



**Quality Assurance
Beyond Academic Excellence**
CHEA, 30 January 2020







The Quiet QA Revolution

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- Clear principles, standards, criteria and processes
- International convergence



Academic Excellence Redefined

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- Obsession with the rankings translates into focus on research
- Governments launch excellence initiatives accelerating this trend
- Universities plan and operate through the filter of the rankings

Four Key Dimensions

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- Equity
- Societal Engagement
- The Pursuit of Truth
- Ethics

The Equity Challenge

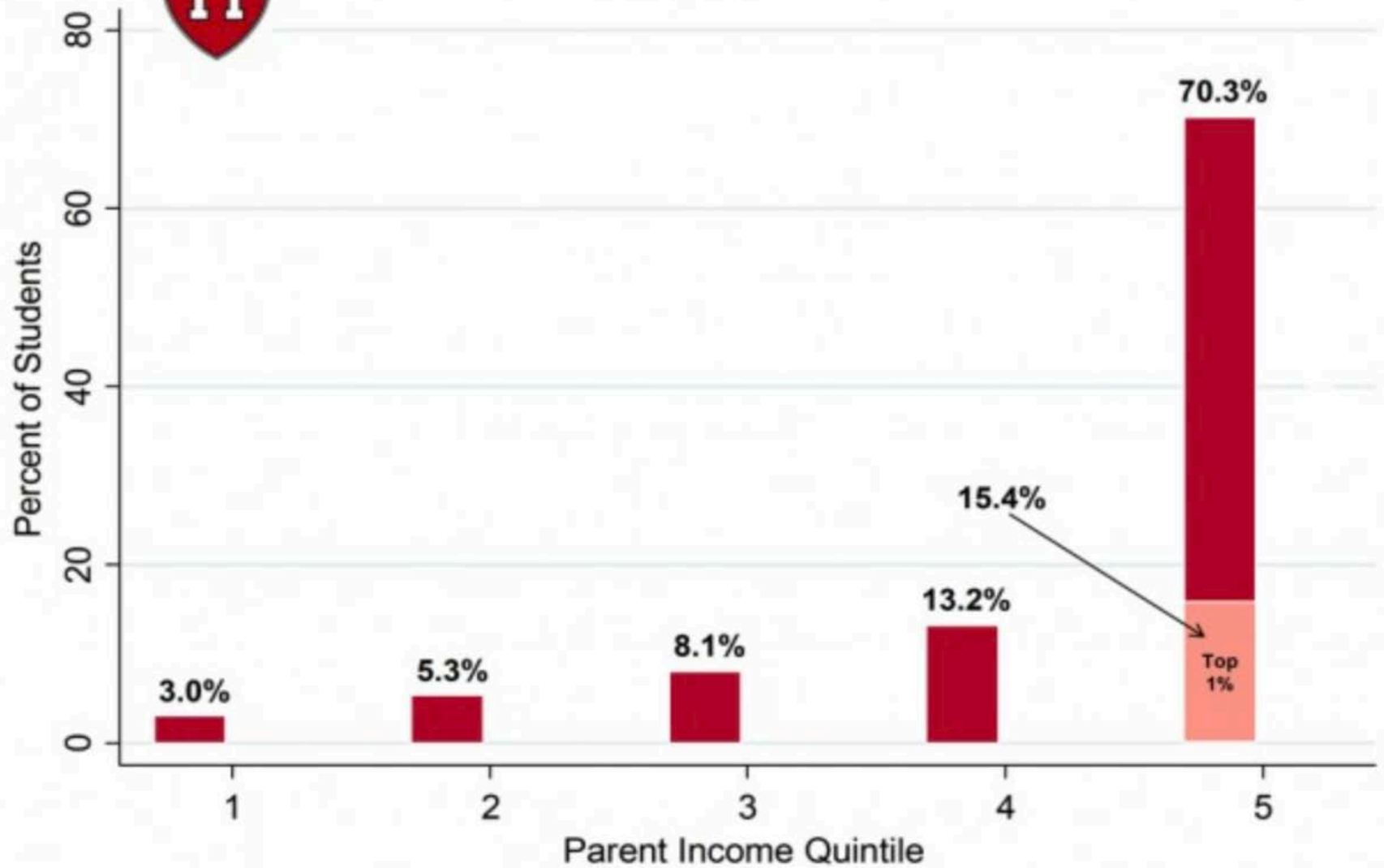
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- Access



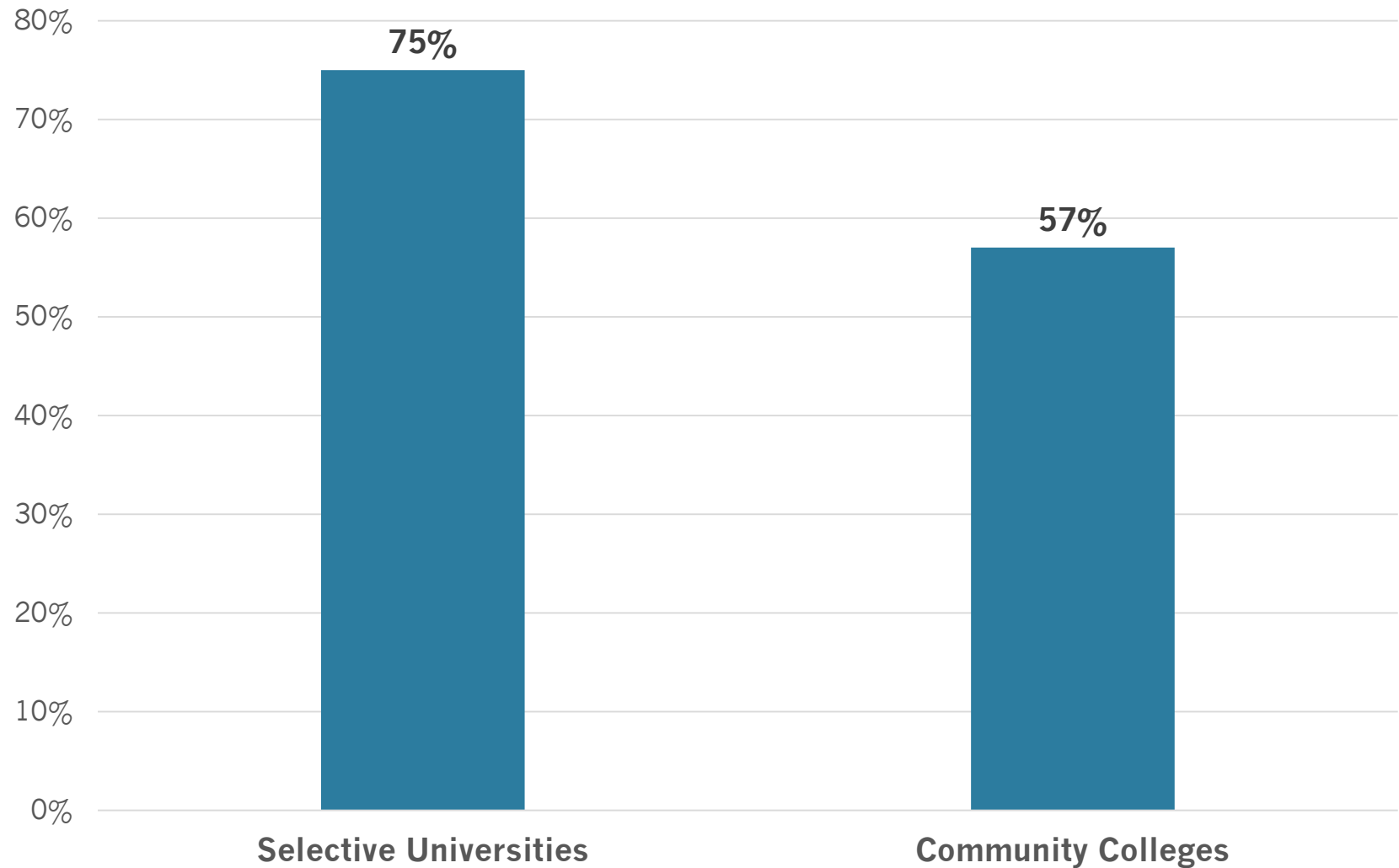
Parent Income Distributions Harvard



Harvard students' family incomes by national income quintile, for students born between 1980 and 1991
Courtesy of the Equality of Opportunity Project

Proportion of White Students in the USA

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The Equity Challenge

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- Access
- Success



The Equity Challenge

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- Access
- Success
- Why should we care?
 - Social justice
 - Talent loss

QA and Equity

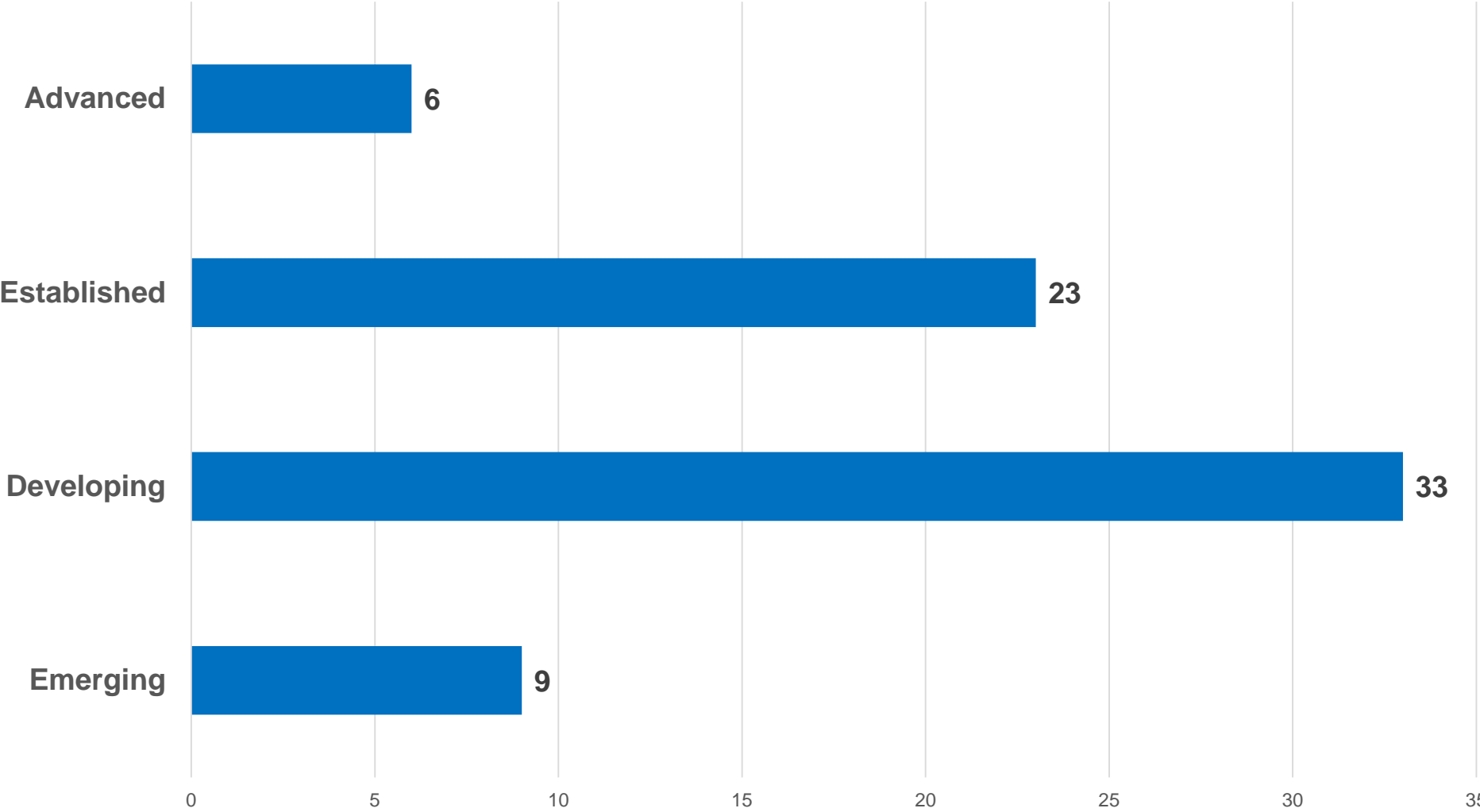
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Region	Category	Frequency of Countries who Monitor Equity only	Frequency of countries who include equity in QA only	Frequency of countries who do both QA and Monitoring
East Asia (11)		0	0	0
Eastern Europe & Central Asia (5)		0	2	0
Latin America and Caribbean (19)		0	7	4
Middle East & North Africa (4)		0	0	1
North America (2)		0	0	0
Pacific (2)		1	1	0
South Asia (5)		0	2	0
Sub-Saharan Africa (13)		2	0	0
Western Europe (10)		0	1	4
Total (71)		3	13	9

Equity Benchmarking

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The Equity Champions

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- Australia, Cuba, England, Ireland, New Zealand and Scotland

Societal Engagement

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- Serving the community
- Serving the region
- Serving society at large



Oxford Dictionaries

**WORD
OF THE YEAR**

post-truth

Definition

"circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief."

Brexit(s): the end of rationality

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- Leaving the EU will save the UK millions of pounds
- We are done listening to the experts
- President Bush: “I don’t care what the facts say”
- Trump administration:
 - “We would like to present alternative facts”
 - “Sometimes we can disagree with the facts.”

Fake news, untruths and post-truth

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Rejection of scientific evidence

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Brexit(s)

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- Evolution
- Climate change
- Vaccines
- Our world is flat



FLAT EARTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (USA) 2019

November 14-15, 2019 | Dallas, Texas

REGISTER

Save the date



DALLAS

Brexit(s)

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- Evolution
- Climate change
- Vaccines
- Our world is flat
- Historical events and facts
- Academia has lost credibility, convincing power and respect

Critical thinking & respect for scientific evidence

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- Distinguish between real evidence and fabricated information (truth-seeking skills)
- Reinstate academic tradition of free and fair debates, undermined by relativism and political correctness
- Rebuild trust in academics and science
- Improve communication channels between Universities and Society



The 2016 Lorne Trottier public science symposium series

Science and the Media: The challenge of reporting science responsibly

This year's Trottier Symposium, *Science and the Media: The challenge of reporting science responsibly*, features four prominent journalists, all of whom are highly skilled in communicating science to the public. Whether it may be through their regular newspaper columns, online pieces, or investigative reporting, these speakers will address the challenge of living in this "Age of Anxiety" and how they do so in a responsible fashion.

Excellence and corruption in Colombia

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University	Corruption ranking	Excellence ranking	Status
U Externado de Colombia	1	15	Private
U. Pontificia Javeriana	2	7	Private
U Los Andes	3	1	Private
U Santo Tomás	4	49	Private
U Nacional de Colombia	5	2	Public
U Libre	5	50-100	Private
U del Rosario	7	3	Private
U de Antioquia	8	6	Public
U del Norte	8	11	Private

Most corrupt professions in Colombia

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Profession	Percentage
Lawyers	43%
Business, Finance, Economics and Accounting	28%
Engineers & Architects	16%
Doctors and Dentists	7%
Humanities	5%
Hard Sciences	1%



conclusion





CENESI
MASSINELLI



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Fraud & Corruption

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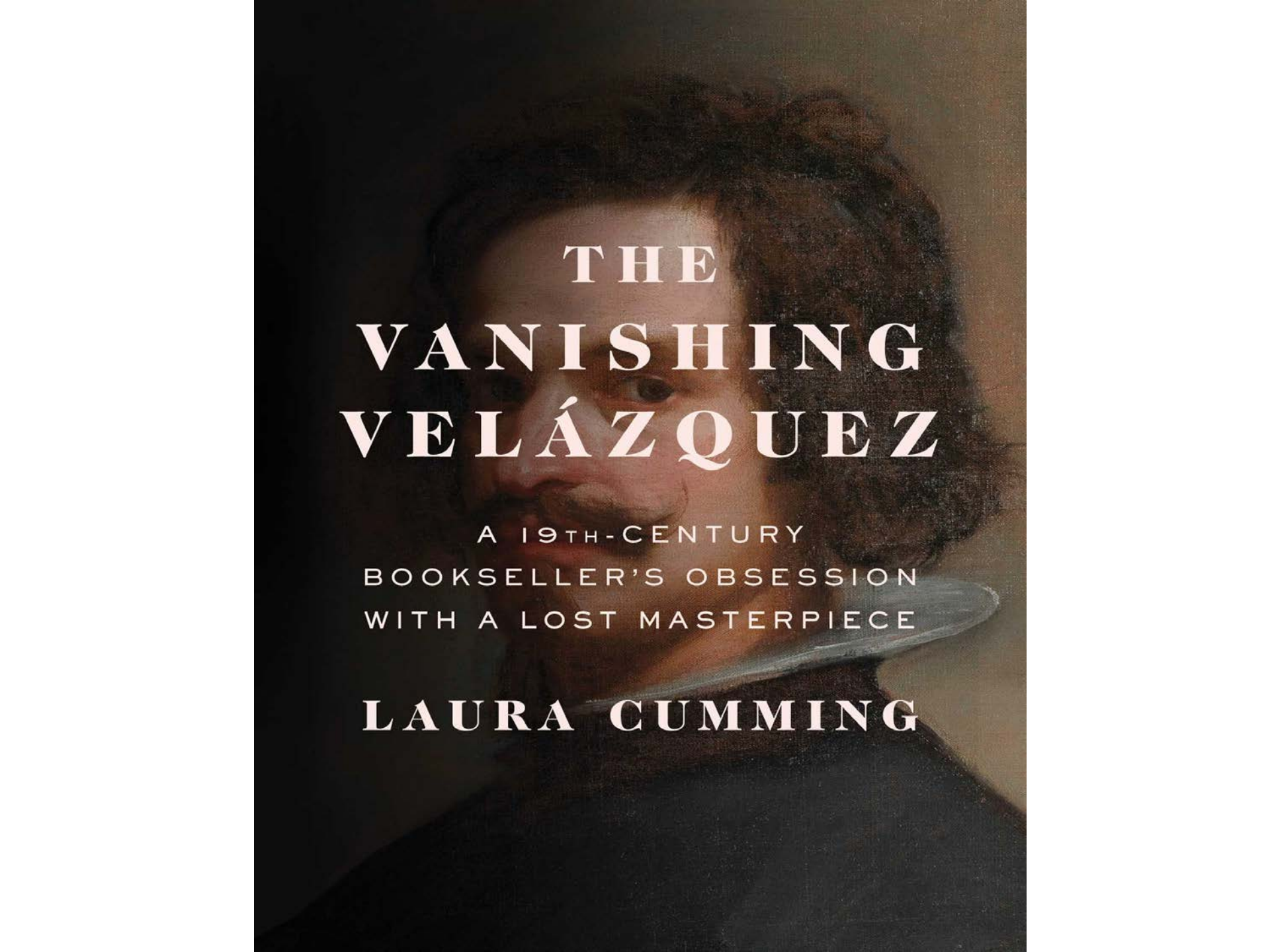


- Admission
- Plagiarism
- Fraud at exams
- Contract cheating
- Fraud in research
- Sexual harassment
- Degree mills (esp. online)
- Accreditation mills
- Fake academic journals and conferences

Regulations or Trust?

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THE
VANISHING
VELÁZQUEZ

A 19TH-CENTURY
BOOKSELLER'S OBSESSION
WITH A LOST MASTERPIECE

LAURA CUMMING









Too much trust?

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- FAA has delegated key security decisions to Boeing
- Internal culture of hastiness & cutting corners (profit-driven)
- Ignoring safety advice from key internal actors

Finding the Right Balance?

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Trust

QA as Partnership

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- Intellectual and institutional independence
- Flexibility
- Collaboration
 - By and for the members
 - In partnership with all stakeholders and partners

Trust

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- Trust is powerful
- Trust is fragile
- Trust is about the truth
- Trust is based on mutual respect

You won't let me down, will you?

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