

# Selecting replication studies for funding a small window of opportunity



Guillaume Macor, MSc.  
Programme manager Replication studies ZonMw

## Replication Studies programme, NWO, ZonMw

- 3 years, 3 application rounds, € 3,000,000
- Goals:
  1. pilot, explore, experience
  2. fund replication studies
- NWO
  - Social Sciences & Humanities
  - Exact & Natural Sciences
  - Technical & Applied Sciences
- ZonMw
  - Health Research & Development

## Types of Replication

- **Reproduction:** replication with existing data: repeated analysis of the datasets from the original study. 
- **Replication:** new data collection with the same research protocol as the original study. 
- **Conceptual replication:** new data collection but using a different research protocol than the original study. 

Amidst all the drivel about exact, direct, operational or conceptual replications, your statement that there are three types of replication ... is the most accurate, concise and eloquent definition of what is and is not a replication I have ever seen.

## Demand for RS applications

- Substantial demand
  - Psychology
  - Medicine
  - Sociology, communication science, law...
- Applicants from assistant to full professors
- Funded replication studies:
  - <https://www.nwo.nl/en/research-and-results/programmes/replication+studies/awards>

Year	2017	2018	2019
Grants	9	8	-
Applications	85	68	-
% awarded	11%	12%	-

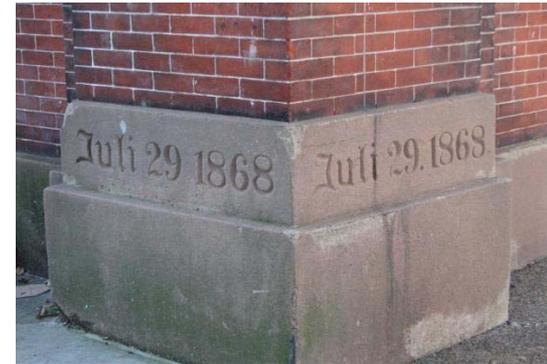
## Requirements for funding

- High quality research
- Exact replication
- Available data and/or protocol
- Open science
  - Preregistration
  - Data sharing (FAIR principles)
  - Adherence to publication guidelines (e.g. ARRIVE)



## Cornerstone value

- What? Why?
- Impact of the original study, e.g.
  - Number of citations
  - Application in medicine
  - Part of policy / regulations
  - Taught to students
  - Post-publication debate, attention from media
- Additional impact replication



## Review experience

1. Reviewers on relevance & methodology
  - Differences in review quality:
    - Overlap in reviews
    - Narrow scope of reviews
2. Narrow scope on review of cornerstone criterion
  - Reviewer: relevant for specific field
  - Committee: relevant for science
3. No reviewers
  - Committee will decide relevance and quality

## Concluding statements

- Science is interested in replication!
- Upcoming: replication in the humanities
- White spot: replication in technical, exact & natural sciences
- Replication as integral part of regular funding
- Funding replication studies makes sense

