Presenter Biographies

Rankings Updates: What Institutional Researchers Should Know
Association of Institutional Researchers (AIR) Annual Conference
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Yang Zhang, Ph.D., MBA, Director, Mānoa Institutional Research Office, University of Hawaii at Mānoa

Yang Zhang has worked for three institutions' IR offices for over 13 years, with the responsibility to provide and use international and national rankings' data. Currently serving as the IR director at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Yang is responsible for providing data to various ranking organizations, helping to explain changes in her institution's rankings to university leadership, and for utilizing ranking data for decision making. She has attended international ranking conferences regularly to stay informed of the methodologies and trends in international rankings for universities. Yang organized the international ranking panel presentations at the 2015 and 2016 AIR, which brought all major international rankings to AIR for the first time. Yang is a frequent speaker at the national and international conferences regarding various ranking related topics.

Robert Morse, Chief Data Strategist, U.S. News & World Report

Robert Morse has worked at the company since 1976. He develops the methodologies and surveys for the Best Global Universities, Best Colleges, Best Graduate Schools, Best Arab Region Universities and Best High Schools annual rankings produced by U.S. News, keeping an eye on higher-education trends to make sure the rankings offer prospective students the best analysis available. He is the author of Morse Code Inside the College Ranking blog which provides deeper insights into the methodologies and is a forum for commentary and analysis of college, grad and other rankings. He has been a speaker at numerous AIR forums. He has spoken about rankings at many higher education conferences around the world. Robert Morse is currently on the executive committee of the International Ranking Experts Group (IREG) and was one of IREG's founding members.

Ying Cheng, CEO of ShanghaiRanking Consultancy, Shanghai ARWU

Ying Cheng, Dr. is the Executive Director of Center for World-Class Universities at Graduate School of Education, Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU) and CEO of ShanghaiRanking Consultancy. He obtained his bachelor degree in Polymer Science and his doctoral degree in Higher Education, both from SJTU. Then he did his postdoctoral studies at the Observatoire des Sciences et des Techniques in Paris. He has been responsible for the annual update and new development of the Academic Ranking of World Universities since 2005. He developed Ranking of Top Universities in Greater China in 2011, Ranking of Macedonian Higher Education Institutions in 2012, Best Chinese Universities Ranking in 2015, Global Ranking of Academic Subjects in 2016 and Best Chinese Subjects Ranking in 2017. He was on the Steering Board of U21 Rating of National Tertiary Education Systems, the first ranking of national higher education systems.

Selina Griffin,
Ranking Manager, QS World University Ranking

Selina was appointed to the post of Rankings Manager at QS in May 2017 where she leads the Rankings team to deliver QS' growing suite of rankings. Prior to QS, Selina worked for four years in fundraising at the University of Oxford. She has always worked in data, beginning her career working for the IT unit of a local authority where she dealt with, amongst over things, social care, education and asset databases. During her time at Oxford she acted up as Team Leader for the Central University's Regular Giving team, revolutionizing their approach to mail campaigns. She progressed to a new role at Oxford, leading a team of data analysts and officers focusing on data quality, reporting and insight.

Duncan Ross,
Data and Analytics Director,
Times Higher Education World University Rankings

Duncan is Data and Analytics Director for Times Higher Education, helping to create new and innovative rankings and data products across the HE sector. He was listed in the top 50 data leaders in the UK by Information Age, and as one of DataIQ's Big Data 100. Prior to joining Times Higher Education, he was Director Data Science at Teradata, with a remit across all industries and the entire international region (EMEA and APAC). Duncan regularly speaks at business conferences and has several published papers on aspects of data-mining for business. He was part of the team that founded the Society of Data Miners, and is strongly involved with the data philanthropy movement, being one of the founder Directors of DataKind UK (www.datakind.org.uk).