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The Tragedy of the Computing-Research Commons

Abstract:

The Tragedy of the Commons refers to a situation in which multiple individuals, acting independently, and solely and rationally consulting their own self-interest, will ultimately deplete a shared limited resource even when it is clear that it is not in anyone's long-term interest for this to happen.

The computing-research community consists of multiple researchers, acting independently, and solely and rationally consulting their own self-interest, just as in the Tragedy of the Commons. I argue that this results in outcomes that are not in the long interest of the community. As examples, I will discuss topics such as publication culture, open access, hypercriticality, theory vs. practice, and debate culture. I argue that our community needs to take a more active role in regulating itself.



Le vendredi 17 février 2012, 14h30, pavillon Aisenstadt, salle 6214

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