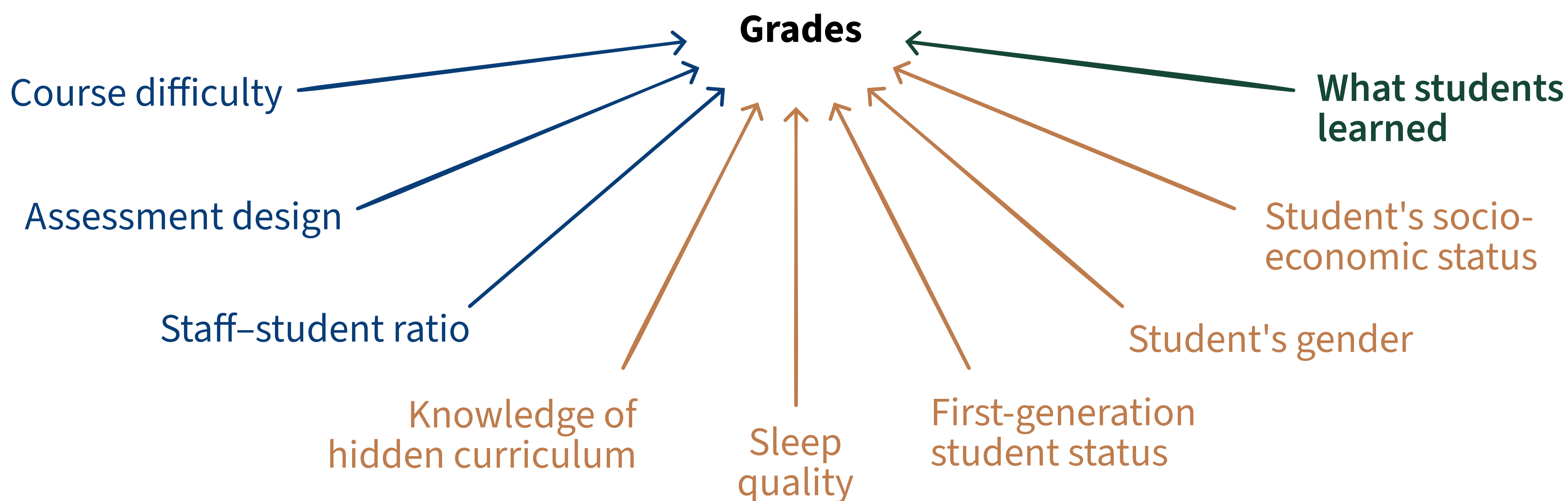


How degrading: What we measure when we grade student work

Elizabeth Pankratz and Itamar Kastner

School of Philosophy, Psychology, and Language Sciences at the University of Edinburgh
Second Biennial Conference of the Society for the Study of Measurement, 2026



What are your assessments measuring?

Resources we recommend:



Grading for Growth blog



The Grading Conference



Your local academic developers

Podcasts:



- The Grading Podcast
- Teaching in Higher Ed

Books:



- Clark & Talbert (2023)
- Sambell et al. (2013)

Our work on skills-based grading:



← Itamar + colleagues

Elizabeth + colleagues →



Interventions for equitable grading:

In individual assessments:



- Projects and unessays
- Self-assessment
- Assessment for Learning (AfL)

Across a course:



- Skills-based grading
- Pass/fail course outcomes
- Project-based learning

At programme/institutional level:



- Better staff-student ratio
- Enough time for staff to develop quality pedagogy
- Pedagogy training and recognition for staff