

Chou, C. P. (Ed) (2014). *The SSCI Syndrome in Higher Education: A Local or Global Phenomenon*. Netherland: Sense Publishers.

### Abstract

With the world expansion of the higher education system in the last two decades, the maintenance of quality to meet the requirements for international competitiveness has become a critical issue for policy makers and universities. In addition, with the neoliberal ideology which emphasizes market economy in higher education, the increasing importance of the competition in global university ranking has influenced university autonomy and academic governance across the world. To cope with the preceding challenges, Taiwan has introduced a series of strategies for benchmarking its leading universities to facilitate global competitiveness and international visibility. A major trend in the changing university governance is the emergence of a regulatory evaluation scheme, such as the use of SSCI as indicator, for faculty research productivity, reflected by the striking features of the recent changing academic profile of publication norms. With these facts in mind, this book explores the evidence of the SSCI syndrome in Taiwan's academe by using empirical research data and case studies to showcase pro and cons relevant to the overuse of SSCI as research indicators in Taiwan. In this book, "SSCI" refers to a general term rather than simply being the abbreviation for the name of the index. The book is one of the first case studies in this regard which attempts to demonstrate how the SSCI syndrome prevails based upon examples from Taiwan. It is hoped that this book will serve as a milestone to those are in the common condition and demand for more local voices heard by the international community.

**(Key words:** Academic evaluation, University ranking, SSCI Syndrome, higher education, Evaluation, Taiwan)