



ÖSTERREICHISCHE  
AGENTUR FÜR  
WISSENSCHAFTLICHE  
INTEGRITÄT

# Research Integrity – From Institutionalization to Cultivation

Symposium on Research Integrity. Promoting a Culture of (Research)  
Integrity. 10 Years ÖAWI  
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Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (ÖAWI)

10 years ago

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**“There is no official body in Austria responsible for addressing issues of scientific misconduct.”**

## **Scandalous behaviour**

Austria’s most serious report of scientific misconduct in recent memory must be handled properly.

Austria is a small country, and networks between power-brokers are small and tight. But something, it seems, is rotten in the state of Austria, and it needs to be faced and dealt with openly. ■

# Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (ÖAWI)

- Founded in 2008
- Set up as an association in accordance with the Austrian Associations Act
- International scientific commission with 8 eminent members (7 from abroad)
- 38 institutional members incl. 2 associated member
- Membership is voluntary AND is “confession” to good scientific practice
- Financed by membership fees
- Not part of any Ministry; independent organization
- Part of European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO)
- Participation in the acquisition of 3 EU projects on research integrity

# Still lessons to learn

UK Science and Technology Committee on Research Integrity in July 2018 stated:

- Institutionalization is necessary but not yet a sufficient condition for research integrity in practice.
- Serious research misconduct is rare. However, we also have to keep in mind the grey zones. Thus, false incentives can lead unintentionally to questionable developments and behaviour.

# Still lessons to learn

Research integrity is more than investigating obvious and alleged fraud. It also includes the improvement of:

- Openness of research results and data
- Reproducibility of research results
- Methodical and statistical competencies
- Responsible handling in the evaluation of research
- Scientific/scholarly independence vis-à-vis research sponsors/clients
- ...
- ...

# Still lessons to learn

Transparency and prevention are the best guarantees for a culture of research integrity:

- Transparency and documentation of procedures and investigations incl. committees, research institutions, funders and publishers
- Systematic trainings for students and supervisors
- Rules for sanctions and rewards
- Stronger international cooperation in the investigation of suspicious cases and in the establishment of common rules and procedures
- ...
- ...

# Acknowledgments 10 years after

My special thanks go especially to ...

- My predecessors Georg Wick, Christoph Kratky, Pascale Ehrenfreund and Christine Mannhalter
- Scientific members of the commission
- Member institutions of the ÖAWI
- The board of directors
- The office under the direction of Nicole Föger

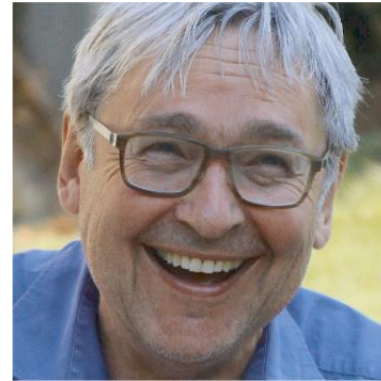
# Welcome to the Symposium



**Lex Bouter**  
Keynote speaker  
Chair of the WCRIF



**Klement Tockner**  
Chair of the OeAWI



**Christoph Kratky**  
Founder of the OeAWI  
Former President of the FWF



**Stephan Rixen**  
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