



BERKELEY INITIATIVE FOR TRANSPARENCY
IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

BITSS Update

Christensen

Introduction

Workshops

Example

Manual of
Best Practices

JEL Review

Textbook

Research:
Data Sharing
& Citations

Grants,
Awards,
Meetings

BITSS Update

Garret Christensen, Kelsey Mulcahy, Katie Hoeberling

CEGA Staff, October 2016
Slides available online at

<http://www.github.com/BITSS/projectupdate>



Outline

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BITSS Activities

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- Workshops & Seminars
- Manual of Best Practices
- Journal of Economic Literature piece
- Textbook Proposal
- Data Sharing & Citations Research
- Grants, Awards, Meetings



Workshops

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- UC Berkeley
- UC Riverside
- UC San Diego
- Western Economic Association
- IPA (Kenya)
- APHRC (Kenya)
- MCC/MCA (Zambia)
- World Bank
- ICPSR 2-day Course [▶ Link](#)
- Future:
 - UC Merced
 - Institute for New Economic Thinking/YSI (Budapest)
 - World Bank, plus speaker series



Registration

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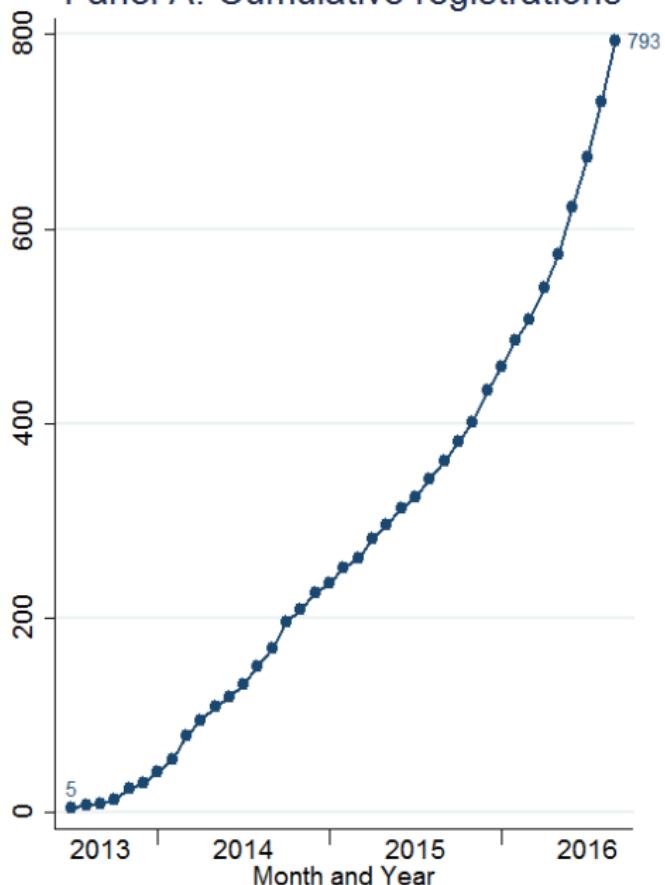
Research:
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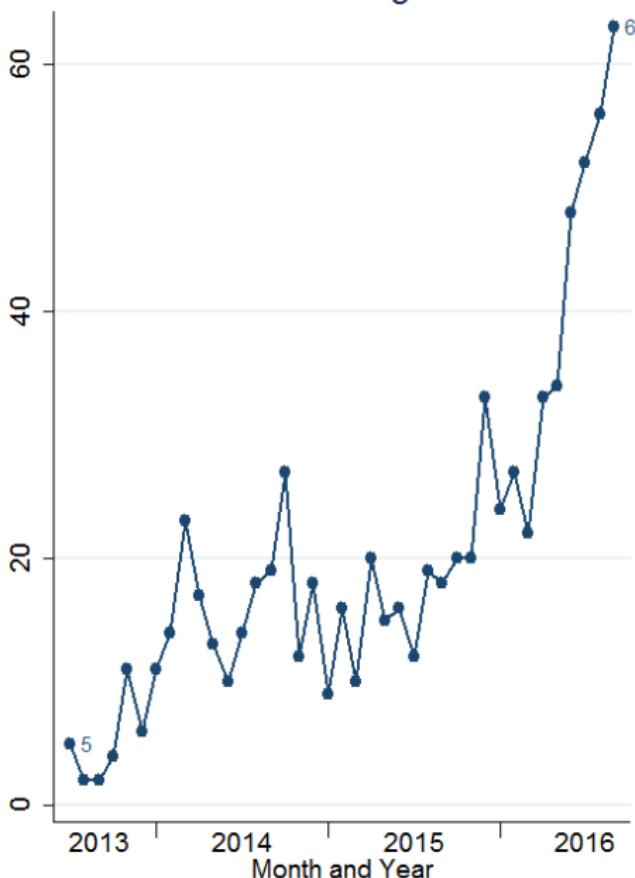
Newer to social sciences, but:

- AEA registry, currently only for RCTs.
<http://socialscienceregistry.org>
- EGAP registry
<http://egap.org/design-registration>
- 3ie registry, for developing country evaluations.
<http://ridie.3ieimpact.org>
- Open Science Framework
<http://osf.io>
 - Open format
 - Will soon sync with above
- Simple: <http://aspredicted.org>

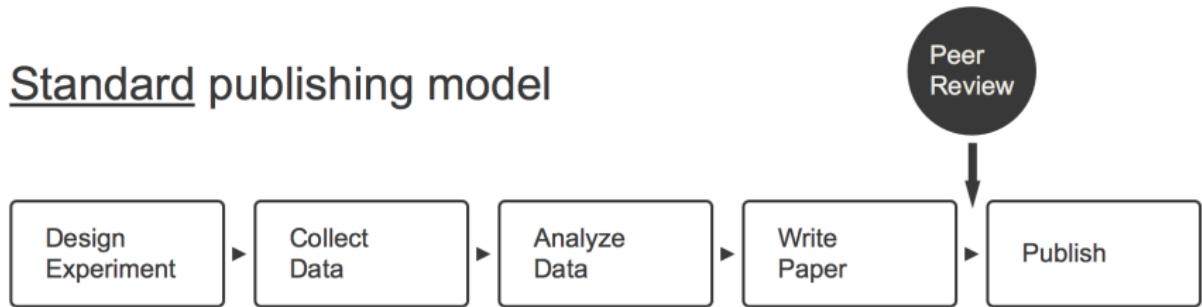
Panel A: Cumulative registrations



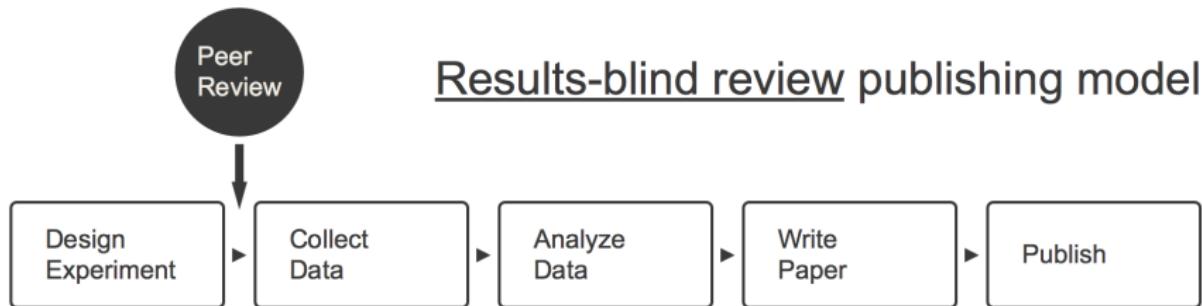
Panel B: New registrations



Standard publishing model



Results-blind review publishing model





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P-Hacking is fun!

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- “Science isn’t Broken” —538 journalism piece with interactive demo [Link](#)
- Train your p-hacking skills R/Shiny App. [Link](#)
- An Exact Fishy Test [Link](#)



THE PREREGISTRATION CHALLENGE

Learn more at cos.io/prereg

SHARE[POLICY FORUM](#) | [SCIENTIFIC STANDARDS](#)

Promoting an open research culture



B. A. Nosek*, G. Alter, G. C. Banks, D. Borsboom, S. D. Bowman, S. J. Breckler, S. Buck, C. D. Chambers, G. Chin, G. Christensen, M. Contestabile, A. Dafoe, E. Eich, J. Freese, R. Glennerster, D. Goroff, D. P. Green, B. Hesse, M. Humphreys, J. Ishiyama, D. Karlan, A. Kraut, A. Lupia, P. Mabry, T. Madon, N. Malhotra, E. Mayo-Wilson, M. McNutt, E. Miguel, E. Levy Paluck, U. Simonsohn, C. Soderberg, B. A. Spellman, J. Turitto, G. VandenBos, S. Vazire, E. J. Wagenmakers, R. Wilson, T. Yarkoni

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Version Control

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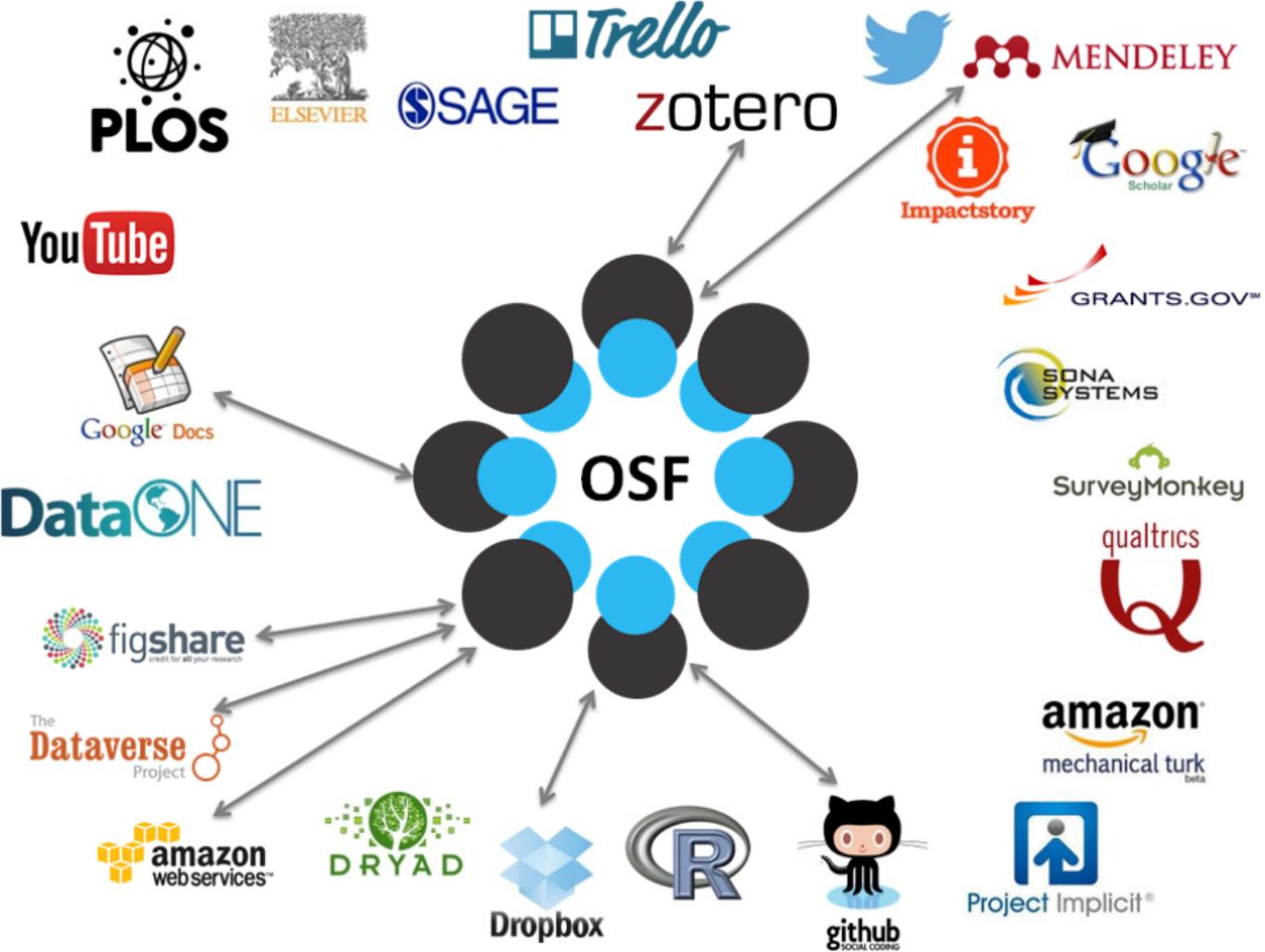
Grants,
Awards,
Meetings

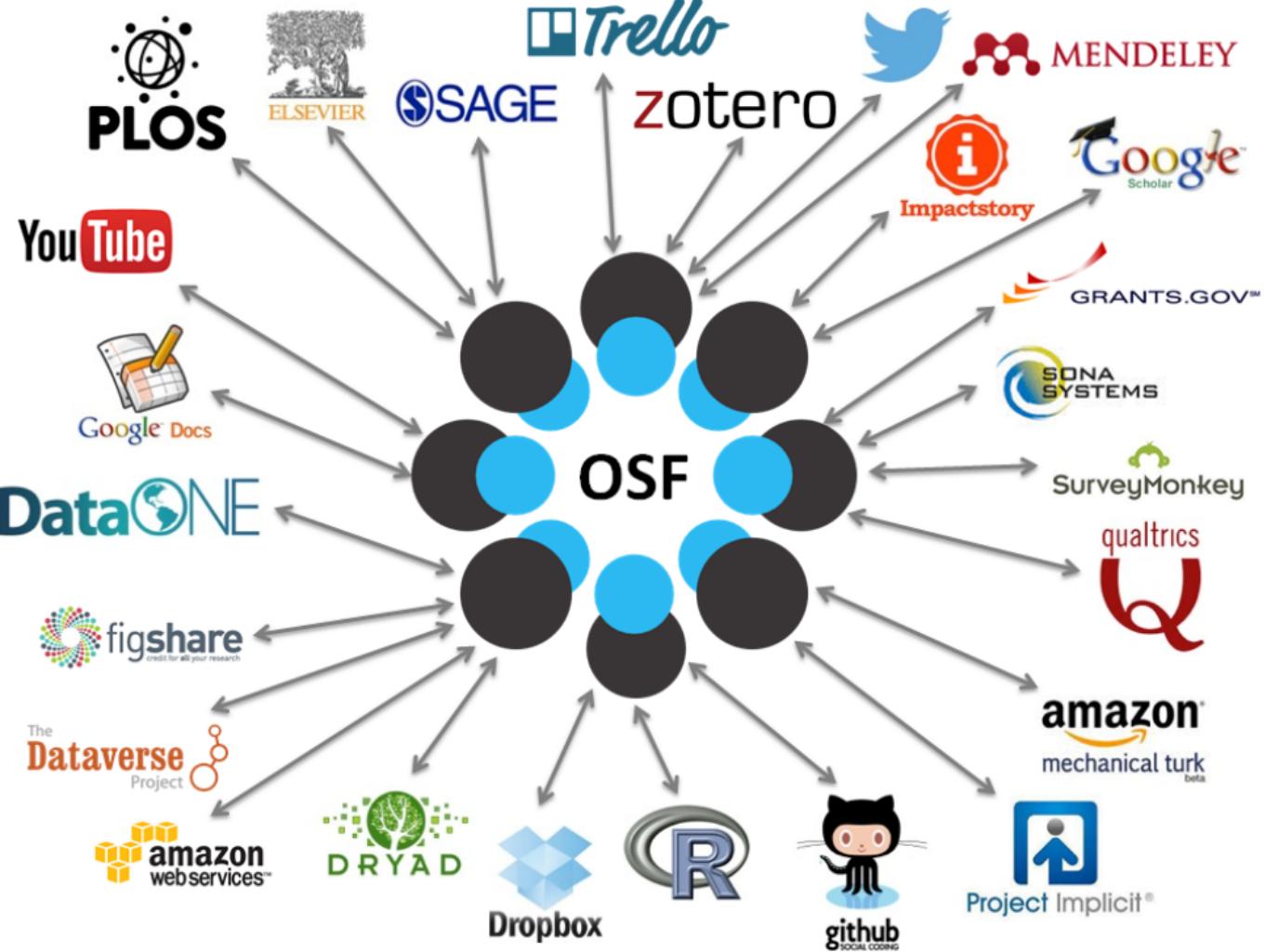
- Using version control (AKA revision control) can help to make your work more reproducible.
- What is version control?

Version control is a system that records changes to a file or set of files over time so that you can recall specific versions later. For the examples in this book you will use software source code as the files being version controlled, though in reality you can do this with nearly any type of file on a computer.

–Git, About Version Control









Dynamic Documents

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Write your code and your paper in the same file so you won't lose information or make copy and paste mistakes.
Possible in R and Stata.

- Include tables by linking to a file, instead of a static image.
- Include number by linking to a value calculated by an analysis file, instead of a static number typed manually.
- Automatically update tables and numbers.
- Produce entire paper with one or two clicks.

The logo for Jupyter consists of the word "jupyter" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. It is centered within a white circle. Above and below the circle are two thick, orange, curved bands that resemble the brim of a hat. Small dark gray circles are positioned at the intersections of these bands with the circle.

jupyter





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OK, I'm convinced. How do I implement this in my own research?

- Read the manual I wrote. [▶ Link](#)
- Subscribe to the BITSS blog & E-mail list [▶ Link](#)
- Apply for our NIH Summer Institute. [▶ Link](#)
- Apply for our SSMART Grants (extra funding for developing country researchers). [▶ Link](#)
- Apply for our Leamer-Rosenthal Prizes. [▶ Link](#)
- Free stats consulting from COS. [▶ Link](#)



Manual of Best Practices

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- Soup to nuts references for doing transparent/reproducible research
- On Github [▶ Link](#)
- 20 unique visitors/week?
- Under review at *Journal of Economic Methodology*
- Served as basis for chapter in *Impact Evaluation in Practice, 2e*



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“Transparency, Reproducibility, and the Credibility of Economics Research”

- 90-100 pages, 34,000 words
- 20 pages of references
- Proposal, Outline, Review, **Final Edits**
- Also scheduled to be included in interdisciplinary (poli sci/soc) book *Producing Knowledge* from Cambridge University Press.



Transparent and Reproducible Social Science Research

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Accepted, contracting with UC Press

- 60,000-70,000 words
- Additional/optional text for metrics/methods courses
- Main text for reproducibility course (few)
- Designed to flow with MOOC [▶ Link](#)
- Due in a year



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- Intro
- Ethical Research
- The Problem: Publication Bias
- The Problem: Specification Searching
- Solutions: Using All Existing Evidence
 - Registration
 - Meta-Analysis
- Solutions: Pre-Analysis Plans (Sample Chapter)
- Specification Searching Solutions: Sensitivity Analysis and Other Approaches
- Reporting Standards
- Replication
- Data Sharing
- Reproducible Workflow
- Conclusion



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- There is strong evidence that papers that share their data get cited more often. However, it's all just associations; nothing causal.
- We plan to use strict changes in journal policy as an instrument for data availability to get causal evidence.
- *American Journal of Political Science* vs. *American Political Science Review*
- *American Economic Review* vs. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*



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- Allan Dafoe (Yale Poli Sci), Ted Miguel, Garret Christensen
- David Birke (GSR)
- Terri Cruz, Ravina Pattni, Kevin Khu, Rachel Kim (URAP)
- Pre-Analysis Plan [▶ Link](#)
- Allan's Paper [▶ Link](#)



Grants, Awards Meetings

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- Stanford Computation+Journalism Symposium panel on Reproducible Journalism
- NIH Support for Summer Institute
- 21 SSMART Grants (x\$30,000) [▶ Link](#)
- Leamer Rosenthal Prizes



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Summer Institute

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Three days of training in June at UC Berkeley, or two days of training in July at the University of Michigan. NIH funding for 5 years!





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SSMART Grant

Up to \$30,000 grant for a research project on:

- Develop new methodology
- New tools and approaches for meta-analysis
- Research on researchers and adoption of new norms

Extra funding source for researchers from developing countries.





Leamer-Rosenthal Prizes

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Up to \$10,000 prize for completed transparent research in the social sciences, especially:

- Economics
- Political Science
- Psychology



Edward Leamer



Robert Rosenthal



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Questions?

Thank you!