Reputation and impact in academic careers

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Reputation is an important social construct in science, which enables informed quality assessments of both publications and careers of scientists in the absence of complete systemic information. However, the relation between reputation and career growth of an individual remains poorly understood. We show that the impact of a paper is boosted by the reputation of its coauthors up to a given threshold, above which the impact of the work is sustained by its own reputation.

This suggests that investing on quality over quantity is still a promising strategy, but that the choice of collaborators is an important added value.