CoARA

THINKING CRITICALLY ABOUT UNIVERSITY RANKINGS NETWORK (TURN)

NOVEMBER 29, 2026

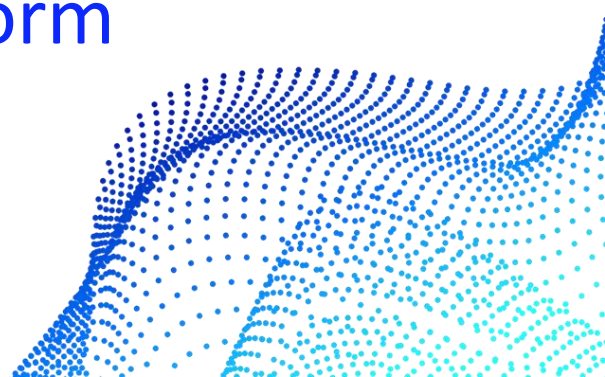
NORWEGIAN OPEN SCIENCE LUNCH

Overview of CoARA

CoARA

COALITION FOR ADVANCING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

- an international initiative reforming how research and researchers are evaluated.
- challenges systems overly dependent on metrics like publications and citations
- over 800 organisations have signed its 2022 reform agreement.



CoARA

The Agreement

Signatories

Members

Action Plans

Working Groups

National Chapters

Cascade Funding Projects

CoARA Collection



CoARA National Chapter Norway

The NC of Norway has two interlinked purposes: 1. To share experiences and best practices on the development of institutional versions of the NORCAM framework 2. To create an arena for discussing and sharing practical and strategic aspects of the European Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (ARRA).

Learn More

CoARA's Core Commitments



1. Recognise diverse contributions to research



2. Base research assessment primarily on qualitative evaluation



3. Abandon inappropriate uses of journal- and metric-based evaluation



4. Avoid the use of rankings of research organisations in research assessment

Overview of TURN

Thinking critically on University Rankings Network

Main Activities of the WG

Three Critical Conversations

Explore how rankings are affecting assessment and decision making at Universities



University Top Trumps Card Game

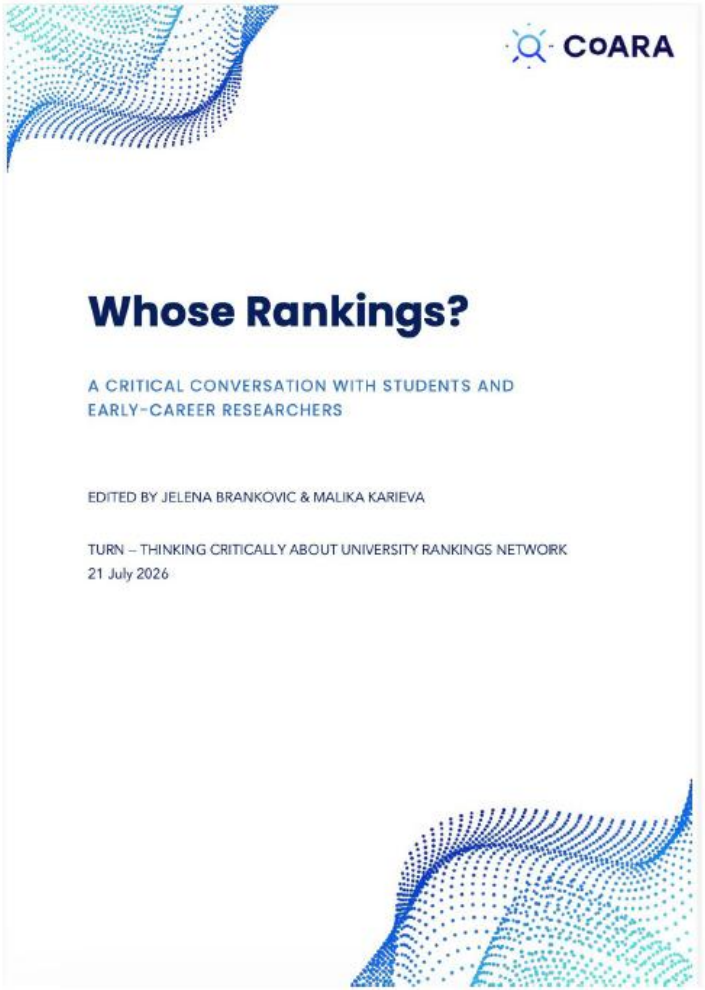
Create a card game that can be used to illustrate the issues of University rankings



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1st Critical Conversation: Students and Early Career Researchers

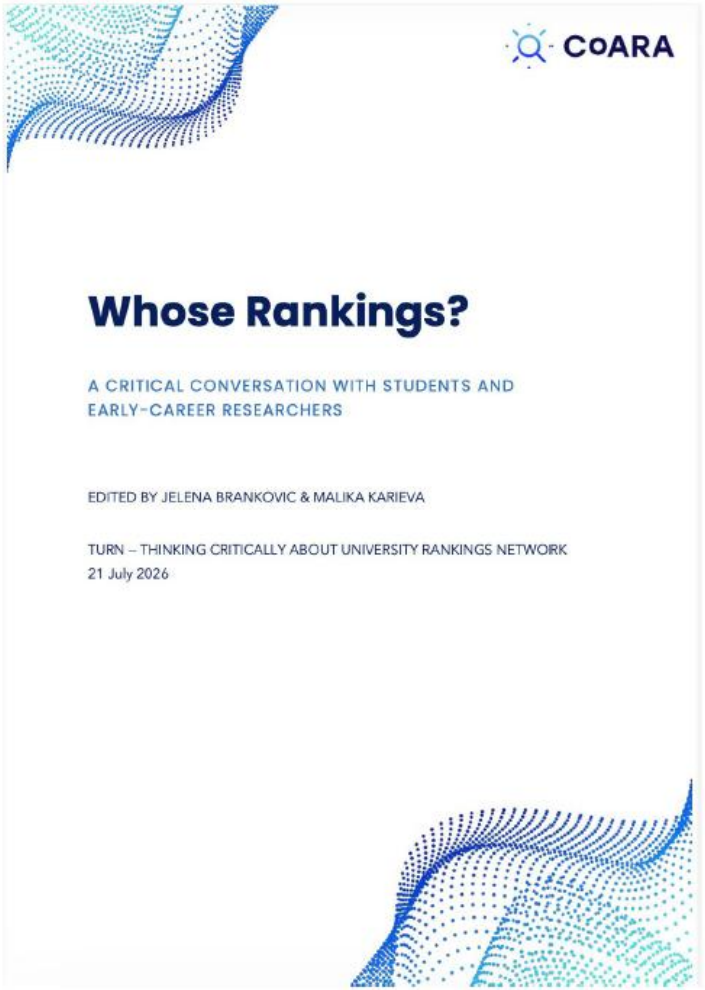
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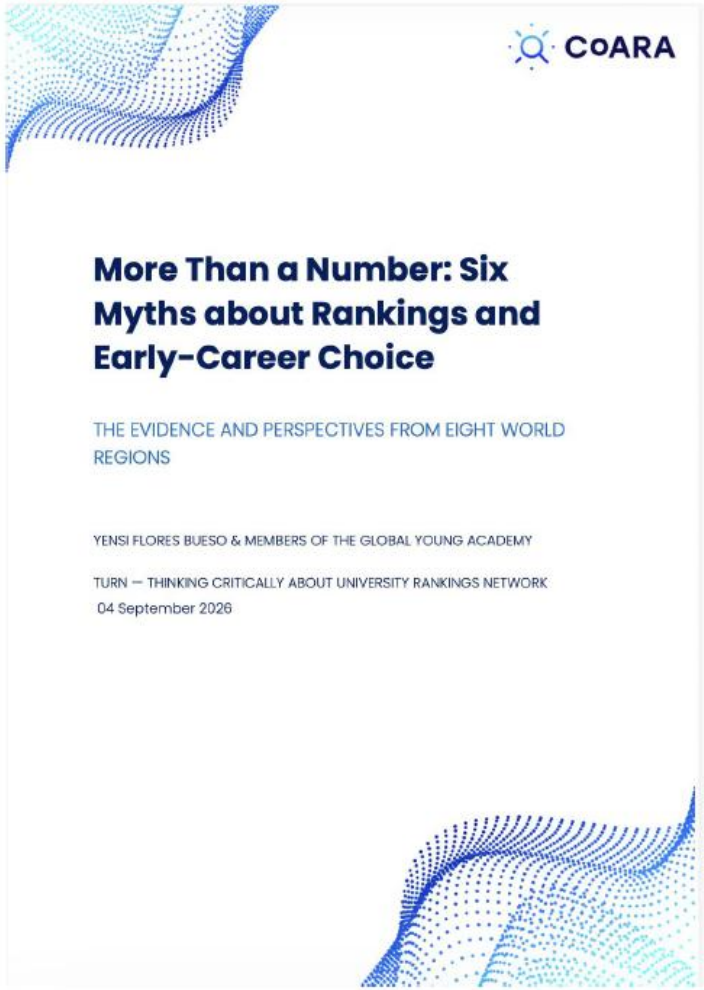


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1st Critical Conversation: Students and Early Career Researchers

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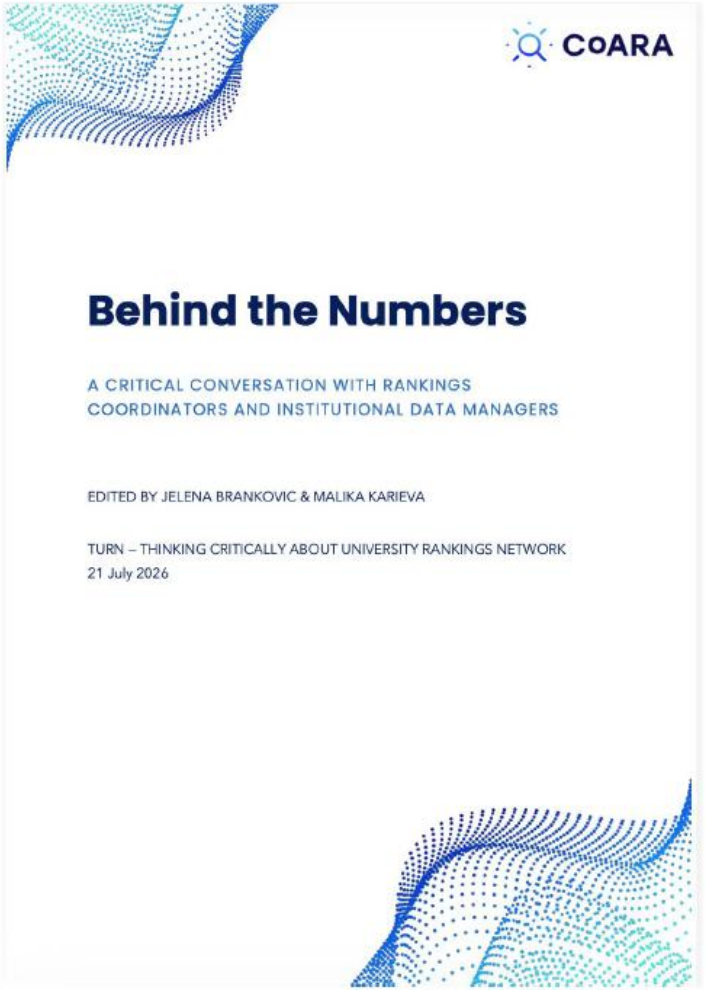


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2nd Critical Conversation: Data Stewarts and Administrators

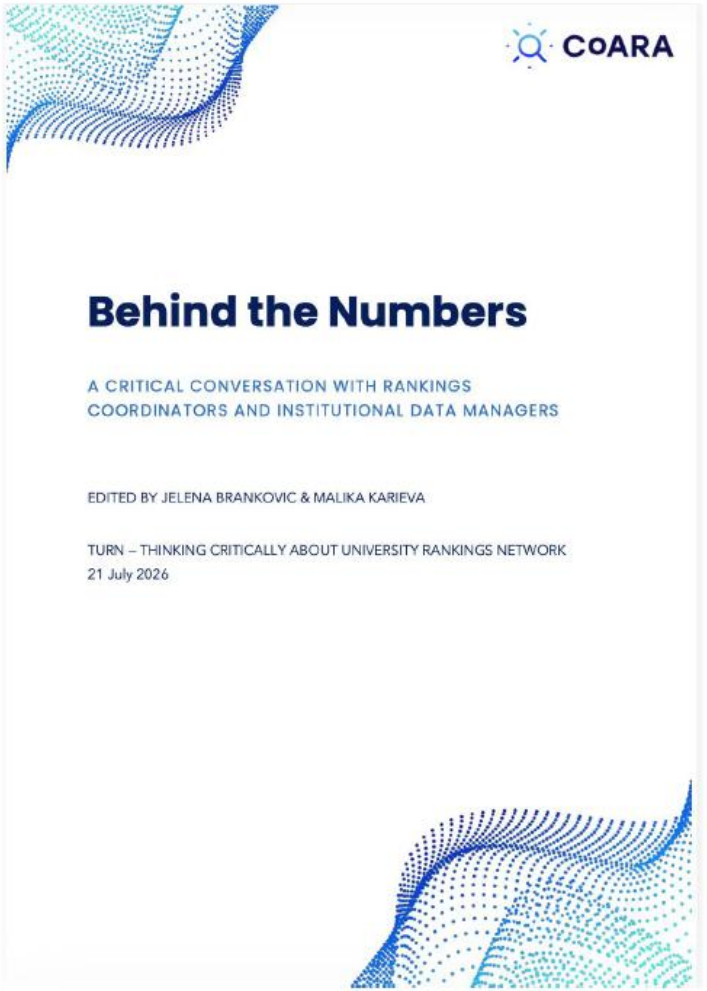
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2nd Critical Conversation: Data Stewarts and Administrators

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Guide
Type B Output
Currently being Finalized

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FOLLOWING THE DATA

Uses Time Higher Education (THE) as a case study

Six-Layers of the Ranking Data Pipeline

1. Data Generation
2. Ingestion, legal capture, and shift in the locus of control
3. Processing and commensuration
4. Storage and assetisation
5. Data productization
6. Downstream use and effects

3rd Critical Conversation: Institutional Leaders

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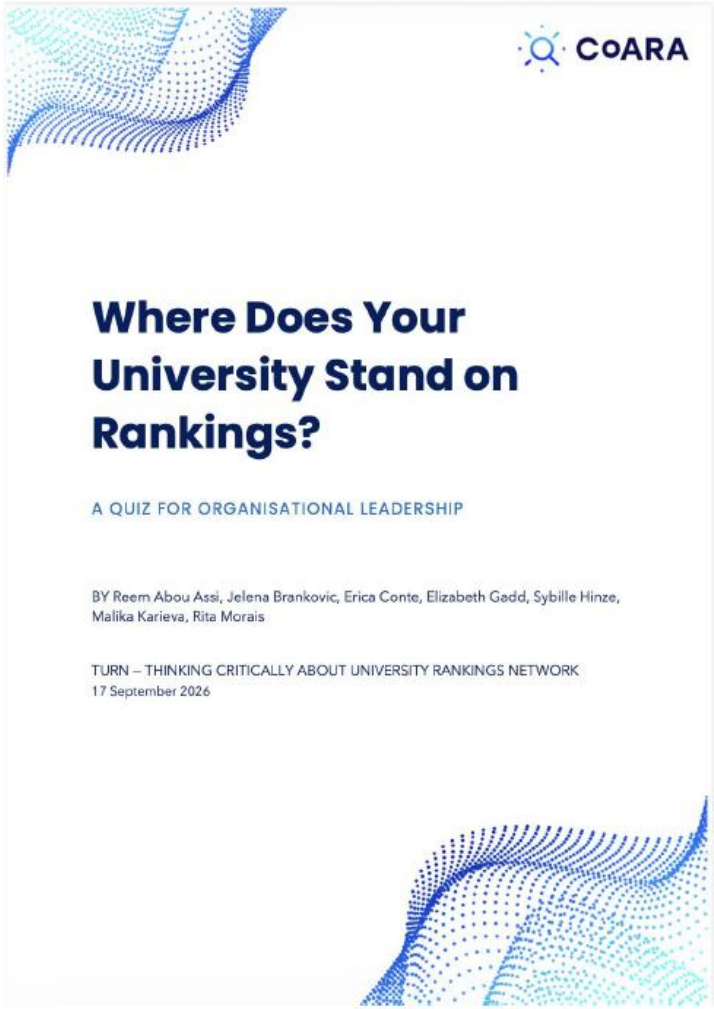


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3rd Critical Conversation: Institutional Leaders

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Quiz
Type A Output
Being prepared for Community Review

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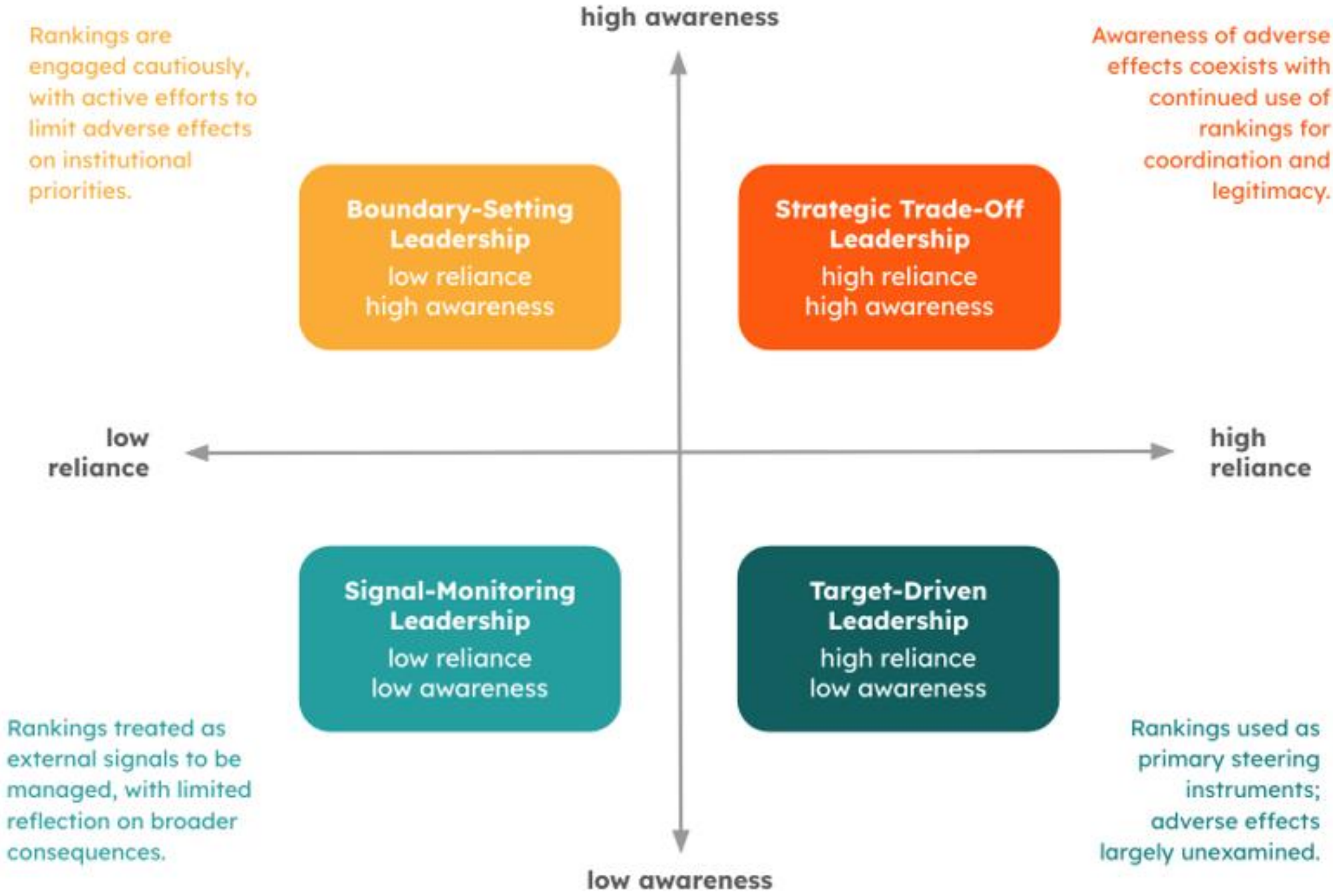
QUIZ

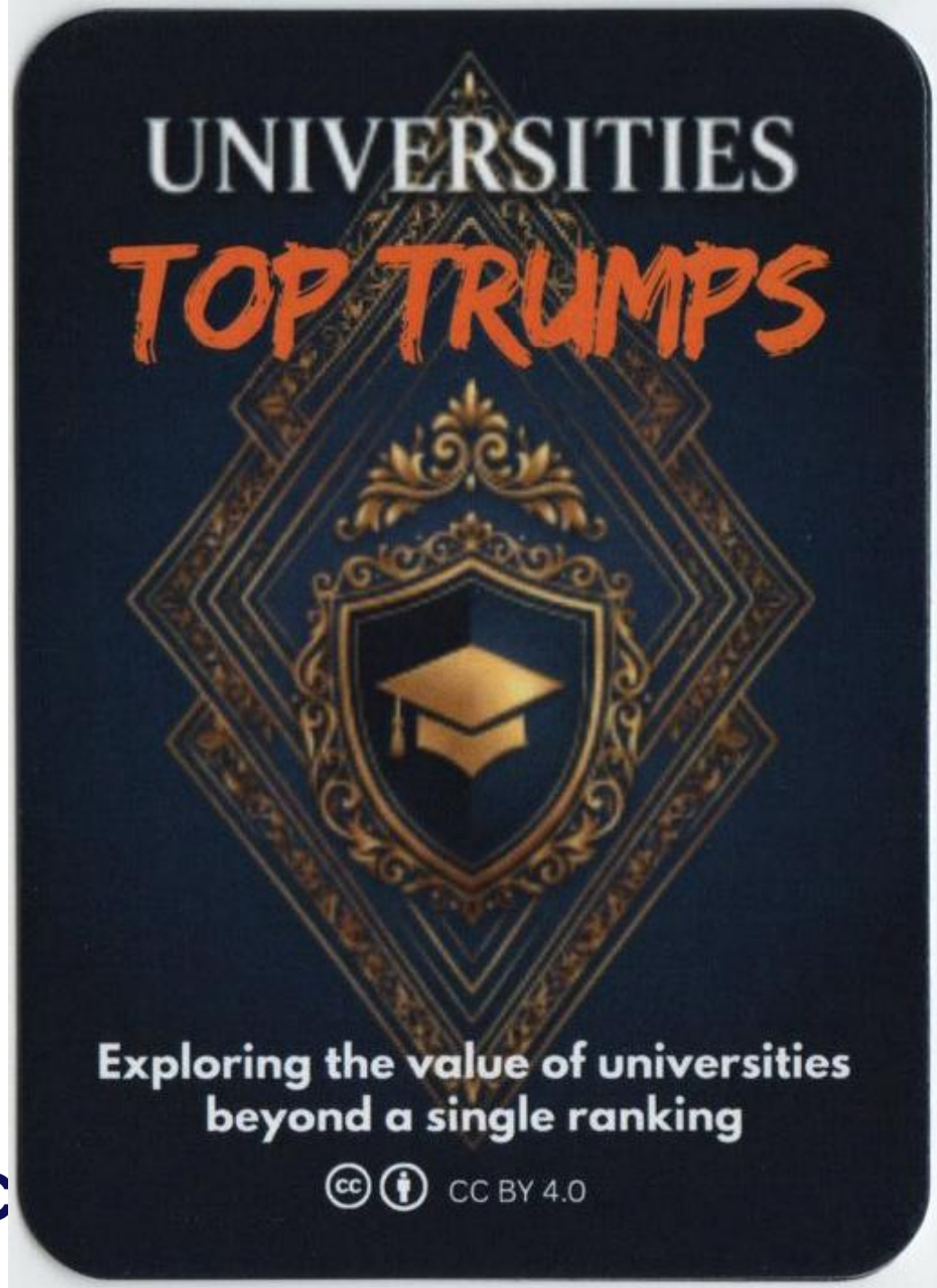
A self-reflection tool to help university leaders examine how their institution engages with global rankings.

Each area will describe

1. A concrete starting point
2. A concrete step toward delivering on CoARA's Commitment 4

QUIZ


high awareness
low awareness
low reliance
high reliance
Rankings are engaged cautiously, with active efforts to limit adverse effects on institutional priorities.
Boundary-Setting Leadership
low reliance
high awareness
Awareness of adverse effects coexists with continued use of rankings for coordination and legitimacy.
Strategic Trade-Off Leadership
high reliance
high awareness
Signal-Monitoring Leadership
low reliance
low awareness
Rankings treated as external signals to be managed, with limited reflection on broader consequences.
Target-Driven Leadership
high reliance
low awareness
Rankings used as primary steering instruments; adverse effects largely unexamined.



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WHY

Universities are complex organizations that provide education, lead international research, and help to shape society. Global University Rankings attempt to simplify these contributions into a single number used for benchmarking and status recognition. In addition, rankings have inherent biases, are usually commercially driven, and can be inappropriately used.

WHAT

A core commitment of CoARA is to 'Avoid the use of rankings in research assessment'. The TURN working group has developed this University Top Trumps game to help understand the complexity of assessing research and higher education institutions.

HOW

It is important for Universities to showcase the full breath of their impact beyond what is included in the rankings. To achieve this you can help champion best practices in responsible assessment. For inspiration check out the More Than Our Rank initiative.

more

www.re-qa.org

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Sitting on a sparkling coastline, this university rides the crest of creativity and research innovation with beachside labs and high-energy professors, making every semester feel like a new wave.

PRIVATE UNIVERSITY

Teaching Exellence	59
Research Intensity	1880
Affordability	99
Culture & Lifestyle	67
Societal Impact	312
Mission & Vision	111



Set in a sunny eclectic city, this university thrives on lively professors, student music festivals, and collaborative innovation labs.

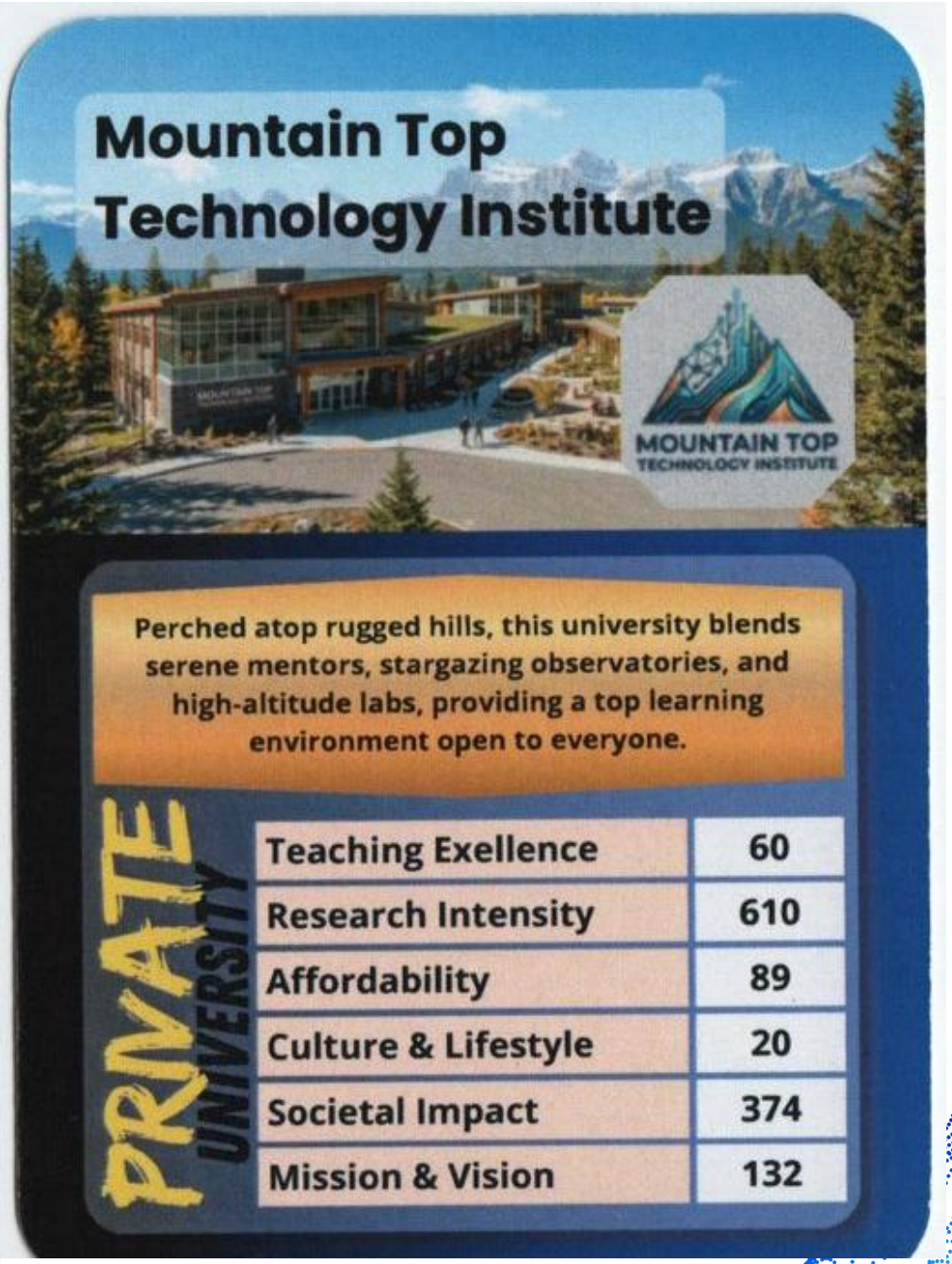
PUBLIC UNIVERSITY

Teaching Exellence	77
Research Intensity	875
Affordability	60
Culture & Lifestyle	59
Societal Impact	158
Mission & Vision	182

HOW TO PLAY

Any number of players

1. Shuffle and deal the 30 cards face down
2. Hold your cards face up so you can only see the top card.
3. The player to the dealer's left starts.
4. The starting player chooses one ranking category from their top card. All players read out their value for that category.
5. The highest value wins the round. The winner takes all the top cards, including their own, and puts them at the bottom of their deck.
6. The winner starts the next round and chooses the next category.
7. If there is a tie, leave the cards in the middle and replay; the next winner takes all cards.
8. The last player with cards wins the game.



University Top Trumps Card Game

Goal of the **Universities Top Trumps** Game?

- Highlights the inability to assess a university based on a single value or ranking.
- Can be used by various stakeholders

Type A Output:

An interactive tool that can be used to

educate, advocate and change behaviour



CoARA

NEXT STEPS



Research
Evaluation
Global
Alliance

Email REGA

For general enquiries, collaboration, SCOPE Framework questions or More Than Our Rank:

info@re-ga.org

Join the community

REGA membership is open to people from all research-facing professions and regions.

Join REGA →

REGA Change Group →

REGA Capacity Group →

CoARA

QUESTIONS?

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