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DEAR READER,

On September 1, 2017, PRINTEGER's third and final year has started. In the last six months, it was up to the researchers to inform us by practice on their research integrity issues in a survey and focus-groups. Analysis and use of results is our main focus in this third year.

And there is more to come: 2018 is the final year, and the project has big plans for it! The PRINTEGER European Conference on Research Integrity (February 5-7, 2018) gives us a chance to present and discuss these results and exchange views. We will try out the developed tools with students and take a look at varying research integrity topics in parallel sessions.

What else has happened and is about to happen? Find out in this newsletter edition.

Enjoy reading!

INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR DR. PETER WEINGART



© Prof. Dr. Peter Weingart

Professor Dr. Peter Weingart is Professor emeritus of Sociology, Sociology of Science and Science Policy (Bielefeld University). His current research interests are science communication and the role of social media. He was Chairman of the Commission of the Austrian Agency for Research Integrity from 2011 to 2015 and is currently Editor in Chief of *Minerva: A Review of Science, Learning and Policy*.

Professor Weingart, what is your specific professional and personal interest with issues regarding integrity in science?

Having studied science as a sociologist and taught students about the operation of science throughout my career, I see with some concern how the norms and principles of good scientific practice are being undermined and eroded by the imposition of performance measures, vacuous competition and a quest for public attention. This has led to a widespread ‘goal replacement’ among young scholars.

You have a special research interest in science communication and social media. How did the field of science communication change in the last years? Is there a special challenge for research integrity?

Science communication is increasingly identified with marketing of science and PR, fired by commercial interests of respective groups and organizations. It is also confused with ‘democratization’ of science, citizen science and similar benevolent

endeavors. Especially the former is at risk of undermining integrity of communication as there is – unavoidably – institutional interest behind the message, and the general public is hardly able to distinguish between ‘genuine’ and (institutionally) interested communication.

How does the use of social media influence science and science communication?

The advantages of social media are fast, widespread and direct communication. The risks are the loss of critical intermediaries (journalism), the lowering of the threshold between communication among competent peers and the public which makes it harder to separate reliable and trustworthy communication from unreliable, fake and conspiratorial communication (crisis of the credibility of sources).

What kind of contribution can the science community make to promote integrity? What needs to be done in order to promote integrity as an integral dimension of excellence in research?

The establishment of ombudsmen at universities and research institutions, of agencies such as the Austrian Agency for Research Integrity and the teaching of the rules and principles of good scientific practice from the first semester onward. It is appalling to see how unaware many students and even established scholars are of these principles. It is equally distressing to see how these are undermined by the practice of publishers of predatory journals, and how their business model is supported by government sponsored performance regimes. In fact, since many if not most scientists have joined to play the game one cannot be very optimistic about the chances of reversing that development.

As Editor in Chief of Minerva: A Review of Science, Learning and Policy, what is your experience with peer-review procedures with regards to research integrity?

By and large, the peer reviews system still operates but it becomes increasingly difficult to find

reviewers given the burden of a growing number of publications. Thanks go to all reviewers who take the time to read and comment thoroughly.

What do you expect from a project like PRINTEGER to contribute to the promotion of a research culture in which integrity is a crucial factor?

The principles of good scientific practice are actually quite clear (although there are always borderline cases) but the causes of their violation are less well known. PRINTEGER should strengthen the analytical reflection of these causes as often and widespread as possible in research contexts. It should also communicate the insights to the public.

Thank you for taking part in our interview, Professor Weingart.



NEWS FROM WP I - PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

Why Research Integrity Matters to You? PRINTEGER European Conference on Research Integrity, February 05-07, 2018 in Bonn



© Volker Lannert, University of Bonn

The PRINTEGER European Conference on Research Integrity: Why Research Integrity Matters to You, invites early stage researchers, senior researchers, students, research managers, industrial researchers, academic teachers, journal editors and research policy makers but also the media and the broader public to exchange views about how to effectively address integrity challenges emerging in contemporary research.

The aim of the European Conference is to promote a culture in which integrity is part and parcel of what it means to do excellent research. An improved governance of integrity and responsible research has to be informed by practice: the daily operation of researchers and their efforts to respond to the tensions and pressures of a complex research system.

We invite participants to discuss research integrity from multiple perspectives, exchange views and discuss project results and educational as well as organizational tools. Topics will be addressed and discussed by keynote speakers and in parallel sessions.

Program Overview

Day 1 of the conference focusses on four topics: integrity challenges in the science system, research integrity and the role of media, deviance in science, and peer-review processes.

Day 2 addresses institutional challenges along with conceptual issues, retractions, and the legal perspective.

Day 3 closes with a consensus conference on research integrity parallel to the try-out of tools especially for students.

Registration is open: <https://printeger.eu/registration/>

Call for Papers - Present your Research



© Frank Homann, University of Bonn

Are you currently working on an issue related to research integrity?

The PRINTEGER European Conference on Research Integrity: Why Research Integrity Matters to You, is seeking proposals reflecting the various themes of research integrity.

Present your Research

This conference is a unique chance to present your special research focus on research integrity and discuss it with a multidisciplinary group of early stage researchers, senior researchers, students, research managers, industrial researchers, academic teachers, journal editors and research policy makers but also the media and the broader public.

Highlighted topics include but are not limited to:

- **Integrity Challenges**
- **Media:** Which forms of misconduct receive most attention? From which fields? How extensive do the media report on these cases?
- **Deviance in Science:** What are motivations and drivers?
- **Peer-review Processes:** How is quality control maintained in the face of current challenges? What is the role of the peer-review system, which, according to many, is facing a crisis in its own right? Can journals play their role as gatekeepers and supervisor?
- **Institutional Perspectives on Research Integrity:** Institutional response to misconduct – fair procedures?

- **Conceptual Issues:** Important developments and policy regimes guidelines, ethical codes, and policy instruments.
- **Retractions**
- **Legal Aspects of Misconduct:** Which is the role for law in the protection and promotion of research integrity? How to guarantee fair procedures for addressing scientific misconduct? Which are the current legal challenges for Europe in this area? And how do rules on research integrity and scientific misconduct interact with other existing legal frameworks, such as personal data protection?

How to Apply

The PRINTEGER European Conference on Research Integrity takes place from February 05-07, 2018 in Bonn, Germany. Topics will be presented and discussed in parallel sessions. An overview on the days and sessions is available here: <https://printeger.eu/agenda/>

To apply, send your abstract (500 words) indicating your topic in the subject line to: cfp.printeger@uni-bonn.de

Please also include your CV.

Submission Deadline: September 30, 2017.

Author Notification: November 17, 2017.

In case of questions, please contact us at: cfp.printeger@uni-bonn.de

Information on the program committee: <https://printeger.eu/call-for-papers/>



NEWS FROM WPIII: WHAT HAPPENS IN PRACTICE? INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO MISCONDUCT

Final Report on the Incidence of Misconduct

The final report work reflects on one of the key questions in the scientific integrity debate, namely what is the extent of misconduct in science? With this report the procedural chain that is followed when a case of misconduct comes to the surface is made visible in six European countries.

By studying the aspects of the incidence question through official reports a lot was revealed about how alleged breaches of integrity and misconduct are experienced, detected, reported, processed, registered and reacted upon. Further conclusions were drawn on the scarcity of registered misconduct, issues of bias, accessibility of the research setting, transparency at an institutional academic level, reluctance to report, reputational influences and the lack of clear-cut definitions. The investigation into registered incidence of scientific misconduct is to be considered as an exceptional and even scarce one. This report makes an attempt at understanding why.

The whole report is available online: <http://printeger.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/D3.1.2.pdf>

Handling Publishing Misconduct: Tools Used by Publishing Houses and Editors

Scientific publications are firstly regarded as means to record results, to disseminate research findings or to foster field-oriented discussions. Increasingly, they are also used as a means of evaluating scientists and organizations. These diverse functions can lead to conflicting interests and ethical dilemmas during a process that involves many actors, amongst them publishers and editors. This report focuses on the protocols and tools used by scholarly and scientific publishers to guard scientific integrity. In the first section, policies and tools from publishers are explored as a means to examine the type of ethical issues that are covered on each publisher's public online presence. In the second section, nine editors and publishers from various disciplines were interviewed, seeking to consider their specific experiences. Lastly, the third section contains a description of the tools and protocols used to prevent misconduct that can happen before or during the publishing process. These descriptions as well as the insights gained from the overview and interviews will serve as a basis for PRINTEGER's further work.

The whole report is available online: <http://printeger.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/D3.5.pdf>



NEWS FROM WP IV & V: TOOL DEVELOPMENT

European Researchers' Understanding and Experience of Research Integrity

Building on results from former work packages, the PRINTEGER project will focus on the development of tools in its third and final year. To develop policies and educational tools promoting integrity as a fundamental part of research culture, it is important that the work of PRINTEGER is informed by practice. The project team from Bristol University (UK) presented a poster explaining the link between practice and tool development during the 5th World Conference on Research Integrity in Amsterdam (May 28 - 31, 2017).

Part of the work involves exploring views and experiences of researchers and governance advice staff about integrity and misconduct, including investigating factors that may encourage or compromise integrity.

To investigate the issues, four partners are each conducting four focus groups: three with researchers at junior, mid and senior level and one with research governance advice staff, administrators and managers.

Each team involved will:

- Purposively sample researchers and governance support staff to attain diversity in terms of disciplinary backgrounds, experiences with publication and industry and gender and ethnicity.
- Use the same question guides.
- Conduct qualitative thematic analysis using the questions as a framework.

The University of Bristol team will conduct a qualitative synthesis of the each country's findings

Questions explore:

- Motivations for research & what makes good research?
- What is considered misconduct or poor quality research?
- How do participants define research integrity?
- What are the barriers or challenges faced in everyday work that can affect research integrity or misconduct?
- Are institutional, national and international policies about research integrity effective?
- How do policies impact the work of researchers?
- How do researchers learn about good research conduct and integrity?
- What do researchers or governance advisors think is needed to foster and maintain research integrity?



International Responses to the Academic Manifesto: Reports from 14 Countries.

PRINTEGER project coordinator Willem Halfman (Radboud University) and Hans Radders (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) asked people to explain what was going on in their country after the world-wide response to the Academic Manifesto. The Manifesto „described how universities are occupied by management, a regime obsessed with ‘accountability’ through measurement, increased competition, efficiency, ‘excellence’, and misconceived economic salvation.“ The results are published in this report. The report provides an overview of the attempts to implement the productivist university, but also of some successful strategies to resist it, from Quebec to Australia, from Finland to Brazil. Exact references can be found at the end of the Newsletter.

Tales of Research Misconduct by Hub Zwart

This monograph contributes to the scientific misconduct debate from an oblique perspective, by analysing seven novels devoted to this issue, namely: *Arrowsmith* by Sinclair Lewis (1925), *The affair* by C.P. Snow (1960), *Cantor’s Dilemma* by Carl Djerassi (1989), *Perlmann’s Silence* by Pascal Mercier (1995), *Intuition* by Allegra Goodman (2006), *Solar* by Ian McEwan (2010) and *Derailment* by Diederik Stapel (2012). Scientific misconduct, i.e. fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, but also other questionable research practices have become a focus of concern for academic communities worldwide, but also for managers, funders and publishers of research. The aforementioned novels offer intriguing windows into integrity challenges emerging in contemporary research practices. They are analysed from a

continental philosophical perspective, providing a stage where various voices, positions and modes of discourse are mutually exposed to one another, so that they critically address and question one another. They force us to start from the admission that we do not really know what misconduct is. Subsequently, by providing case histories of misconduct, they address integrity challenges not only in terms of individual deviance but also in terms of systemic crisis, due to current transformations in the ways in which knowledge is produced. Rather than functioning as moral vignettes, the author argues that misconduct novels challenge us to reconsider some of the basic conceptual building blocks of integrity discourse.

The book is open access and available online: <http://printeger.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Tales-of-Research-Misconduct.pdf>



UPCOMING EVENTS

- > **October 16-17, 2017** Shaping Ethics in Academia and Society: Practices in the Baltic Sea Region (Lithuania)
<http://etika2017.mruni.eu/>
- > **October 18, 2017** Joint Research Integrity and PRINTEGER Second Policy Advisory Board Meeting, Brussels (Belgium)
- > **November 09, 2017** Funding Opportunities in the Horizon2020 Program „Science with and for Society“, Bonn (Germany)
www.uni-bonn.de/forschung/euroconsult/veranstaltungskalender/veranstaltungen
- > **February 05-07, 2018** PRINTEGER European Conference on Research Integrity, Bonn (Germany)
<https://printeger.eu/conference2018/>

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Halfman, Willem and Radder, Hans, editors. “International Responses to the Academic Manifesto: Reports from 14 Countries.” Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective, Special Report (2017): 1-76.

Zwart, Hub. „Tales of Research Misconduct. A Lacanian Diagnostics of Integrity Challenges in Science Novels.“ Springer International Publishing (2017).



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