

Set up for a Methodological Review Board in Psychology at the University of Padova

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In an effort to promote methodological rigor and transparency in psychological research, the Psicostat research group, based at the University of Padua (Italy), has launched a project aimed at establishing the foundations for a future Methodological Review Board (MRB), following the example set by TU Eindhoven. The MRB's core purpose will be to support researchers through the pre-registration process, emphasizing clarity and transparency while ensuring the system remains accessible and sustainable. The MRB will be accessible to researchers on a voluntary basis and will function as a supportive advisory resource.

Within the MRB's workflow, project submissions will be evaluated by a diverse panel of experts — including experts in statistics, psychometrics, and relevant psychological subfields — who will not seek co-authorship, thereby ensuring both the quality and impartiality of the review process. Furthermore, the MRB will actively promote Open Science practices by offering guidance on the sharing of data and code, encouraging their adoption or requiring a clear justification when such practices are not followed.

To inform and tailor our approach, we conducted a survey within the Department of Developmental Psychology and Socialization at the University of Padua. The survey responses indicated a diversity of views regarding Open Science practices and the establishment of the MRB, while recognizing the importance of rigorous project planning and openness to methodological guidance from the MRB. The present contribution aims to present the project and the survey findings, with the goal of gathering feedback and fostering a constructive discussion within the community.