

Enhancing best practice: Two editorials

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Meyer, Klaus E., van Witteloostuijn, Arjen & Beugelsdijk, Sjoerd. 2017. [*What's in a p? Reassessing Best Practices for Conducting and Reporting Hypothesis-Testing Research*](#), *Journal of International Business Studies*, 48(5), 535-551

Beugelsdijk, Sjoerd; van Witteloostuijn, Arjen & Meyer, Klaus E. 2020. [*A New Approach to Data Access and Research Transparency*](#), *Journal of International Business Studies*, advance online: doi; 10.1057.

Research transparency requires authors to be crystal clear *how exactly they infer support for their hypotheses*, and *how robust their evidence is*.

*Sloppy
reporting
practices*



*Deliberately
misleading
practices*

Guidelines for reporting results include:

Guideline 2: Authors should **refer to the actual *p*-value** rather than the threshold *p*-value when assessing the evidence for and against their hypothesis.

Guideline 4: Reflections on **effect sizes** are included, reporting and discussing whether the effects (the coefficients and, if appropriate, marginal effects) are substantive in terms of the research question at hand.

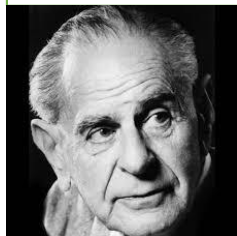
Guideline 9: Authors are expected to conduct a variety of **robustness tests** to show that the significant finding is not due to an idiosyncrasy of the selected empirical measures, model specifications and/or estimation strategy.

Guideline 10: HARKing is a research malpractice. Theory developed by interpreting empirical phenomena or results should be reported as such (for example, in the discussion section).

Internal institutional pressures

within scholarly community

- Why do we do research?
To create cumulative knowledge: replicability
- Learning of best practice



External institutional pressures

in the wider societies

- Credibility of scientists
- Funders' expectation of social benefits of research

**Full Transparency,
including sharing
of datasets,
as an ideal**

Recent fraud cases

National regulations

Legal constraints imposed by third party owners of dataset

High cost for scholars to generate quality datasets → their ability to exploit such datasets should not be undermined.

Ethical concerns regarding the **protection of research subjects** (people, firms); need for confidentiality to generate quality data.

High costs of preparing data for sharing, e.g. explanation of coding procedures, anonymization.

Type of data	Typical methodological issues	Typical transparency issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publicly available databases (e.g. IMF, World Bank, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct measurement Firm level data (many management topics cannot be meaningfully studied with such data) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easy to share
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial databases used under license (e.g. Amadeus, Orbis, Wind) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct measurement Representativeness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> License prohibit sharing of data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Database only accessible on the agency premises (e.g. BEA, Central Bank) 	As above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> User agreements prohibits sharing of data Confidentiality of data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questionnaire survey data (e.g. collected by research team) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representativeness Sample size 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confidentiality of data Sunk costs of data collection Protection of research subjects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand collected from archival sources (e.g. text analysis from annual reports) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct measurements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunk costs of data collection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative data from individuals or firms (e.g. case studies) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generalizability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confidentiality of data Protection of research subjects Sunk costs of data collection High costs of making data accessible

DART related best practices will be promoted by JIBS

1. ***AIB Journals Code of Ethics*** is the basis for what we do, see especially clauses 3.1.6, 3.5.2., and 3.5.3.

- *Prior uses of the dataset should be notified in the letter to the editor, explaining how the new paper advanced knowledge over the original one.*

2. It shall be normal practice that ***handling editors ask for additional research documents***,

- *such as downloading routines, software codes, raw regression output, original questionnaires etc.*

3. Authors shall include in their submission a data sharing “***comply or explain***” statement.

- *I will make the data fully available upon acceptance*
- *I will make the data fully available after an embargo period (max. 5 years)*
- *I will not make the data fully available due to*
 - (i) *Protection of personal data of research subjects*
 - (ii) *third-party property rights*
 - (iii) *national security*
 - (iv) *other reasons (please specify)*

3.1.6. The manuscript should identify the origin, and originality, of any proprietary, non-standard datasets used in the paper, for example, a primary dataset created by the Author using a survey. If the proprietary dataset has been used elsewhere by this or another Author, the manuscript should cite these other works, whether published or not.

3.5.1. Authors have the ultimate responsibility for all materials included in a manuscript submitted to an AIB Journal. Authors are obligated to present an accurate account of the research performed as well as an objective discussion of the significance of the research.

3.5.2. Authors should report their findings fully and should not omit data that are relevant within the context of the research question(s). Results should be reported whether they support or contradict expected outcomes. Authors should take care to present relevant qualifications to their research or to the findings and interpretations of them. Underlying assumptions, theories, methods, measures and research designs relevant to the findings and interpretations of their work should be disclosed.

3.5.3. The manuscript should contain sufficient detail and references to permit peers with access to the same dataset to repeat the work.

Thank you for attending.
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