

How severe do I-O psychologist and management faculty perceive various questionable research practices to be and why?

How Questionable Are They Anyway?

Jack C. Friedrich^{1, ID}

✉ @jackf_IO

✉ jack.friedrich@slu.edu

Cort W. Rudolph^{1, ID}

✉ @CortRudolph

✉ rudolphc@slu.edu

¹ Department of Psychology, Saint Louis University

Background

Little work has been done to examine how severe psychologists perceive questionable research practices (QRPs) to be, notably in industrial-organizational psychology and the related field of management. These fields have experienced comparatively less methodological change following the credibility revolution than other psychological fields and engagement in QRPs remains relatively high. Possible reasons for failure to adopt better methodological practices are faculty assuming many QRPs to be relatively harmless, and potentially perverse incentives such as institutional pressures or pressure to publish.

Research Questions

1. How do demographic variables impact faculty ratings of the severity of

QRPs (e.g., department type or career stage)?

2. How does personally perceived publication pressure and institutional research climate impact faculty's severity ratings of QRPs?
3. When evaluating research, how do QRP type, researcher career stage, and journal prestige impact faculty's ratings of its credibility and ethicality?

Methods

- a. A quasi-experimental survey study using experimental vignette methodology to manipulate QRP type, researcher career stage, and journal prestige.
- b. The survey will be distributed to the organizational email lists of the Academy of Management and the Society for Industrial Organizational Psychology.
- c. Tenure track or tenured faculty are eligible to participate if they indicate research is a primary part of their job.
- d. We will conduct a two phase pilot study obtaining subject matter expert judgement to

determine the questionable research practices most relevant to management and I-O and to evaluate our experimental vignettes.

Measures

- a. Publication Pressure Questionnaire Revised (PPQr) Haven et al. (2019).
- b. Survey of Organizational Research Climate (SOURCE) Martinson et al. (2013).

Analyses

- a. Multiple regression models to address research questions 1-2.
- b. Two-mixed effects models (one for the outcome of ethicality and one for the outcome of credibility) to address research question 3, with measured covariates included as exploratory.

References

Haven, T. L., de Goede, M. E. E., Tijdkink, J. K., & Oort, F. J. (2019). Personally perceived publication pressure: Revising the Publication Pressure Questionnaire (PPQ) by using work stress models. *Research Integrity and Peer Review*, 4(1), 7. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41073-019-0066-6>

Martinson, B. C., Thrush, C. R., & Lauren Crain, A. (2013). Development and Validation of the Survey of Organizational Research Climate (SORC). *Science and Engineering Ethics*, 19(3), 813–834. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11948-012-9410-7>

