



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

nature

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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

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- 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
Chair of the OeAWI
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