

Feedback on coursework and how to make your PhD reproducible

We copied snippets of text and added some comment -- you do not have to engage or reveal it's from you, the discussion can remain general

Points from your writing

Having a plan is always good

We submitted a data management plan (DMP) and received feedback and recommendations from the RDM team. In the DMP we detailed: folder organisation, file formats and naming, as well as long-term handling of the resulting data ...

We plan to publish a long list of hypotheses for the data ... Statistical analysis code will be published before analysis, but has not yet been resolved .. No registered report.

[Isn't it what the registered report will help to do?]

Points from your writing

But nobody is perfect

compliance to our plan slipped soon after ... major issue was related to file structure .. all data was simply placed in the same folder. This made it difficult to navigate and find relevant data. Maintaining good storage practises seems one of the most challenging aspects of collaboration .. policing the maintenance of correct file names and file structure can hurt group cohesion.

[Who should be in charge of policing? Sometimes it is 'easy', the PI has a DMP to respect, other times there is no DMP, multiple PI ..]

Points from your writing

Testing before hand to avoid cherry-picking

Code will be checked using pseudo-data to ensure it all works, minimizing the chance that code will have to be altered once applied to the real data.

[This is a good idea, but be careful, this can be tricky -- pushing the pseudodata or code that generate them, and listing the properties of the data can help, it shows you planned to control x,y but z is not tested (could simply to to hard to model/generate)].

Points from your writing

Getting oneself and other people on board

While knitting markdown files allows for some level of version control, using Git would ensure a more rigorous tracking of code and changes.

The difficulty in sharing code between people who are not well versed with versioning tools like git. .. most group members are unfamiliar with how to use it.

[What could make onboarding easier?]

Currently, I do not pre-register my experiments, but this would be a valuable step toward increasing the credibility and transparency of my research.

[This or other practices are sometimes not used even after recognizing this is a good thing? Why -- do you feel too much time pressure? Something else?]

Well done all

It really good to see how you all try to adopt various practices and engaged - we hope to teach you even more tools in the remaining days of the course :-)