Peer Community In
– An alternative publication model for transparent and Open Science

Annick De Paepe

The problem

- High costs and paywalls

- Transparent peer review

- Journal prestige bias

- Slow and redundant review process

Peer Community In

> "PCI is a non-profit organization of researchers offering peer review, recommendation and publication of scientific articles in open access for free."

• Free and Transparent
• Researcher-Led
• Promotes Open Science
• Recognized by (some) Journals

https://peercommunityin.org/
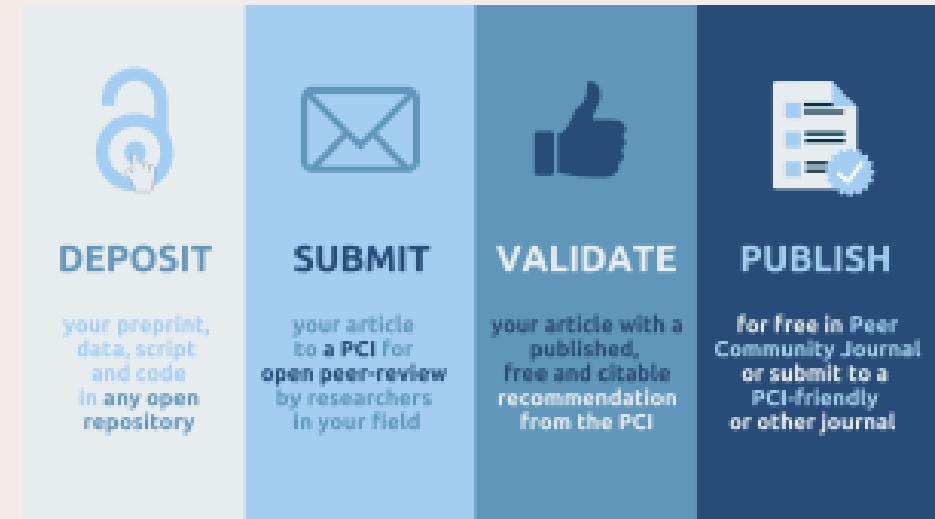
Peer Community In

"AS PART OF THE DIAMOND OPEN ACCESS ECOSYSTEM, PCI ALLOWS SCIENTISTS TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THE SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION PROCESS AND DISCONNECT IT FROM FINANCIAL ISSUES. PCI ALSO WANTS TO REFOCUS SCIENTIFIC QUALITY ON ARTICLES RATHER THAN ON JOURNALS."

https://peercommunityin.org/

How does it work?

1. **Deposit** your preprint, data, script and code in any open repository
2. **Submit** your article to a PCI for open peer-review by researchers in your field
3. **Validate** your article with a published, free and citable recommendation from the PCI
4. **Publish** for free in Peer Community Journal or submit to a PCI friendly journal

Open in many ways

- **Open access to the recommended articles**
  Researchers use archives such as PsyArXiv to make their work available to others

- **Open peer review platform**
  Open access to the evaluation (reviews, author's responses and editorial decisions)

- **Data scripts and code available to the readers**
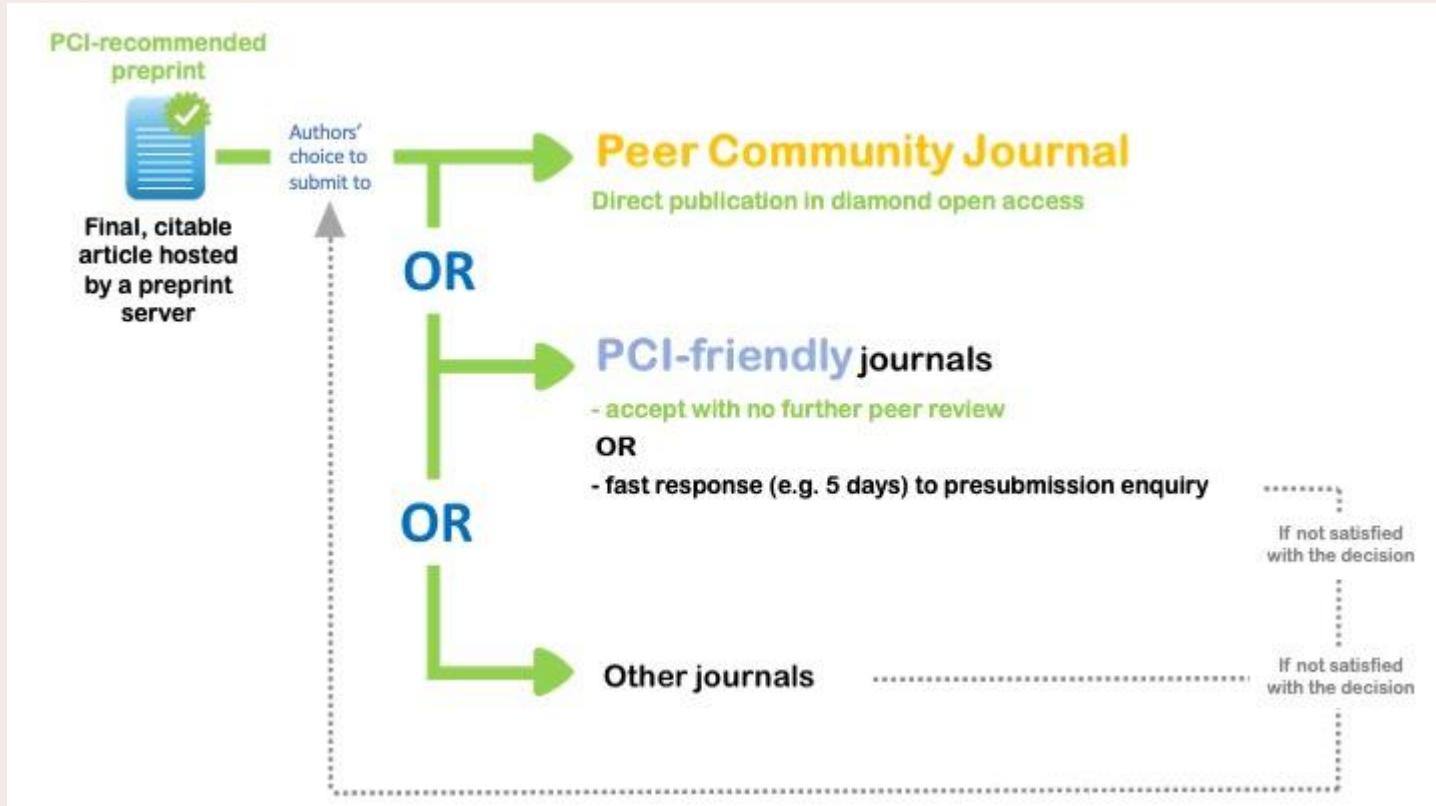
- **Open infrastructure**
  Code, page texts and automatic email templates are available on PCI github repository

Other key points

- Free

- Independent
  Non-profit and non-commercial
  Managed by scientists for scientists

- Inclusive
  Article that is recommended can subsequently be published in a traditional journal (but it is not the primary goal)

- Reliable
  At least two reviewers
  Managing board checks quality of reciews, decisions and recommendations

What next?

Peer community journal

- **Run by researchers for researchers** and is funded by public research institutions
- **Single journal** for all PCIs
- **Free** = it is a diamond open-access journal (free for both authors and readers).
- **Exclusive** = it publishes only articles recommended by PCI
- **Unconditional** = it can publish any PCI-recommended article in its recommended version
- **Opt-in** = it publishes articles only if the authors wish it
- **Indexed by several databases**, among which Google Scholar, Web of Science, Scopus and Open Alex.

PCI friendly journals
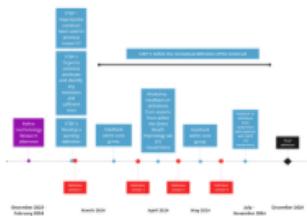
- Have agreed to consider the PCI evaluation in their assessment of articles

- Two categories

  - **Category 1**: Journals committed to accepting PCI-recommended articles without further peer review

  - **Category 2**: Journals providing authors with a fast response (fast decision within 5 days: acceptance with minor modifications, need for further peer review before consideration, not interested)

- List of journals: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1UF3z_brMq-cJt0nbVactbcNPm5U8YsC6vx1GdmzBfxU/edit?gid=0#gid=0

Own experience

Template

4 ## XXXXTitle of the article

6 XXXXSurname Name[1], Surname Name[1,2], Surname
7 Name*[1]

9 [1] XXXXAffiliation – Town, Country
10 [2] XXXXAffiliation – Town, Country
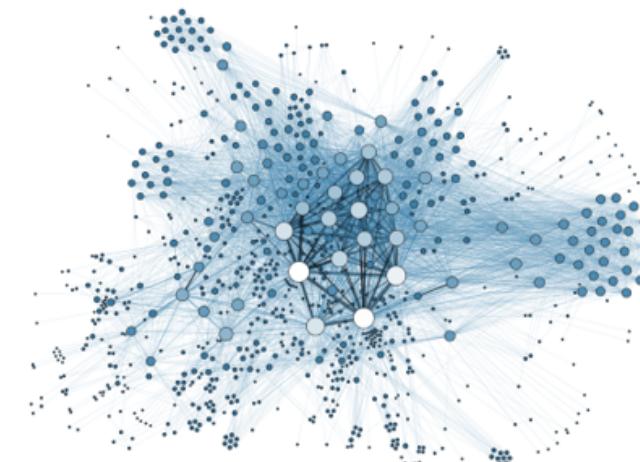
12 *Corresponding author
13 Correspondence: mail.mail@mail.xx

16 **ABSTRACT**
17 XXXXLorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit. Maecenas porttitor
18 congue massa. Fusce posuere, magna sed pulvinar ultricies, purus lectus malesuada
19 libero, sit amet commodo magna eros quis urna. Nunc viverra imperdiet enim. Fusce
20 est. Vivamus a tellus. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et
21 malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Proin pharetra nonummy pede. Mauris et orci.
22 Aenean nec lorem. In porttitor. Donec laoreet nonummy augue. Suspendisse dui
23 purus, scelerisque at, vulputate vitae, pretium mattis, nunc. Mauris eget neque at sem
24 venenatis eleifend. Ut nonummy. Fusce aliquet pede non pede. Suspendisse dapibus
25 lorem pellentesque magna. Integer nulla. Donec blandit feugiat ligula. Donec
26 hendrerit, felis et imperdiet euismod, purus ipsum pretium metus, in lacinia nulla nisl
27 eget sapien. Donec ut est in lectus consequat consequat. Etiam eget dui. Aliquam erat
28 volutpat. Sed at lorem in nunc porta tristique. Proin nec augue. Quisque aliquam
29 tempor magna. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada
30 fames ac turpis egestas. Nunc ac magna. Maecenas odio dolor, vulputate vel, auctor
31 ac, accumsan id, felis. Pellentesque cursus sagittis felis. Pellentesque porttitor, velit
32 lacinia egestas auctor, diam eros tempus arcu, nec vulputate augue magna vel risus.
33 Cras non magna vel ante adipiscing rhoncus. Vivamus a mi. Morbi neque. Aliquam
34 erat volutpat. Integer ultrices lobortis eros. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique
35 senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Proin semper, ante vitae
36 sollicitudin posuere, metus quam iaculis nibh, vitae scelerisque nunc massa eget
37 pede. Sed velit urna, interdum vel, ultricies vel, faucibus at, quam. Donec elit est,

44 **Example of section, e.g. Introduction (uses the style "PCJ Section")**

45 Margins are all at 2,54 cm. There is no front page including authors' namesn affilitaions, title,
46 abstract or keyword. The document starts with the introduction. The Text uses the paragraph style
47 "Text PCJ". Citations with 2 authors or less (Doe & Smith, 2010). 3 authors or more (Smith et al.,
48 2010). Citations may have hyperlinks to the reference in the references list. The Text uses the
49 paragraph style "Text PCJ". Here is an equation within the text $f(x) = \frac{dy}{dx} g(f(x))$. Lorem ipsum
50 dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit. Maecenas porttitor congue massa. Fusce posuere,
51 magna sed pulvinar ultricies, purus lectus malesuada libero, sit amet commodo magna eros quis
52 urna.
53 Nunc viverra imperdiet enim. Fusce est. Vivamus a tellus.
54 Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas.
55 Proin pharetra nonummy pede. Mauris et orci.

56
57 **Figure 1** - Example of figure caption. The figure is in "PCJ Figure" paragraph style.
58 The legend of the figure is in "PCJ Caption Figure" style. It is justified and 1,5 cm
59 less in each side. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et
60 malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Proin pharetra nonummy pede

61 Aenean nec lorem. In porttitor. Donec laoreet nonummy augue. Suspendisse dui purus,
62 scelerisque at, vulputate vitae, pretium mattis, nunc. Mauris eget neque at sem venenatis eleifend.
63 Ut nonummy.

64 **Example of Section, e.g. Material and methods (uses the style "PCJ**
65 **Section")**

Own experience

⏱ Timeline

Submission started

Submission date: 07 August 2025

Submission pending validation

Submission validated: 07 August 2025

Recommender needed

Invited: 11
Declined: 5
Recommender: Maik Bieleke (28 August 2025)

Recommenders

The role of a recommender is very similar to that of a journal associate editor. The main difference is that a journal editor handles manuscripts that are submitted to the journal, whereas a recommender handles preprints or prepublications that have already been published on a website. Other than that, their roles are very similar: Handling submissions, finding reviewers, collecting reviews (n > 2 is recommended), and making editorial decisions based on the reviews. Recommenders may recommend up to 5 articles per year. They are expected to comply with the Code of Conduct, are eligible for a 3-year, renewable board membership. See the Recommender Guidelines for more information on key roles and responsibilities.

Interested in becoming a recommender for PCI Health & Movement Sciences?

Visit the page 'Become a recommender'

SEARCH   RESET   ADVANCED SEARCH   *183 records*
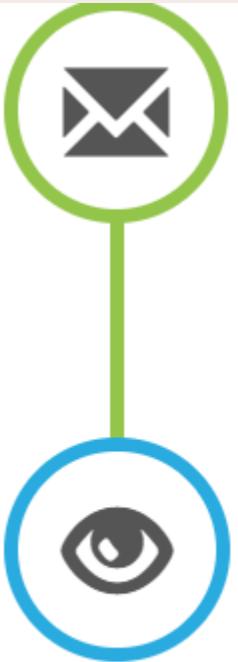
Own experience

Changes to Moderation at PsyArXiv Preprints

As you may be aware, a large number of previously-public preprints posted on PsyArXiv have become inaccessible in the past 24 hours. We know this is disruptive to many people and organizations who rely on PsyArXiv preprints, and that it is frustrating to have little information about what is happening. Please read on for further information on what happened and when you can expect the service to resume operating normally.

Own experience

Round 1: Reviewers needed

Invited: 30
Declined or cancelled: 27
Agreed: 3
Scheduled reminders to the recommender to invite reviewers: no

Round 1: Reviews underway

Anonymous reviewer, due date: 16 November 2025
Anonymous reviewer, completed: 28 October 2025
Anonymous reviewer, completed: 07 October 2025
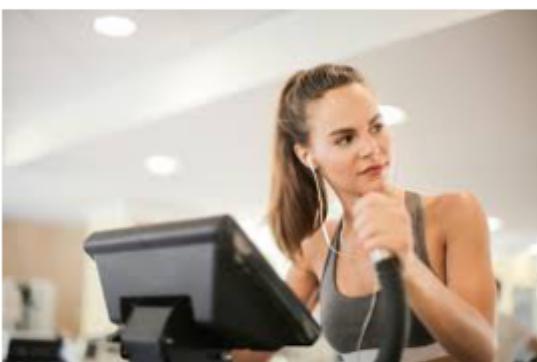
Example

The Study of Distinct Automatic Responses and Their Relation to Physical Activity

Diogo Teixeira (iD) *based on reviews by Jasmin Hutchinson, Vasco Bastos and Malgorzata Slawinska*

A recommendation of:

Active without thinking? Distinguishing between automatic responses as predictors of physical activity

Maika Terashima, Amanda Rebar, Himanshi Naredi, Naomi Khafi, Silvio Maltagliati, Margaux de Chanaleilles, Zachary Zenko, Boris Cheval, Benjamin Gardner

READ PREPRINT IN PREPRINT SERVER   **NOW PUBLISHED IN PEER COMMUNITY JOURNAL**

Data used for results ⌄

Codes used in this study ⌄

Scripts used to obtain or analyze results ⌄

Example

Recommendation

The challenges of promoting physical activity have been increasingly examined through the lens of dual-process theories. Within this framework, automatic processes have been identified as relevant, although it is evident that a more nuanced understanding is still required. Notably, the term automatic response can refer to multiple constructs that are theoretically proposed to be distinct. However, the literature lacks a consistent effort to empirically and conceptually differentiate these constructs—an area of research that has lagged despite its growing visibility in recent years.

The cross-sectional exploratory study by Terashima et al. (2025) addresses this gap by posing two key research questions. First, the authors ask whether established measures of automatic evaluations, approach-avoidance tendencies, and habit strength capture distinct constructs. Second, assuming these three forms of automatic response can indeed be empirically distinguished, the study investigates the unique contribution of each variable to physical activity duration.

The findings suggest, in general, that automatic evaluations, approach tendencies, and sport-related habit strength independently and positively predict both sport-specific and total physical activity engagement. These conclusions are supported by sound methodological procedures, despite the inherent limitations of the study's design.

Having reviewed the manuscript and the three accompanying expert reviews, I am comfortable recommending this study for publication. While some minor refinements could enhance the manuscript—particularly in conceptual organization and articulation—these fall within the authors' discretion and do not detract from the overall contribution of the work. The study represents a meaningful advancement in our understanding of automatic processes and their role as determinants of physical activity. I commend the authors for their efforts and anticipate that this work will stimulate future research in this important domain.

Questions?
Remarks?