

EASE Conference

Parallel session: Sunday 12 June, 08:45-10:15

PEERE COST Action session: Research on peer review and research integrity

Moderated by Elizabeth Wager, Sideview, Research Integrity and Peer Review, UK

This session will explore different approaches to studying peer review and research integrity. It draws from experiences of a large COST Action PEERE New frontiers of peer review, which aims to improve efficiency, transparency and accountability of peer review through a trans-disciplinary, cross-sectorial collaboration.

Programme

5 talks of c.15 minutes incl. c.5 minutes for questions, finished with short panel discussion (c.15 minutes) to close

1. *Transparency may come at a serious cost. Confidential vs. open peer review in a simulation model (Flaminio Squazzoni)*

In this talk I shall discuss recent computer simulation studies on peer review in scholarly journals, with a particular focus on the sensitivity of quality and efficiency outcomes to scientist behaviour during the process. If scientists are driven by strategic motivations when reviewing and information on reviewer academic status is revealed after the process, the quality of publications is seriously compromised even when compared to a random peer review system. Findings suggest that a potential conflict of values is at stake with open peer review: the value of transparency may erode the value of justice.

2. *Peer review innovations aiming to support science and reward reviewers (Bahar Mehmani)*

Peer review has been the foundation of quality in scientific publishing for hundreds of years, but continues to evolve as publishing progresses. At Elsevier, we are piloting several new innovations in peer review to make the process more transparent and to value the contributions reviewers make to build our collective scientific knowledge. In this presentation I will present some of these initiatives.

3. *Equipping reviewers to improve review quality and integrity: Lessons from a survey of peer reviewers (Michael Willis)*

In 2015 Wiley surveyed around 3,000 researchers to learn more about their experience of journal peer review. This large-scale survey explored variations in experience, subject disciplines and geographical distribution in the way peer review is conducted and peer review training is provided. The results of the survey were published in January 2016 and will be presented in this session, together with suggestions about the implications of the results for stakeholders in the research and publishing process, including publishers, institutions and funders. These include expanding the peer reviewer pool beyond Europe and North America, providing resources to train and equip peer reviewers, and a discussion of how to evaluate quality in journal peer review.

4. *Transparency of the peer-review in Croatian OA journals (Jadranka Stojanovski)*

Documents, instructions of guidelines for the reviewers, authors, and readers reflect editorial policy of the journal related to the submissions, peer-review process, ethical issues and rights. The transparency of the peer-review process can be seen as an indicator of journal's academic quality. This study presents the results of the content analysis of editorial's guidelines, documents and forms published in Croatian and English language by the Croatian OA journals included in the HRCAK repository of Croatia Open Access journals, which includes more than 400 OA journals. Based on editorial guidelines and best practices the categorization scheme for text coding was developed containing major issues related to the peer-review process like information on reviewers, type of the peer-review, revision results etc. Special attention is given to the ethical issues related to peer-review. The results show that while some journals are making reasonable efforts to make their peer-review process more transparent, there are a large number of journals which editorial policies related to peer-review are unknown.

5. *What can qualitative research tell us about the integrity of peer review? (Ana Marušić)*

This talk will present the preliminary finding from a systematic review on qualitative research about peer review and the integrity of the process. The importance of qualitative research will be discussed, as well as possible future research strategies to understand peer review as a social phenomenon.

Speaker bios

Flaminio Squazzoni

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Flaminio Squazzoni is associate professor of economic sociology at the University of Brescia, where he leads the [GECS-Research Group on Experimental and Computational Sociology](#). He is Chair of the TD1306 COST Action "New frontiers of peer review" (www.peere.org), Director of the [NASP ESLS PhD Programme in Economic Sociology and Labour Studies](#) (October 2015-), President of the [European Social Simulation Association](#) (Sept 2012/Sept 2016), editor of [JASSS-Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation](#), member of the editorial boards of [Research Integrity and Peer Review](#), [Sociologica](#) and [Sistemi Intelligenti](#) and advisory editor of the [Wiley Series in Computational and Quantitative Social Science](#) and the [Springer Series in Computational Social Science](#). His research looks at peer review from a behavioural point of view by integrating quantitative and experimental analysis.

Bahar Mehmani

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Dr. Bahar Mehmani, Publishing Innovation Manager at Elsevier, is working on several projects around reviewer experience and the quality of peer review reports. She received her PhD in Theoretical Physics from the [University of Amsterdam](#) in 2010. Before joining Elsevier, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the [Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light](#).

Michael Willis

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Michael Willis is Senior Manager, Peer Review, at Wiley, based in Oxford, UK, responsible for overseeing Wiley's in-house peer review operations within the

EMEA region. He has 11 years' experience of managing editorial offices and in-house peer review activity within Blackwell's and then Wiley's UK Health Sciences portfolio. His current responsibilities include advising on best practice in peer review across all disciplines, particularly in relation to publication ethics. After a spell of teaching and research in Greek and Latin, he started his publishing career with CatchWord (later Ingenta) in processing and developing online journal content for STM publishers. He is President of the International Society of Managing and Technical Editors (ISMTE, www.ismte.org) and represents Wiley on the Management Committee of PEERE (www.peere.org), an EU-funded study into different aspects of peer review.

Jadranka Stojanovski

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Jadranka Stojanovski is assistant professor at University of Zadar, Department for Information Sciences and research librarian at Ruđer Bošković Institute, Center for Scientific Information. She graduated in Physics at University of Zagreb, Faculty of Science, and holds master's degree and doctoral degree in information sciences. The major part of her professional work is related to the organization of information about research in Croatia, including services and infrastructure. [Who's Who in Science in Croatia](#), repository of scientific equipment [Sestar](#), repository of Croatian OA journals [HRCAK](#), Digital Academic Archives and Repositories [DABAR](#), are just a few national information services among other projects and initiatives she was involved in. She has developed expertise in the knowledge organization, records and data management, scholarly communication and open access publishing, assessment of the research impact, and other main bibliometric and altmetrics issues. She is Croatian National Point of Reference for the open access to scientific information the national coordinator for the project OpenAIRE H2020.

Ana Marušić

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Ana Marušić is Professor of Anatomy and Chair of the Department of Research in Biomedicine and Health at the University of Split School of Medicine, Split, Croatia, and the Founder and Co-editor in Chief of the *Journal of Global Health*. Since 2012, she is Honorary Professor of the Edinburgh University, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK. Prof. Marušić is Past President of the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME) and of the Council of Science Editors (CSE). She is currently the President of the European Association of Science Editors (EASE). Prof. Marušić is the founder of Cochrane Croatia and creator of the Croatian public registry of clinical trials. She is on the Steering Group of the EQUATOR Network.