart from that increasingly new electronic data are available that ask for tools for collection, structuring, reduction and analysis. I feel that the availability of information on the web about research activities, research organizations, and research results open up possibilities we have to explore.

With respect to the current state of our work, we would love an integrated workbench for integrating WoS data, patent data and web based data.

Explain your ‘dream tool’ for scientific discovery and innovation.

Difficult to say. Although I feel that tools are essential, we also should more deeply understand theoretically the structure and dynamics of science. However, a dream tool should be help also to develop and test these theoretical ideas.

3) What is the most insightful visualization of static or dynamic phenomena you know?

[Ideally this visualization led to a major discovery/innovation. Examples could come from science, art, or any other field of human endeavor. Note that we plan to use this visualization on your name card.]

4) What would you like to learn / achieve at the workshop?

Ideas for new theoretical directions that inform analytical tools and data visualization, and vice versa.
Collaboration on tools, data – but also on theoretical approaches.

***Please send the completed document by February 20th, 2008
to Katy Borner <katy@indiana.edu> and Elisha Hardy <efhardy@indiana.edu>***