The Psychological Science Accelerator: a distributed laboratory network

Director: Dr Christopher R Chartier, Ashland University + 5 Associate Directors (1 each from Africa, Asia, Europe, 2 from US) + over 350 fellow researchers

Presenter: Gerit Pfuhl, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

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THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE ACCELERATOR (PSA)

It's time to begin building a “CERN for psychological science” (Aug 2017)

Globally distributed network of psychological science laboratories (currently over 350), representing over 45 countries on all six populated continents, that coordinates data collection for democratically selected studies.

Our mission: accelerate the accumulation of reliable and generalizable evidence in psychological science, reducing the distance between truth about human behavior and mental processes and our current understanding. We attempt to meet this challenge with a distributed laboratory network that is ongoing (as opposed to time or task limited), diverse (both in terms of human subjects and participating researchers), and inclusive (we welcome ideas, contributions, study proposals, or other input from anyone in the field of psychology).

Diversity and inclusion: cultural and geographic diversity among participants and researchers conducting PSA-supported projects, as well as a diversity of research topics.

Decentralized authority: PSA policies and procedures are set by committees in conjunction with the PSA community at large. Members collectively guide the direction of the PSA through the policies they vote for and the projects they support.

Transparency: all PSA projects require pre-registration of the research. Open data, open code, open materials, and depositing an open-access preprint report of the empirical results are required.

Rigor: The PSA currently enables, supports, or requires appropriately large samples (Cohen, 1992; Ioannidis, 2005), expert review of the theoretical rationale (Cronbach & Meehl, 1955; LeBel, Berger, Campbell, & Loving, 2017), and vetting of methods by advisors with expertise in measurement and quantitative analysis.

Openness to criticism: the PSA integrates critical assessment of its policies and research products into its process, requiring extensive review of all projects and annually soliciting external feedback on the organization as a whole.

HOW WE WORK

Proposals: registered report form

Review: by ~10 researchers, PSA members and non-members

Project development: input on methods, ethics, translations, data management

Project execution: data collection begins after Stage 1 registered report or pre-registration on e.g. osf.io

Data release: phase release to allow confirmatory secondary analysis

WORKFLOW

The Collaborative Replication and Education Project (CREP) and the Psychological Science Accelerator are partnering.

The mission of the CREP is to improve undergraduate training through crowdsourced replication. We think these two missions can be pursued in tandem.

Learn more about CREP in my talk, 28.11.2018 at 1600 here at Munin conference

COMMITTEES

Study selection: Assistant Directors: Peter Jonason & Kathleen Schmidt + 4 researchers

Ethics: Assistant Directors: Erica Musser & Marietta Papadatou-Pastou + 4 researchers

Translation and cultural diversity: Assistant Director: Oscar Oviedo Trespalacios + 8 researchers

Community building and network expansion: Assistant Directors: Natalia Dutra & Crystal Steltenpohl + 2 researchers

Logistics: Assistant Directors: Susan Fiedler & Steve Janssen and 2 researchers

Project management: Assistant Director: Hannah Moshontz + 5 researchers worldwide

Methods and analysis: Assistant Director: Jessica Flake + 9 researchers worldwide

Data management: Assistant director Patrick Forscher

Training: Assistant Directors: Sau-Chin Chan & Erin Buchanan

Funding: Assistant Directors: Nail Lewis & Thuy-vy Nguyen