predicted direction.

**Table 1.** The selection and regression models used in our robust Bayesian meta-analysis approach.

## Type of selection Visualization Example scenario **Direction not important Selection models** Significant results are more Researcher conducts test and likely to be reported in either observes a null result. They Significant (p < .05) Reported direction (two-tailed) decide the experiment did not work and move on. Significant Null (p > .05) Not reported results get reported. Significant results are most Authors report significant Significant (p < .05) likely to be reported, but results and 'non-significant Reported 'non-significant trends' are trends'. The latter may be Trending (p < .10) interpreted as fair evidence the more likely to be reported than Not reported Null (p > .10) other null results in either manipulation worked. Some direction (two-tailed). reviewers take issue with trends, so only some make it through and get reported. Null results unlikely to be written up. **Direction important** Researcher is confident in the Significant results and non-significant trends are more hypothesis being tested in an Trending (p < .05) Reported likely to be reported in the experiment and doubts the

Null (p > .05)

Not reported

(Continued)

validity of null or opposing

are confident in.

findings. Reports results they

## MOTIVATION PILLAR OF OPTIMAL THEORY

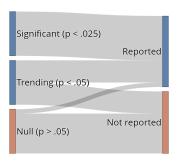
Table 1. Continued

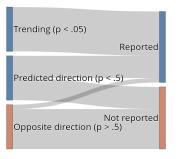
Significant results in the predicted direction are more likely to be reported than trends, which are more likely to be reported than other null results and significant results in the opposite (i.e., 'wrong') direction.

Significant results and trends in the predicted (i.e., 'correct') direction are more likely to be reported than null findings in the predicted (i.e., 'correct') direction, which are more likely to be reported than results in the opposite (i.e., 'wrong') direction.

Full selection model.

Significant results most likely, then trends, then null results in the predicted (i.e., 'correct') direction. The least likely to be reported are results in the opposite (i.e., 'wrong') direction.





Significant (p < .025)

Reported

Trending (p < .05)

Predicted direction (p < .5)

Not reported

Opposite direction (p > .5)

A preference for reporting findings with a compelling narrative results in preferring significant results and occasionally trends. Null or conflicting results less likely to add to the narrative.

A student observes results in the opposite direction of what was expected. Supervisor thinks something may have went wrong so results not published. Other students publish results consistent with predictions.

An editor prefers to publish interesting results. Prediction successes are interesting. Some trends are interesting if they are believable. Results in the opposite direction are interesting, but only if replicated.

(Continued)

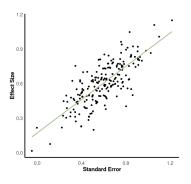
## **Table 1.** Continued

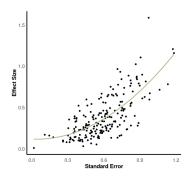
## **Regression models**

Conditioning on smaller p-values in the predicted direction creates a relationship between effect sizes and standard errors. Called 'small study effects' because all else being equal smaller studies need larger effects to achieve significant results.

Quadratic relationship between effect and standard errors.

Large studies likely to be reported independent of results, while smaller studies need increasingly large effects in the predicted (i.e., 'correct') direction to avoid censorship.





This models the dependency caused by selective reporting, not the underlying mechanism itself. Dependency can be caused by a third variable, such as intensity of the interventions used in smaller compared to larger studies.

Researchers invest in conducting a large study and are motivated to publish regardless of the results. They persevere if null results are rejected. Small studies are abandoned unless the results are impressive.