

PRESS RELEASE
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ANNOUNCING THE *PEER COMMUNITY IN REGISTERED REPORTS*: A NEW PLATFORM FOR REPRODUCIBLE OPEN RESEARCH ACROSS DISCIPLINES

Researchers will be free to pursue a dynamic publishing track following the launch of **Peer Community In Registered Reports**, a novel platform that combines two recent innovations: the Peer Community In (PCI) initiative and the Registered Reports article type.

The PCI initiative is a non-profit, non-commercial platform that publishes the peer reviews of preprints. The aim of this researcher-run organisation is to create specific communities of researchers reviewing and recommending, for free, unpublished preprints in their field. PCI communities have so far been created across a wide range of sciences and are expanding rapidly. After a preprint is posted on a server and submitted for review at PCI, the preprint follows the usual rounds of reviews and revisions. Once found suitable and accepted (or, in PCI terms, “recommended”), the peer reviews and recommendation of the preprint are published (and citable) at the PCI website. Authors then have the option to also publish the preprint in a traditional journal.

PCI Registered Reports (PCI RR) is a new community dedicated to receiving, reviewing, and recommending Registered Reports across the full spectrum of STEM, medicine, the social sciences, and humanities. Registered Reports are a relatively new type of empirical article in which study proposals are peer reviewed and pre-accepted before research is undertaken. By deciding which articles are published based on the question and proposed methods, Registered Reports offer a powerful remedy for a range of research biases, including publication bias (publishing only positive, novel or otherwise attractive results) and reporting bias (reporting only those results that support a particular conclusion).

PCI RR aims to reshape the publishing landscape by separating the peer review of Registered Reports from mainstream publishers, maximising the versatility and transparency of Registered Reports, and making it easier and more rewarding for researchers to use them. Once authors have their Registered Report recommended by PCI RR, they have the option to publish their article in a growing list of “PCI RR-friendly” journals that have committed to accepting PCI RR recommendations without further peer review – and unlike traditional publishing, **authors** will determine which (if any) journal publishes the final article. Fifteen journals have joined this list prior to launch. PCI RR looks forward to growing this accessible, flexible community with researchers from all areas.

Key facts about PCI RR

A COMMUNITY, NOT A JOURNAL: PCI RR doesn’t publish Registered Reports but instead manages peer review of Registered Report preprints across STEM, medicine, the social sciences and humanities

ESTABLISHED BENEFITS: Rigorous and constructive pre-study review at a point in time where it helps the most, with in-principle acceptance to neutralise publication bias and reporting bias

TRUST: Led by the architects of Registered Reports, with the review process managed by trained and accredited recommenders

INDEPENDENCE: Peer review independent of journals but endorsed by a growing list of journals that accept PCI RR recommendations

POWER TO AUTHORS: Once a submission is recommended by PCI RR, authors can choose any eligible PCI RR-friendly journal to publish the article without further peer review

FLEXIBILITY: No need for authors to decide which journal to publish in – or any journal at all – until after a final Stage 2 recommendation

TRANSPARENCY: Recommended preprint remains citable on a preprint server, with peer reviews published under a DOI by PCI RR and reviewers having the option to sign

INNOVATION: Unique policy features including Scheduled Review and Programmatic Registered Reports to accelerate peer review and widen access to different modes of research

ZERO COST: PCI RR is a non-profit, non-commercial platform that is free to use for all, including authors, readers, and supporting journals