Registered Reports in Psychology: Why, for whom and how?

Michael Bosnjak¹, Erich Weichselgartner¹ and Roland Ramthun¹

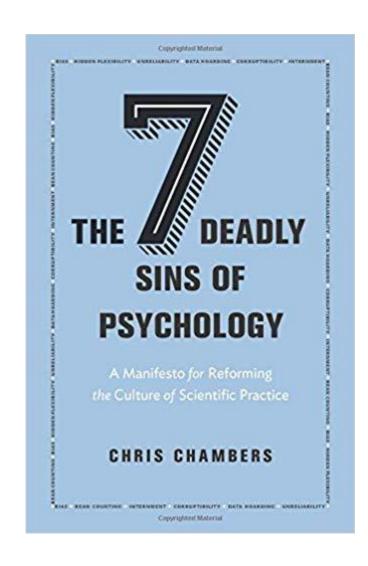
¹Leibniz Institute for Psychology Information, Trier, Germany

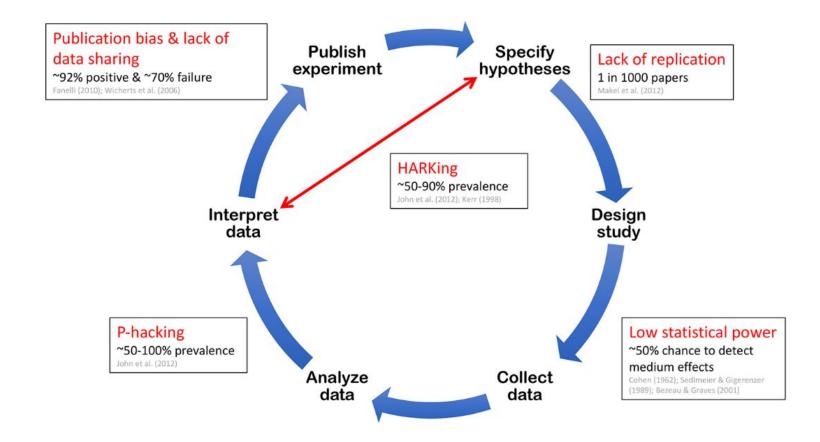




The 7 Deadly Sins of Psychology (Chambers, 2017)

- 1. (Confirmation) Bias, e.g., Neophilia, 'conceptual' replications
- 2. Hidden Flexibility, e.g., p-hacking, HARKing, subgrouping
- 3. Unreliability, e.g., lack of power and replicability
- 4. Data Hoarding
- 5. Corruptibility
- 6. Internment
- 7. Bean Counting





The New York Times



Einmal ist **KEINMAL**

Zahlreiche klassische Experimente der Psychologie lassen sich nicht wiederholen. Sind sie deshalb falsch?

DER UMGANG MIT DATEN IST MANCHMAL SEHR KREATIV

Im Grunde wissen die Psychologen noch nicht, warum Bestätigungsversuche des Öfteren scheitern. Es könnte auch an einer gewissen Kreativität in der Auswertung der Daten in den Originalstudien liegen. **SCIENCE TIMES AT 40**

Essay: The Experiments Are Fascinating. But Nobody Can Repeat Them.

Science is mired in a "replication" crisis. Fixing it will not be easy.



SCIENCE & THE PUBLIC PSYCHOLOGY, SCIENCE & SOCIETY

'Replication crisis' spurs reforms in how science studies are done



Foster trust in empirical science!

by enabling researchers to demonstrate that their studies have been conducted, analyzed, and reported as initially planned

RegReports - For whom?

Authors

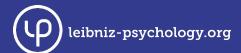
 can base their research on scientific and quality criteria - irrespective of the possible outcome

Editors

- can increase validity and replicability of their journal contents
- establish a quality commitment and brand

Readers

- higher confidence in published results, because of reduced publication bias
- Funding agencies
 - efficient budget allocation by ensuring the proper publication of null results





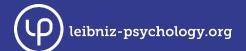
Authors of empirical studies publish details regarding sampling,
sample size and the plan for analysis *prior* to conducting the study

- preregistered study protocols can be handled and peer-reviewed like an article
 - acceptance of preregistered study protocols based on method and quality of design, not on outcome
- → Increase in robustness and replicability of psychological science



Over 160 journal already offer a preregistered format today!

Source: https://cos.io/rr/





RegReports - A silver bullet?

"The single cheap solution that will solve all of the problems in the entire world" (Goldacre, 2009)

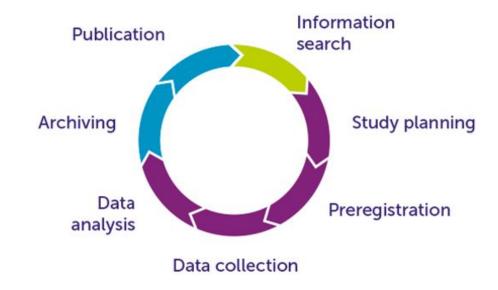
Several challenges remain

- incentive for authors to adopt preregistration formats
- integration for authors in writing a study protocol
- integration and decision aids for reviewers
- integration into journal systems for editors and readers

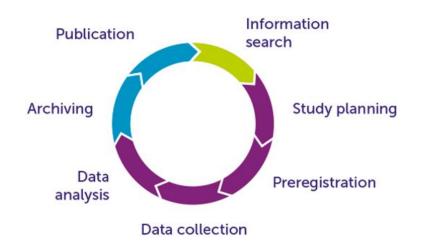




ZPID is a Public Open Science Institute for Psychology and related disciplines



- ZPID wants to enable preregistration
 - no normative statements
 - mission of associations like DGPs, APA, etc.
 - Supporting pre-registration by:
 - integrating preregistration into a research cycle
 - participating in developing and implementing joint standards (currently with: DGPs, Hogrefe, SIPS, APA, BPS, etc.)

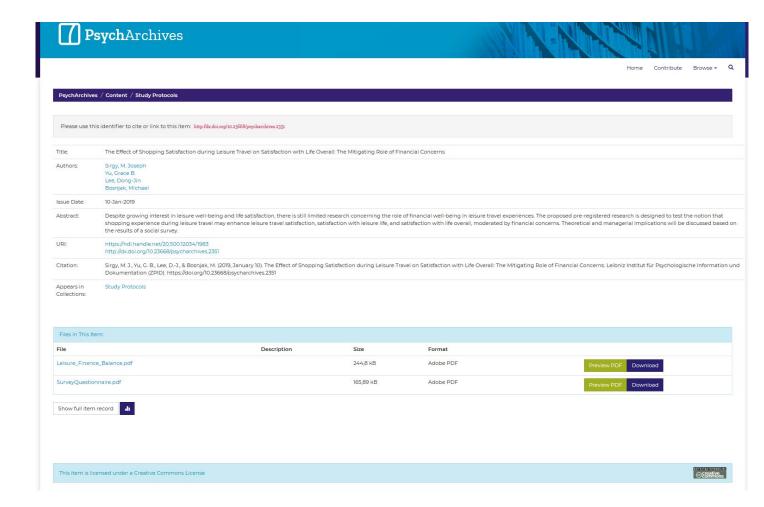


- ZPID wants to enable Registered Reports!
 - offering free and independent data collection services for successfully reviewed protocols
 - offering notarization and long-term preservation services
 - developing a service for authors and editors to create and review protocols ("RegReports")
 - developing SMART-preregistration in PsychOpen GOLD (OA journals) ("SMART-Protocols")



RegReports - notarization and preservation

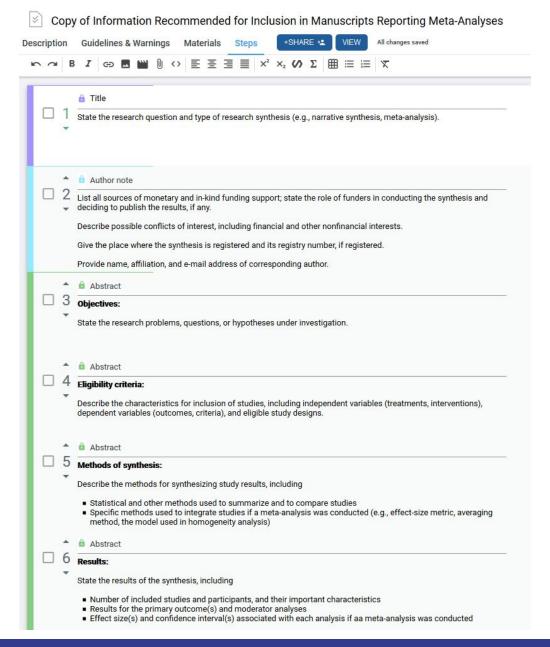
- PsychArchives
 - keep a copy of protocols with an independent third party ("notarization")
 - connect and preserve protocol, data, analysis code, publication and all other digital research objects for a study in one place





RegReports - service to create and review

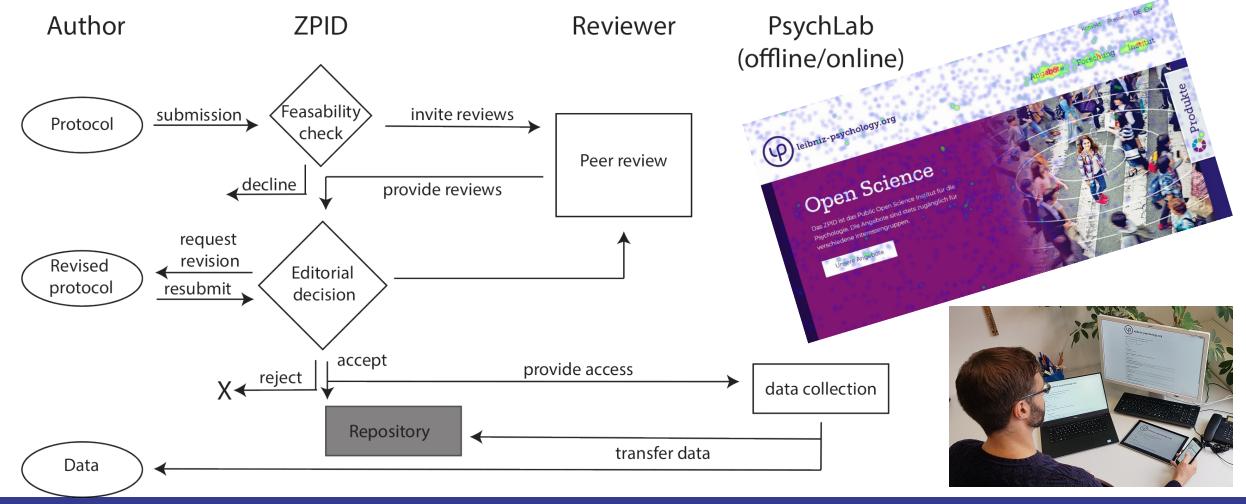
- Platform populated with templates developed for psychological science
 - technology based e.g. on protocols.io







RegReports - free data collection incentive



RegReports - SMART-Preregistrations

- Deposit additional machine-readable version of protocols in PsychArchives
 - markup of individual sections within the protocol
- Implement display on journal side in PsychOpen GOLD OA journals



Use of superscript tags in paper is concise way to convey what was pre-registered.

We recruited a sample of 61 participants as specified by our preregistered stopping rule^[P-6]



P-6: A power analysis was carried out to determine that a sample size of 61 participants was necessary to detect medium effects f = .25, as outlined by Cohen, 1988), with power of .9.

Hovering over tag reveals tooltip with full content pulled from registered protocol

Hardwicke et al. (2018)





RegReports - Perspectives

- 2019: prototype software for comfortably creating and reviewing protocols and notarizing them in PsychArchives
- 2020: PsychLab Offline incentive fully operational

We expect most of the proposed ideas to be transferable to other empirical sciences, as the approaches are not strictly specific for psychology and hope these domains can profit from our endeavours.

Thank you very much. Any questions?

