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Caution Preprint Study 4 (#38710)

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This pre-registration is not yet public. This anonymized copy (without author names) was created by the author(s) to use during peer-review.

A non-anonymized version (containing author names) will become publicly available only if an author makes it public. Until that happens the contents of this pre-registration are confidential.

1) Have any data been collected for this study already?

No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?

We are interested in participants' credibility evaluation of preprints and peer-reviewed articles. Participants read short descriptions of five different research findings. Depending on condition, participants are told that these findings were either originally published in a preprint or in a peer-reviewed article. We predict that participants will evaluate research findings which were published in peer-reviewed articles as more credible than research findings published in preprints.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.

We will measure the perceived credibility of research findings with one item for each description.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?

Participants will be assigned to one of two conditions. They will either learn that all of the presented five research findings were originally published in peer-reviewed articles (peer-review condition), or in preprints (preprint condition). We employ a between-subject design.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.

We will calculate a mean credibility rating of all five credibility ratings. We will then compute a t-test for independent samples comparing the perceived mean credibility of research findings in the preprint condition and the perceived mean credibility of study results in the peer-review condition.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.

We do not plan to exclude any participants.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.

We aim to recruit a sample of at least 102 participants. If by chance, we collect more (as it can happen in online studies), we will analyze data from all participants.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)

We collect age, gender, whether participants study or have studied psychology, and prior knowledge on preprints and peer-review in order to describe our sample. We exploratory ask participants to describe their criteria for evaluating the perceived credibility of research findings (open entry).