

The Republic of Blogs: A new phase in the development and democratization of knowledge

by Blog Admin

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*After a long period of monopolising academic discourse, European universities went into decline. Intellectual development moved outside the walled gardens of academia creating a Republic of Letters. **Patrick Dunleavy** argues that we are experiencing a similar shift towards a 'Republic of Blogs' that enlarges communication and evidence beyond the halls of universities.*



Academic research is changing; it is moving towards a new paradigm of advancing ideas outside the confines of the traditional academic publishing model. Orthodox journals will soon be considered tombstones, end of debate certificates. In a recent presentation to the LSE's [Centre for Learning Technology](#), Patrick argued three points:

- Micro-blogging is not only replacing traditional news media, but becoming a tool for finding and disseminating ideas and research (active research surveillance),
- Well edited blogs are becoming core communication tools and vehicles for HE debate; while the less traditional format encourages a writing style that invites debate from academics and lay persons alike, thus cutting across ranks, locations and academic status,
- Working papers and online journals are now key, immediately accessible evidence and theory/methods development sources.

View Patrick's slides on issue [here](#), or watch a video of his presentation [here](#).

Patrick, and Managing Editor of [Europp](#), Chris Gilson also explain why they believe that blogging is one of the most important things that academics should be doing right now [here](#).

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