

Week 2 – Discussion questions for breakout rooms

These questions are based on questions submitted by you on the readings. Students will split into separate breakout groups of 4-5 to discuss these questions on their own. Each group should select one student who will summarize the discussion of their group for the rest of the class during the final summary sessions. Each group should after class submit a short written summary of their discussion.

Q1: These rules and reproducibility procedures will save time in the long run and increase trustworthiness. But reproducible practices require investment of time and energy, and few researchers are willing to invest that. Also, not everyone is comfortable with sharing “hard earned data”, even though they might know that they would benefit from it. What other arguments could there be to convince researchers to collaborate and document all their steps clearly?

Q2: Given the reproducibility/replication crisis, it can be hard to build your own hypotheses upon existing research while not being really sure of their “truth” in the first place. How do you find the right balance between skepticism of and building on existing findings?

Q3: In what way could researchers show that they actually tried to make their study as reproducible as possible? Should those that refuse to follow the rules of reproducibility or lie about the correct usage be punished?