

On the Use of Probing-Question Approach in Grant Application Peer Reviews

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Abstract:

In the peer reviews of grant application of science funds and science and technology programs in China, problems arise in aspects of insufficient communication between peer reviewers and applicants, inappropriate capacity and experience of reviewers, and some reviewers' conflicts of interest, resulting in the compromise of review results. The author collects and analyses some typical problems and complaints related to the grant application review process and the results of such reviews, and explores some countermeasures, mainly the introduction of probing-question approach in mail peer review stage, for improving peer review process as a whole, and for achieving the reverse assessment for reviewers.