Kelli Huber, PhD
Consultant

- Kelli joined a lab that had the following predicament:

  - Postdoc worked in lab, collected and managed all the data. Data were password protected.

  - Said postdoc gets a new job and leaves the lab (standard practice)

  - Password goes with the postdoc. They can't reach the postdoc.

  - The data was locked away for ~3 years before it was able to be accessed and analyzed.

Hillary Anger Elfenbein

Prof and Chair of
Organizational Behavior

1. I just got a paper accepted to PSPB in which we have a footnote saying that a record-keeping error caused us not to be able to report reliability for one of our variables. The variables in this study were painstakingly coded by an army of undergrads who read the transcripts of people negotiating. The two graduate students who ran the coding process both left academia and didn't keep their files. We had the reliability data about all the variables except one, by digging out an early version of the manuscript write-up, but one variable was added later and now we'll never know. The lesson here is for multiple collaborators to keep the data in their files, although I'll admit that sometimes I still neglect to do this with student coauthors and really should.

2. I had a grad school classmate who coded participant "sex" as 0/1 and later forgot which direction was which. The lesson here is always to code sex as "female" (or "male") 0/1, which also makes it easier for the readers.

3. My grad school mentor withdrew an accepted paper from a top journal because she realized that one of the variables was coded backwards.