Young researchers know misconduct, but they don’t know how to deal with it

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Content

• GSP workshops
• Preliminary results of our study
• Conclusions

Young researchers know misconduct, but they don’t know how to deal with it – Michael Gommel
Good Scientific Practice Workshops

• 1998: German Research Foundation (DFG) recommendations on GSP

• 2009-12: Workshop curricula on “Good scientific practice” for all subjects

• 2009-17: Team Scientific Integrity – 364 one-/two-day workshops with 4,200 participants (mostly doctoral candidates)

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Our interest

• Do early career researchers know about GSP regulations?

• Do they know what to do if they see or experience misconduct?

• Is our previously obtained rate of misconduct prevalence an unfortunate accident?

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Workshops included in the survey

- 06/2016 - 05/2017: 61 two-day workshops with 687 participants
- 679 questionnaires were handed out
- 660 questionnaires were returned (97.2 %)
- 317 male, 341 female
- 621 doctoral candidates, 37 postdocs
- 3.1/10.2 years of research experience

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Results of our exploratory survey

Sufficient knowledge about binding GSP regulations

36 yes – 5.5 % \( (N = 660) \)

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Sufficient knowledge of doctoral regulations

256 yes – 41.2 %  (N = 622)

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Awareness of the existence of ombudspersons

170 yes – 26.1 % \( (N = 651) \)

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Need to consult ombudspersons

123 yes – 18.9 % (N = 650)

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Involvement in misconduct: falsification, fabrication, plagiarism, data theft, duplicate publication, fake authorship

134 yes  –  20.3  %  (N = 660)

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Research experience and involvement in misconduct

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 1 year</td>
<td>8.7 %</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 2 years</td>
<td>10.2 %</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 3 years</td>
<td>16.7 %</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 4 years</td>
<td>20.0 %</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 5 years</td>
<td>26.1 %</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 6 years</td>
<td>20.0 %</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 7 years</td>
<td>34.8 %</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Conclusions

• Level of GSP knowledge is very low among early career researchers

• Three quarters of early career researchers do not know about ombudspersons

• 1 in 5 early career researchers need to consult with ombudspersons

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Conclusions

• 1 in 5 early career researchers involved in misconduct (we assume: mostly as victims)

• Experience with misconduct rises with research experience

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