

Young researchers know misconduct,
but they don't know how to deal with it

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Content

- GSP workshops
- Preliminary results of our study
- Conclusions

Good Scientific Practice Workshops

- 1998: German Research Foundation (DFG) recommendations on GSP
- 2009-12: Workshop curricula on “Good scientific practice” for all subjects
- 2009-17: Team Scientific Integrity – 364 one-/two-day workshops with 4,200 participants (mostly doctoral candidates)

Our interest

- Do early career researchers know about GSP regulations?
- Do they know what to do if they see or experience misconduct?
- Is our previously obtained rate of misconduct prevalence an unfortunate accident?

Workshops included in the survey

- 06/2016 - 05/2017: 61 two-day workshops with 687 participants
- 679 questionnaires were handed out
- 660 questionnaires were returned (97.2 %)
- 317 male, 341 female
- 621 doctoral candidates, 37 postdocs
- 3.1/10.2 years of research experience

Results of our exploratory survey

Sufficient knowledge about binding GSP regulations

36 yes – 5.5 % (N = 660)

Results of our exploratory survey

Sufficient knowledge of doctoral regulations

256 yes – 41.2 % (N = 622)

Results of our exploratory survey

Awareness of the existence of ombudspersons

170 yes – 26.1 % (N = 651)

Results of our exploratory survey

Need to consult ombudspersons

123 yes – 18.9 % (N = 650)

Results of our exploratory survey

Involvement in misconduct: falsification, fabrication, plagiarism, data theft, duplicate publication, fake authorship

134 yes – 20.3 % (N = 660)

Results of our exploratory survey

Research experience and involvement in misconduct

< 1 year	8.7 %	(N = 46)
< 2 years	10.2 %	(N = 118)
< 3 years	16.7 %	(N = 126)
< 4 years	20.0 %	(N = 105)
< 5 years	26.1 %	(N = 92)
< 6 years	20.0 %	(N = 60)
< 7 years	34.8 %	(N = 23)

Conclusions

- Level of GSP knowledge is very low among early career researchers
- Three quarters of early career researchers do not know about ombudspersons
- 1 in 5 early career researchers need to consult with ombudspersons

Conclusions

- 1 in 5 early career researchers involved in misconduct (we assume: mostly as victims)
- Experience with misconduct rises with research experience
- Young researchers know misconduct, but they don't know how to deal with it

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