Investigating Responsible Research in Finland: Research Integrity Barometer 2018 and the Surveys of (In)appropriate Feedback

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Introduction

- The Finnish framework of research integrity is based on self-regulation of the research community
- Public trust in science is very high in Finland

Two surveys

1. **Research Integrity Barometer 2018**: researchers’ experiences of research misconduct in Finland
2. Investigations of the feedback researchers experience when they take part in public discussion in Finland

[www.responsibleresearch.fi](http://www.responsibleresearch.fi)
Research Integrity Barometer 2018

- Anonymous e-survey, sent to all
  - universities
  - universities of applied sciences
  - research organisations in Finland
- Report published (in Finnish) in May 2019
- Many thanks to the Research Integrity in Norway project for their 2018 report!
- Focusing on: 1) research misconduct and 2) threats to research integrity
Research misconduct in Finland

• Researchers’ observations of research misconduct: rare to nonexistent
• In line with the statistics of the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity TENK:
And the problem areas?

Disregard for the responsible conduct of research, especially

• denigrating the work of other researchers (e.g. neglecting to cite)

• exaggerating one’s academic achievements in a CV

• authorship problems
Perceptions of the biggest threats to research integrity in Finland

• Pressures to publish, to get funding and to climb the academic career ladder
• Data management problems
• Insufficient information of researchers’ own rights
Research communication and academic freedom of speech

Publicly funded research: accessibility and impact

What happens to researchers’ public engagement when they receive inappropriate feedback?
- Inappropriate = offensive, disturbing (e.g. hate speech)
- does not mean critical feedback

Online surveys 2015, 2017 & 2019
Is the feedback appropriate?

- Often
- Occasionally
- Rarely
- Never
- I don't know

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Is the feedback inappropriate?

- Often
- Occasionally
- Rarely
- Never
- I don't know

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How does inappropriate feedback influence researchers’ public activities in Finland?

- I no longer appear as an expert in public
- I am afraid of giving my expert opinions in public
- I appear less often in public
- I continue to appear in public, but I am increasingly cautious
- I appear in public more often
- Not at all

![Bar chart showing the percentage of researchers' public activities from 2015 to 2019.](chart.png)
• In addition to research integrity guidelines and training, researchers need support in research communication

• Research organisations must provide support for researchers in the current media environment!

• For more information of the surveys, contact Secretary General Reetta Kettunen, reetta.kettunen@tjnk.fi
Just published:
A Chinese-English edition of the Finnish system of research integrity

• Get a copy at the ENRIO stand in the Exhibition area!

• Openly available at www.tenk.fi/en
Thank you very much!

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