Academic Research Climate in Amsterdam

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Content

Academic Research Climate in Amsterdam
study design

- Survey
- Focus group interviews
- Pilot interventions
Rotten apple spoils the barrel

Always go through the rest after removing the rotten one....
Academic Research Climate in Amsterdam

- Part of project on *epistemic responsibilities* of universities
- Funded by the Templeton Foundation – and 4 institutions
- Research integrity is key responsibility of universities

**Aim:**
- to explore salient aspects of research climate
- to identify ways to promote RCR
Phase I: Web-based survey (1)

- Ranking 60 major and minor Research Misbehaviors
  - Frequency
  - Impact on trust and truth
- Revised Publication Pressure Questionnaire (PPQ)
- Survey on Organisational Research Climate (SOURCE)
- Stratification for academic rank and disciplinary field
- Focus on descriptive data - also hypotheses on associations
Phase I: Web-based survey (2)

- Including **all scientists** (>0.2 fte) of VU, UvA, AMC, VUmc
- Solid **identity protection** (charter – ethics committee)
- Multiple measures to get a high **response rate**
- Short **questionnaire** (15 minutes)
- Each respondent gets a random **selection of items**
- **Aggregated results** per faculty and UMC research institute
- No cells with fewer than N=25
Phase II: Focus group interviews

- Homogeneous for academic rank
- Homo- and heterogeneous for disciplinary field
- Informed by survey results
- Semi-structured interviews, focusing on:
  - Perceived barriers for RCR
  - Thoughts on preventability of research misbehaviors
  - Exploring solutions and interventions
Phase III: Pilot interventions (1)

Moral Case Deliberation in research groups

- Led by certified moderator
- Case presenter explains personal dilemma
- Participants ask only clarifying questions
- Exploration of values and norms from different perspectives
- Group discussion
- Reflection on consensus solution or differences in choice
Phase III: Pilot interventions (2)

Training program for novice PhD mentors

- Adequate mentoring and supervision are essential
- Substantial room for improvement
- Little formal training is offered
- Window of opportunity when one gets his/her 1st PhD student
- Core of RCR but embedded in other topics
- Mix of mentoring, intervision, course work, capita selecta
Conclusions

- ARCA will yield relevant empirical evidence on the perceived research climate in Amsterdam.
- ARCA will provide disciplinary field specific rankings of major and minor research misbehaviors.
- ARCA will enable fact-oriented discussions on measures to foster Responsible Conduct of Research.
- ARCA will inform the National Survey on Research Integrity.
Optional additional slides
Connection to National Survey

- **ARCA** pilots logistics and identity protection
- **ARCA** selects 5 misbehaviors per disciplinary field
National Survey on Research Integrity (1)

- Web-based survey among all active scientists of Dutch Universities and UMCs
- Focus on frequency and explanatory variables of minor/major research misbehavior
- Attention to differences between academic ranks and disciplinary fields
- Validated questionnaires and expert steering committee
- Solid identity protection of participants and institutions

NWO

ZonMw

Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research
National Survey on Research Integrity (2)

- **Advanced methods**: randomized response technique + missingness by design
- Preparatory pilots, including *Academic Research Culture in Amsterdam*
- Involvement of relevant *stakeholders*
- **Focus group interviews** and *invitational conferences* on survey results
- Recommendations for fostering *Responsible Research Practices*
Explanatory variables of Detrimental Research Practices

SYSTEM of science

local research CLIMATE

level of INDIVIDUAL
### Explanatory variables of Detrimental Research Practices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SYSTEM of science</th>
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<td>Organizational injustice of science system</td>
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<td>Likelihood of detection by reviewers</td>
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<th>level of INDIVIDUAL</th>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific norm subscription</td>
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<td>Perceived work pressure</td>
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<td>Dependence on external funding</td>
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Explanatory variables of Detrimental Research Practices

local research CLIMATE

- Scientific norm adherence in the group and discipline
- Perceived competition
- Received mentoring for survival (+) and RCR (-)
- Perceived social support at work
- Organizational injustice in group and institution
- Likelihood of detection by colleagues in the group