WAPOR Special Committee on Transparency:
Work in Progress

WAPOR Annual Conference
St. Louis, Missouri
May 14, 2025

Membership and Responsibilities

- Gary Langer, chair – IJPOR transparency policy
- Tim Johnson – Code review and Transparency Alliance
- Sunghee Lee – Conference and webinar transparency policy
- Rico Neumann/Robert Chung – Sunshine policy

Overview of Objectives

- Produce a TOP level 2-compliant transparency policy for IJPOR* (Langer)

- Review transparency standards in the WAPOR Code; create an institution-level WAPOR Transparency Alliance (Johnson)

- Develop transparency principles for abstract review, conference papers and webinars (Lee)

- Create a sunshine policy providing for public/member/officer access to WAPOR records (Neumann/Chung)

*Transparency and Openness Promotion Guidelines: https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.aab2374

Progress report: IJPOR transparency policy

- Drafted. Reviewed and approved by IJPOR (Porismita Borah).

- Endorsed by WAPOR Publications Committee.

- Reviewed with OUP to align on operationalization.

- Pending: an editorial to be published by IJPOR announcing the policy.

- **Key provision: Authors of accepted papers are required to deposit materials sufficient for replication of their research claims in an approved, publicly available data repository. Exceptions to this policy may be granted in rare cases demonstrating a compelling rationale for nondisclosure.**

IJPOR Transparency Policy

Authors of accepted papers are required to deposit materials sufficient for replication of their research claims in an approved, publicly available data repository. Exceptions to this policy may be granted in rare cases demonstrating a compelling rationale for nondisclosure.

Replication materials are to include: the dataset(s) that form the basis of the research, a detailed codebook, syntax or code used in analysis, output of results produced by running the syntax or code and any instructions necessary to replicate results reported in the paper. Materials should follow FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable) data principles.

Approved repositories include Dryad, Figshare, Harvard Dataverse, Mendeley Data, Open ICPSR, Open Science Framework and Zenodo, as well as any others listed in the DataCite Commons Repository Finder. Any repository not listed by DataCite must be pre-approved by IJPOR. Personal archives (e.g., via GitHub, Box, Dropbox or similar platforms) are disallowed.

Submissions to the journal must include a data sharing summary describing replication materials to be provided. Authors are required to archive these materials upon acceptance of their paper and to provide IJPOR with a url linking directly to the archived materials. IJPOR will confirm accessibility. The published article will include the data sharing summary and url. IJPOR, at its discretion, also may request these materials during the manuscript review process.

Some authors may be unfamiliar with transparency requirements or data archiving procedures. IJPOR maintains a committee of transparency volunteers available to assist in this process; contact us for a referral at (*email link to come*).

Claims for exemption must be included with a paper's submission and will be considered as a factor in whether or not to accept the paper. Exemption requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of IJPOR's editorial team. Such requests must present a compelling ethical or legal rationale for not placing the data in the public domain. We expect that exemptions from disclosure will be issued rarely, given the singular importance of enabling independent assessment and verification of research claims. If an exemption is accepted, the author's rationale for nondisclosure will be published with the paper, with very rare exceptions possible at the IJPOR editor's discretion.

Absent an approved exemption, failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in a withdrawal of acceptance.

References

Transparency and Openness Promotion (TOP) Guidelines - https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.aab2374

TOP Factor - https://www.cos.io/about/news/new-measure-rates-quality-research-journals-policies-promote-transparency-and-reproducibility

TOP Guidelines Summary - https://topfactor.org/summary

The Center for Open Science (TOP ratings) - https://topfactor.org/journals

Policy: Science - https://www.science.org/content/page/science-journals-editorial-policies#data-and-code-deposition

Policy: PNAS - https://www.pnas.org/author-center/editorial-and-journal-policies

Policy: PS: Political Science & Politics - https://apsanet.org/publications/journals/ps-political-science-politics/submission-guidelines/

FAIR Principles - https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/

Code Review/Transparency Alliance (Johnson)

Current code (updated September 2021) addresses transparency as follows:

Subsection IV-A – Responsibilities of Researchers

- Clause 7 – speaks to transparency
- Clauses 8-10, 12-13 – disclosure limitations to protect respondents/client

Subsection IV-B – Responsibilities of Sponsors/Clients

- Clauses 3-5 – researcher transparency to correct errors/distortions in reporting

Subsection IV-C – Reporting Study Results

- Lists 23 specific elements of methodological transparency

Section V – Ethical Standards in Relation to Research Subjects

- Subsections B-C - address privacy, confidentiality and data protection

Enhancements under discussion

- Add to the Code an expectation of data access. State rationale if transparency is not provided.

- Education component; e.g., webinar(s) on transparency.

- Checkbox confirmation of Code compliance when joining (individual and institution-level).

- Provide institution-level membership in WAPOR Transparency Alliance upon joining and confirming Code compliance. Avoid AAPOR-style TI paperwork. Just as individual members confirm Code compliance without documentary review, so will institutional members. Standards Committee can review noncompliance complaints, if any.

- Create a WAPOR Transparency Alliance logo for institutional members to post online.

Conference/Webinar Transparency (Lee)

- Produce guidelines for abstract review.

- Create a mechanism to provide reviewers' comments to authors (and publicly).

- Have abstract submissions include a required section on disclosure intentions.

- Webinar – have presenters provide a link to source materials (or explain why not).

- Conference papers: Establish a transparency rating system, e.g., 0-3 stars based on provided or promised disclosure, shown in conference program. Define star ratings.

Sunshine Policy (Neumann/Chung)

- Research, develop and draft policy for public/member/officer access to WAPOR records.

- Consider two levels of disclosure – a) public and b) limited to WAPOR officers (possible 2nd PARC account.)

- Digitize back records currently on paper. (Cost consideration.)

- To simplify, make available final documents, not deliberative materials.

- Establish a priority list of disclosure items, both going forward and for archive materials.

- Avoid administrative burden.

Sunshine Policy (Neumann/Chung)

Sunshine subcommittee:

Rico Neumann

Robert Chung

Kseniya Kizilova

Tom W. Smith

Dan Tsang

Alejandro Fernandez-Roldan Diaz

Comments/suggestions are very welcome!

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