

Words of Lutz Bornmann as tribute to Loet Leydesdorff

The special issue, edited by Loet, Stasa, and Ismael, on 'Bridging qualitative and quantitative science studies' is very interesting and I enjoyed reading the contributions. Congratulations!

My collaboration with Loet is an intellectual challenge, and very inspiring. Last year, I received the de Solla price medal, and I think such a price always results from frequent collaboration, and the intensive collaboration with Loet is one of it.

Loet's and my common history started nearly 15 years ago in 2004 with a paper on the citation network of the journal *Angewandte Chemie – International Edition*. At the ETH Zurich, as a postdoctoral researcher, I was involved in a big research project on the peer review process of this very prestigious journal. I thought it would be interesting to publish a paper on the journal's citation network and contacted Loet. I had read many of his papers, and I knew that he was a specialist in these network analyses. We undertook the analyses and published the paper in a very good chemistry journal.

At that time, I could not imagine what extensive collaboration would emerge from this starting point. Since 2004, we published more than 60 papers in very different areas of scientometrics such as network analysis, field-normalized indicators, altmetrics, and peer review. We had our most productive year in 2019 with 11 publications. We had very inspiring conversation and really good teamwork. It was not uncommon that Loet sent me a draft on Christmas Day (6 o'clock in the evening) and I started to revise this draft at that time. We had the final paper on New Year then.

Loet is very critical in nature, and he likes to discuss. He has an opinion on everything! Although we published a lot of papers, I think I received the most critical feedback on my texts by Loet. Sometimes, this was a difficult situation for me, and I wondered why he is so critical with my texts. But I must confess that I profited from that so much, since I learned really a lot. I am very thankful for that!

We published a lot of papers and I was really impressed not only by the productivity, but also by Loet's work speed. And I must confess that I tested his speed. When we had published around 15 or 20 papers, I had the impression that Loet always sent back new versions of our papers around 2 or 3 hours later (depending on the length of the manuscript). Furthermore, the fast answer did not seem to depend on the daytime or nighttime. In order to test my assumption, I sent him manuscripts at various uncommon time points: 5 o'clock in the morning (I needed an alarm) and 11 o'clock in the evening. This test validated my assumption: Loet answered very fast and timely – independent of the time of sending the manuscript. I got back to my normal work-time, a bit demoralized but with even more recognition concerning Loet.

During the last months, we have published only a few papers together. Loet has been absorbed by writing his new book. I know the book has been finalized now. So, we can start with new common projects. At the end of my short talk, I would like to express my great appreciation towards this outstanding scientist and colleague.

Dear Loet, I am very proud, happy and thankful to collaborate with you.

7th September 2019