

# **The Limitation of Peer Review**

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**Abstract:** As one of the scientific evaluation method, peer review reflects science autonomy and self-discipline since the Enlightenment. Yet, with the changes of means and ends in the science research, scientific knowledge is now defined as uncertainty rather than certainty, along with convergence and interaction of science, technology, economy, society and politics. The scope of the scientific activities has been far beyond the range of scientific community. The influence of scientific activities, including its negative elements, has spread to the nature and various social fields. In this context, it is important to evaluate the social consequences to scientific applications. Peer review, as one of the important scientific evaluation methods, still has its limitations. The paper analyses the previous theories on peer review and its limitations, and then will demonstrate the theories of social participatory evaluation and its significance.

**Keywords:** peer review; science autonomy; social apply evaluation; uncertainty