

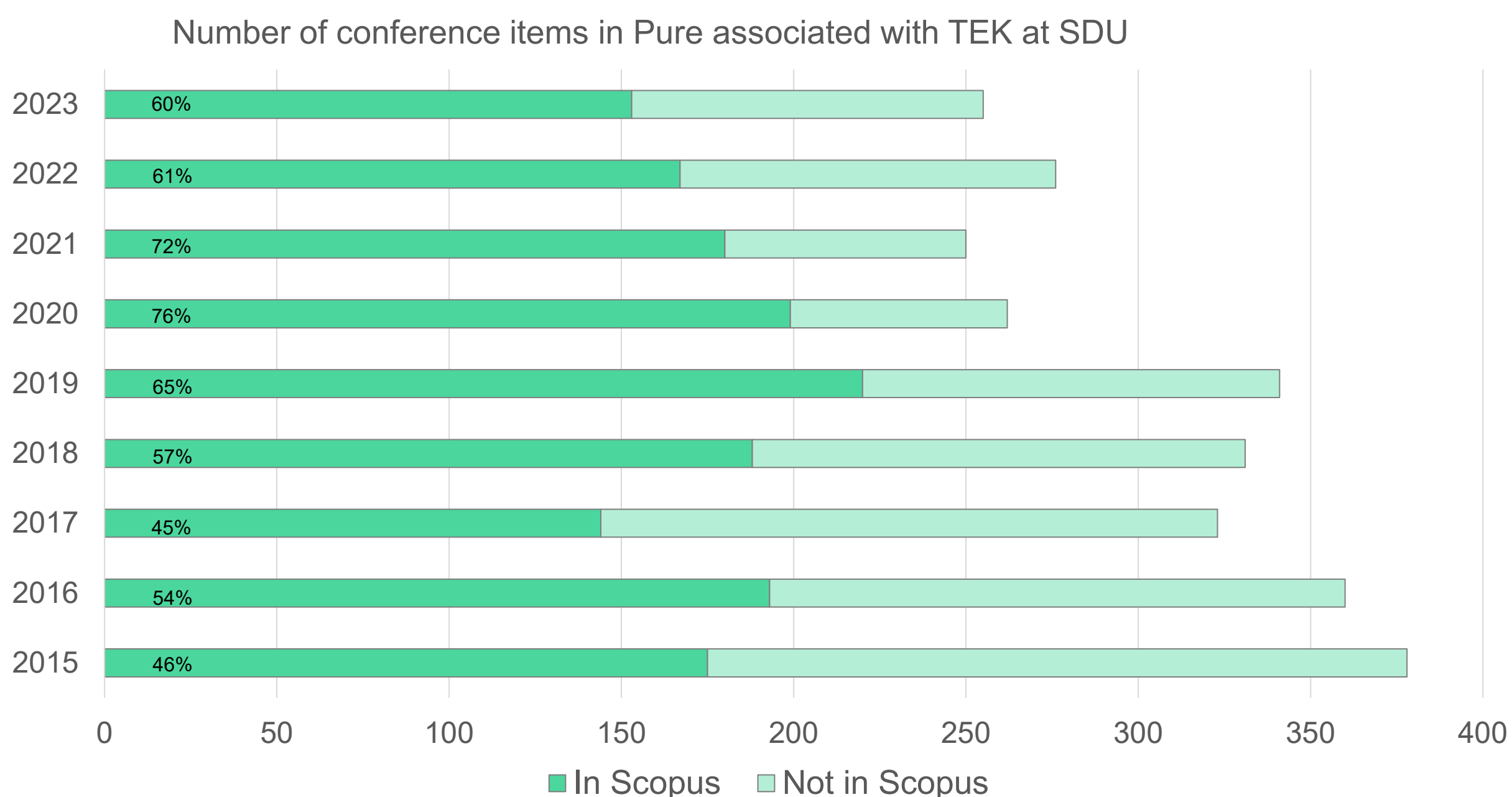
# Should I go to this conference?

Thea Marie Drachen<sup>1,✉</sup>, Lone Grip<sup>1</sup>, Evgenios Vlachos<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University Library of Southern Denmark, University of Southern Denmark;

<sup>2</sup>The Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller Institute, University of Southern Denmark;  
✉ [thmd@bib.sdu.dk](mailto:thmd@bib.sdu.dk)

Since the winter of 2021, the Danish bibliometric research indicator (BFI) is no longer in effect. We have however at the SDU library been contacted by research managers asking for help assessing the quality of conferences and what tool they could use to determine if they should grant researchers funds to go to a specific conference. We have found no good options. The lists from the BFI when in use were updated after the fact, not backwards updated, and they are now outdated. As research managers are focusing on conference content being countable, and since most of the counting is done via Scopus, the one measure we can reluctantly give is whether a conference is indexed in Scopus or not. But should indexing determine dissemination and in particular networking options for researchers? The aim of this poster is to assess the potential size of this issue should Scopus-indexing be the indicator for conference quality. To begin with, we are limiting ourselves to assessing the output from SDU Faculty of Engineering.



## Method

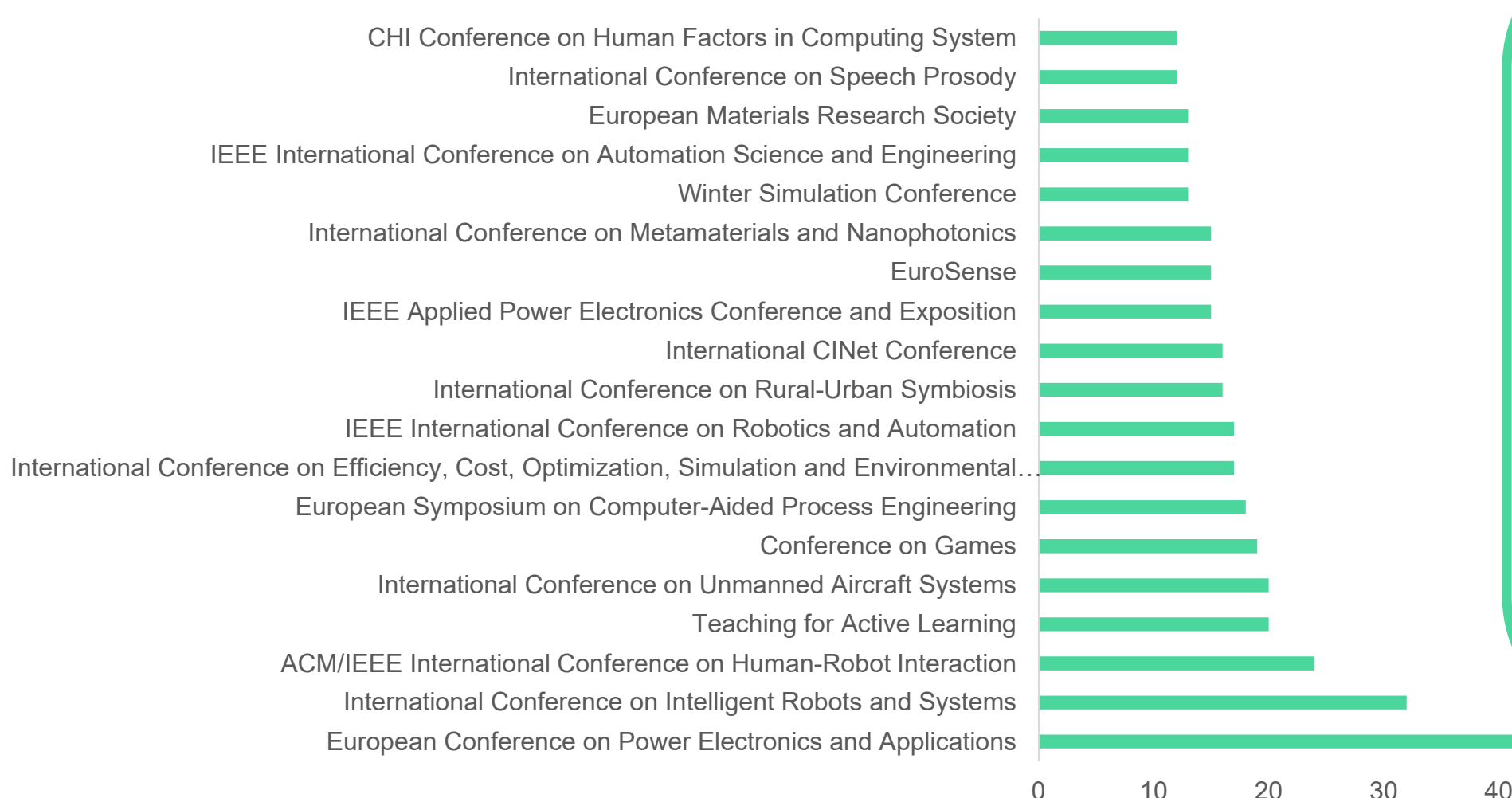
As a proof of concept, we pulled information on all conference contributions from SDU Pure relating to the Faculty of Engineering from 2015-2023. With information on Publication import source (Scopus or no Scopus) and a further on Supplemental source IDs with a simple filter search in Excel for Scopus, we could combine information from those two columns to get the number of conference items per year and how many of those were or were not indexed in Scopus.

The local Pure team has done searches in specific databases to populate SDU Pure with conference contributions not automatically harvested. Before March 2022, the SDU Pure team stopped doing these searches due to lack of time. It does not seem to markedly affect the number or percentage of items registered in Pure. All these calculations are based on Pure content being 100%. While that is the goal, it is not likely to be the reality.

We found that in the last two years approximately 40% of the conference items in Pure were not indexed in Scopus, and that this percentage was never lower than 24%, indicating that Scopus indexing alone should not be the determining factor for conference attendance.

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## Top TEK conferences by number of conference contributions - preliminary results



## Take home messages

- Should we equate indexing in a specific database with a guarantee of quality?
- Should we equate lack of indexing in a specific database as an indication of lack of quality?
- Could institutions, departments and funders calculate and reward output using broader means than Scopus? Such as the Nora database.