

Five Recommendations for Journals, Research Institutions, and Funding Bodies to Improve the Value of Preregistration



AUTHORS: Robert M. Heirene, Debi A. LaPlante, Eric R. Louderback, Brittany Keen, Marjan Bakker, Anastasia Serafimovska, and Sally M. Gainsbury

1

Promote Transparency Over Clean Narratives

Research findings are often messy and imperfect. Encourage transparent reporting of all methods and findings, even if it means findings may appear less conclusive.



2

Remove Word Count Limits

Advocate for the removal of word count restrictions on methods sections to allow comprehensive descriptions of methods and results.

Review Preregistrations with Articles

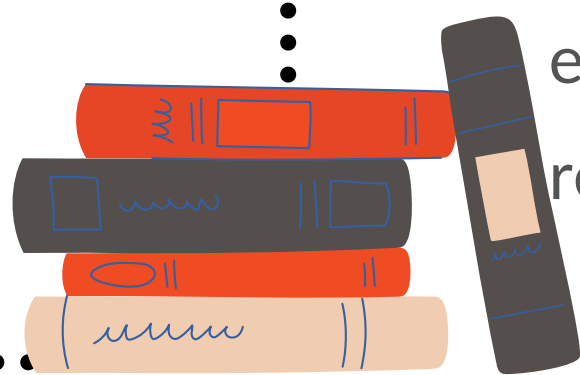
Ensure that preregistrations are reviewed alongside articles to verify adherence to the prespecified plans and identify unexplained deviations.

3

Provide Preregistration Training

Offer training and guidance on preregistration to ensure researchers are empowered to complete detailed and accurate registrations.

4



5

Make Preregistration a Normal Part of the Process

Promote the integration of preregistration as a standard practice in hypothesis-testing research. This includes factoring preregistration time and resources into funding and workloads. Journals should require preregistration links, develop strategies for integration, and include sections on deviations.



Heirene, R., LaPlante, D., Louderback, E., Keen, B., Bakker, M., Serafimovska, A., & Gainsbury, S. (2024). Preregistration specificity and adherence: A review of preregistered gambling studies and cross-disciplinary comparison. *Meta-Psychology (Växjö)*, 8. <https://doi.org/10.15626/MP.2021.2909>

Contact details: Robert.Heirene@sydney.edu.au