**Response to Reviewers’ Comments**

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**Title of Article**: An experimental framework for quantifying the degree of intraguild predation in omnivorous food webs in the field

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Dear Dr. Lin Zhang,

Thank you for inviting me to submit a revised version of the manuscript. I greatly appreciate the valuable comments and feedback from the reviewers. I have incorporated most of the suggestions and the revision has substantially improved the manuscript. In particular, I have made the following major changes:

* Corrected the citation format issue and added several recent articles to the manuscript to better reflect the current status of IGP research.
* Introduced the use of molecular gut content analysis for studying IGP and its potential limitation in the fourth paragraph of the *Introduction* section.
* Discussed the issue of ontogenetic shifts in prey nitrogen isotope signatures and how to address it via stage-specific IGP estimation in the fourth paragraph of the *Applications* section.
* Discussed the issue of mesopredator feeding on alternative prey and how to address it by calibrating the δ15N of top predator in the fifth paragraph of the *Applications* section.
* Discussed the issue of top predator feeding on non-focal prey and suggested several methods to address it in the sixth paragraph of the *Applications* section.
* Discussed the potential application of compound-specific nitrogen isotope analysis of amino acids in the proposed framework in the seventh paragraph of the *Applications* section.

Please also see the following section for my detailed point-by-point responses. All line numbers pertaining to the changes refer to the revised manuscript.

Sincerely,

Gen-Chang Hsu

Department of Life Science, National Taiwan University

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**Reviewer 1's Comments to the Author(s):**

**Comment 1** > This article collects various types of open data and investigates the academic job market in Taiwan, which is an important topic deserving further future studies.

**Response** >

2. However, there are some questions or suggestions as follows:  
(1) About data collection  
A. In line 123 to 126, this research includes 145 PIs who had an updated CV. In other words, researchers who hadn't updated CV were excluded and those PIs' academic careers whether represent specific patterns or not. Hence, what's the representativeness of these 145 PIs in this study?  
B. Besides the institutional/departmental websites, and ORCID, other open data or database could be further consideration, such as Web of Science, Scopus, or Academic Research Service Portal Researcher Query of National Science and Technology Council.

(2)About literatures  
A. This study includes those variables such as year of recruitment, gender, PhD university origin, PhD university ranking, year of promotion and so on (shown as Table 1). What's the theoretical basis of relationship between those variables?  
B. if this article supplied the section of literatures review, readers would more understand the existing related researches of this topic even the theoretical basis.  
3. According to the results and discussions, what's the concrete suggestions to higher education policy, recruitment of university's teaching and research staffs, or PhD students who aim to academic careers?

**Reviewer 2's Comments to the Author(s):**

Comment 1 > The authors examine "how academic performance as well as duration before recruitment as a new principal inverstigator (PI) and promotion to full professor changed over time, and how PhD university origin, PhD university ranking, and gender affected the career success". The manuscript has potential to make a contribution to the literature. However, the manuscript has some problems which makes me recommend major revision. Hopefully my questions and comments can help the authors to improve the manuscript.  
  
Title  
  
The title does not really convey what the study is about.  
  
Abstract  
  
The first sentence in the abstract "Academic job markets have become increasingly challenging worldwide, yet it remains poorly characterized how competitively-successful candidates should be and what the underlying determinants of their success are" seem unsubstantiated. There are numerous studies that have examined determinants of academic success (see. e.g., Hirsch, 2007; Danell, 2011; Acuna et al., 2012; Havemann and Larsen, 2015; Bornmann and Williams, 2017a; Lindahl, 2018). My recommendation is that the authors include a more extensive literature review on previous research in the field and provide a more accurate and nuanced summary of the state of this research.  
  
Materials and Methods  
  
Measurement of academic performance  
  
The data collection with the Publish or Perish software for the h-index need to be described and presented much more and in greater detail. There is not enough detail to be able to review the data collection or the data for calculating the h-index. As a reader I'm not sure how the authors collected the publications for the authors. Did they conduct searches through Publish or Perish at the publication level or the author level? How was the search queries formulated, i.e., did the authors conduct searches on the basis of publication titles, persistent identifiers, etc? My recommendation is (1) that the authors provide the search queries in the manuscript or as an appendix and (2) that they provide much more detail about the data collection procedure and what they have done including how they handle the CV data etcetera.  
  
I cannot see how many documents that are included in the final dataset? This should be included in the manuscript.  
  
What do the authors mean with "regardless of authorship for" in the sentence on page 7 row 1-3?  
  
The authors use the h-index to measure research performance. The h-index is not a normalized indicator of research performance, i.e., it do not adjust for, e.g., research area, publication year, and publication type, and do not live up to best practice in scientometric research. See e.g., Waltman (2016) for a review of citation indicators. To use non-normalized bibliometric indicators as measures of research performance can lead to severe biases in the analyses. The h-index has been heavily criticized in the scientometric literature (Bornmann, & Daniel, 2007; Bornmann, & Daniel, 2009) and it is not recommended to use to measure research performance at the individual level (Waltman, & Van Eck,2012). My recommendation is that the authors change their dependent variable to a normalized bibliometric indicator that is in accordance with best practice in scientometric research or provide good arguments for why the use of h-index should be used in this case. Another potential  
solution is to use a variation of the h-index that adjust for the problems with the h-index and fit the context of the authors study (see e.g., Alonso et al., 2009, for a review of h-index and its variant).  
  
The authors need to discuss the pros and cons of using google scholar. Why use Google Scholar instead of a citation database, e.g., Scopus or the citation indices accessible through Web or Science? Harzing state that Web of Science and Scopus have higher accuracy so why not use them (see <https://harzing.com/resources/publish-or-perish/manual/using/query-results/accuracy)?> How might the use of Google Scholar affect the results? The authors should provide a discussion in the manuscript where the pros and cons of using Google Scholar become transparent for the reader.  
  
Statistical analyses  
  
CV data usually comes with allot of missing values. However, I cannot find anything about missing values in the text. Is there no missing values in the data? If there are missing values a wonder how have the authors handled the missingness.  
  
Regarding the LMMs the authors are referencing R-packages which is fine. But I recommend the authors to also provide relevant references for the actual methods they use.  
  
What do the authors mean with the following sentence: "Non-significant interactions (p > 0.05) were dropped from our final model results. Did the authors first try all possible interactions for each model and then in the final models they only included the significant interactions. Or did the authors include all interactions in the final model but only show the significant interaction in the results (i.e., Table 1)?  
  
The authors write that they log-transformed the dependent variables "to meet the assumption of normality". (page 9, row190-191). Did the authors test the assumption of normality on the transformed variables?  
  
Results  
  
The authors should provide descriptive statistics for their data and variables. Either in the results section or in the Materials and methods section. This is important so that the reader can get an overview of the data and its properties.  
  
The authors should be clearer about how they use p-values and how they interpret them, especially since their data is not a random sample. For example, the authors write that "PhD university origin, ranking, and gender had no effect on the duration either before recruitment or before promotion (page 10, row 49-54). In Table 1 I can observe that, e.g., the coefficient for the "PhD university origin" is 3.48 which indicates a positive effect and that the p-value is 0.06. I take it that the chosen significance level in the manuscript is 0.05. 0.06 is not that much higher than 0.05. From my perspective I would say that there is a positive effect but that the p-value indicates that there are some uncertainty and that interpretation should therefore be done with some caution. There are two issues here. First, how does the authors define and use p-values in the manuscript? This is not clear. Second, the sample is not a random sample so it seems a bit strange to be super strict  
about the p-values and e.g., conclude that there is an effect if the p-value is 0.04999 and conclude that there is no effect of the p-value is 0.05, regardless of the size of the coefficient, taking sample size into consideration, etc. The use of p-values does in either case not live up to the required assumptions for making real inference due to the non-random sample. Overall (i.e., this is a recommendation for all the results and not just for the example I provided regarding the "PhD university origin"). The sample size is small (N = 145) and a larger sample size would likely produce significant results.  My suggestion for the authors is to adopt a less dichotomous and more nuanced strategy for interpreting the results of their analyses, e.g., using confidence intervals for determining uncertainty together with the p-values, and not dogmatically approve or disprove of an effect just by looking at the p-values.  
  
Can the authors complement the analyses with effect sizes so that it become easier for the reader to understand the size of the effects?  
  
Can the authors transform back the coefficients so that it becomes easier to interpret the actual effects.  
  
I believe that there is to little information in Table 1 regarding the models and outcomes. As a reader it is difficult to properly assess the results of the analysis. Standard errors and confidence intervals should be included. Some kind of model of fit measure should be included.  
  
As I understand it Table 1 present 6 models. This should be more clearly presented in the table, i.e., that each dependent variable in the first column denotes a specific model.  
  
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