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Octopus: A quick introduction

@science_octopus

<https://octopuspublishing.org>



What's wrong with the current system?



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- Problems with discoverability and accessibility



What's wrong with the current system?

Academic researchers are judged almost entirely on output in the form of journal articles.



What's important in journal articles?

“Our experience has shown that a paper's impact is maximized if it is as short as is consistent with providing a focused message, with a few crucial figures or tables.”

“We all face the challenge of how to make the best use of our time in an era of information overload. Judicious use of Supplementary Information to ensure that the printed version of a paper is clear, comprehensible and as short as is consistent with this goal, is very likely to increase the paper's readership, impact and the number of times others cite it.”



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What's wrong with using journal articles for scientific research?

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These two require very different kinds of writing.

The first can be a persuasive narrative – the second shouldn't be



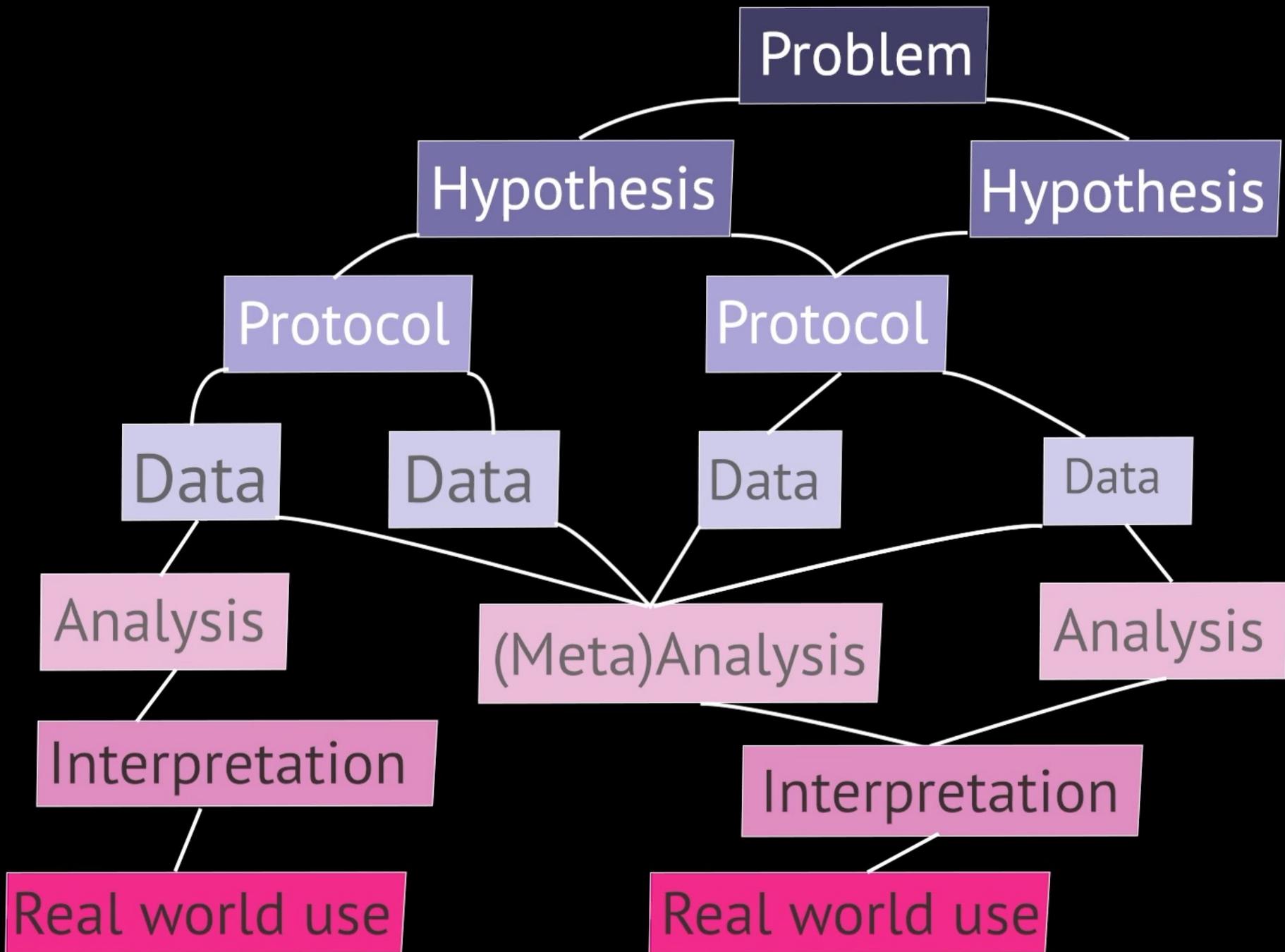
What can we do?

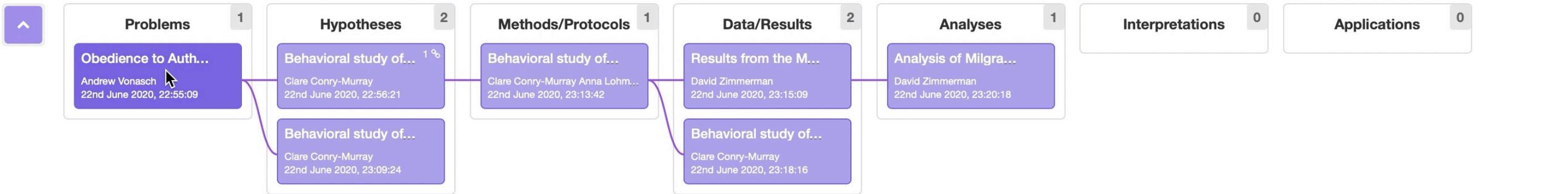
Split the two jobs

A new 'primary research record'
digital-first,
free to read; free to write,
with automatic language translation.

Not based around papers
but smaller publication units, in a new structure







Version 1 Version 2 + Reversion this publication

PROBLEM: Obedience to Authority in the Milgram Paradigm

Authors: Andrew Vonasch

Date added: 22nd June 2020, 22:55:09

[View Red Flag History](#)

Linked Problems

No linked problems available.

Reviews

No linked reviews available.

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Full text

What percentage of people will obey authority figures in the Milgram paradigm?

?

Well defined



Original



Important



Additional information

Funding Statement:

none

Conflict of Interest Declaration:

No conflicts of interest

CC-BY Licence:

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Keywords:

obedience,authority,Milgram,social,psychology

Files:

- **Instant publication**

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- **Smaller author groups**

⇒ more meritocratic recognition, especially for specialists

(eg. technicians designing and publishing protocols; statisticians doing analyses)

⇒ more accountability (it's clear who's doing what work)



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- **No need for 'narrative'**

 - ⇒ removes pressure for 'questionable research practices' (excluding data that doesn't fit a hypothesis) as 'a story' no longer important

 - ⇒ Researchers can publish 'just a hypothesis' or a small data set etc.
(meaning more work will be shared, avoiding waste)



How can you tell what's 'good'?

- **Rating system**

- ⇒ Sets the definitions of 'good work' for each kind of publication

- ⇒ Allows a community consensus on what defines 'good'

- ⇒ Makes it easier to sort well-rated publications from poorly-rated

- ⇒ Creates more subtle metrics to record 'success' for individuals





Version 1 | Version 2 | [+ Reversion this publication](#)

🚩 **PROTOCOL:** Behavioral study of obedience

Authors: [Clare Conry-Murray](#), [Anna Lohmann](#)

Date added: 22nd June 2020, 23:13:42

[View Red Flag History](#)

🔗 **Linked Problems**

No linked problems available.

📄 **Reviews**

No linked reviews available.

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Full text

The subjects were 40 males between the ages of 20 and 50, drawn from New Haven and the surrounding communities. Subjects were obtained by a newspaper advertisement and direct mail solicitation. Those who responded to the appeal believed they were to participate in a study of memory and learning at Yale University. A wide range of occupations is represented in the sample. Typical subjects were postal clerks, high school teachers, salesmen, engineers, and laborers. Subjects ranged in educational level from one who had not finished elementary school, to those who had doctorate and other professional degrees. They were paid \$4.50 for their participation in the experiment. However, subjects were told that payment was simply for coming to the laboratory, and that the money was theirs no matter what happened after they arrived. Table 1 shows the proportion of age and occupational types assigned to the experimental condition. Personnel and Locale The experiment was conducted on the grounds of Yale University in the elegant interaction laboratory. (This detail is relevant to the perceived legitimacy of the experiment. In further variations, the experi-

Details clear 3 (1 total) [i](#)



Original 4 (1 total)



Appropriate test of hypothesis 5 (1 total)



Additional information

Funding Statement:

none

Conflict of Interest Declaration:

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CC-BY Licence:

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Keywords:

Files:

- **Post-publication peer review**

⇒ no hierarchical 'editor' system that can lead to publication bias

⇒ encourages collaborative working

(authors can reversion a publication in the light of reviews, and include reviewers as authors on the new version)

⇒ reviews are all open for others to read, giving readers various 'expert perspectives' on the work



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- **Reviews are a publication type equal to all others**

- ⇒ reviews and reviewing given the equal status they deserve

- (i.e. good reviewers get credit for their work)



Encouraging interdisciplinary thinking



Encouraging interdisciplinary thinking

Related publications

Related Methods/Protocols

[A systematic review of COVID-19 cases](#)

Score

0

Add a related publication

You can select multiple publications that you think are related to this one and are not already related to it.

Please select which publication you wish to relate to



Add





Problems 1

Reducing mortality... 5%

Alexandra Freeman
4th April 2020, 10:00:14

Hypotheses 1

Looking at prevalence...

Alexandra Freeman
18th April 2020, 10:37:43

Methods/Protocols 1

Analysis of 45,000 ...

Alexandra Freeman
5th April 2020, 11:57:37

Data/Results 1

Data on respiratory...

Alexandra Freeman
5th April 2020, 12:03:24

Analyses 1

Those with chronic...

Alexandra Freeman
5th April 2020, 12:13:34

Interpretations 1

Could treatment fo...

Alexandra Freeman
5th April 2020, 12:16:15

Applications 1

Conclusions from t...

Alexandra Freeman
5th April 2020, 12:18:05

Version 1

[+ Reversion this publication](#)

INTERPRETATION: Could treatment for COPD be protective against COVID-19 symptoms?

Authors: [Alexandra Freeman](#)**Date added:** 5th April 2020, 12:16:15

Linked Problems

No linked problems available.

Reviews

No linked reviews available.

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Full text

The lower reported prevalence of asthma and COPD in patients diagnosed with COVID-19 might be due to one or a number of factors. First, it is possible that, in contrast to the diagnosis of diabetes, there was substantial underdiagnosis or poor recognition of chronic respiratory disease in patients with COVID-19, particularly in China. However, this seems unlikely, as in very recent data (March 23, 2020) from Italy, among 355 patients dying with COVID-19 (mean age 79.5 years), diabetes was reported in 20.3% of patients but COPD was not listed as a comorbidity for any patient.³ Similarly, provisional data from the USA (March 31, 2020) show that chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes were comorbidities in 8.5% and 10.2% of patients with COVID-19, respectively, compared with Global Burden of Disease figures for the population as a whole of 11.3% for chronic respiratory diseases and 10.2% for diabetes; however these data are based on only 7162 of the 74 439 patients reported.

A second possibility is that having a chronic respiratory disease protects against COVID-19, perhaps through a different immune response elicited by the chronic disease itself. However, this theory is not supported by the finding that among those with COVID-19 who have COPD as a comorbidity, mortality is increased, as would otherwise be expected.

A third possibility is that therapies used by patients with chronic respiratory diseases can reduce the risk of infection or of

Clearly written**Insightful****Consistent with data****Additional information****Funding Statement:**

None

Conflict of Interest Declaration:

None

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Keywords:**Files:**

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What's in it for journals?

- Become more focused on synthesizing, editorializing and disseminating to their audiences (not expensive primary research publication)



Octopus is...

Free

Fast

Fair

Creating a collaborative culture for researchers,
wherever they're based



In partnership with:



With support from:



**Research
England**

A private philanthropist
(anonymous)



Thank you!

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