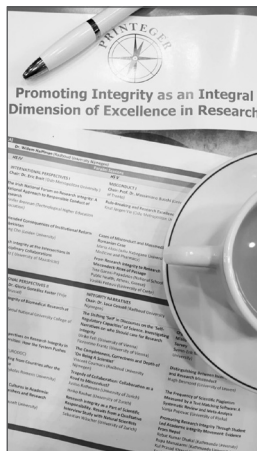


Meeting reports

Printeger Conference: Bonn 2018



PRINTEGER is a Horizon 2020 project dedicated to the promotion of research culture and adherence to high standards of integrity in research. The main goal of the PRINTEGER project is to improve ethical awareness and reflection through the education of the next generations of scientists with new tools.¹ The final PRINTEGER conference was held in Bonn, Germany's United Nations city, from the 5–6 February 2018. The conference

attracted a number of scientists and experts in the field of research integrity who discussed the concepts and practices of good science and shared views on how to promote and teach research integrity principles.

The conference began on 5 February, with a welcome address given by PRINTEGER Project Manager, Dr. Willem Halffman. During the first day of the conference, four parallel sessions were held in the morning and in the afternoon. Sessions were grouped according to themes. The first one, “Good science I”, was dedicated to new concepts of research integrity. The second theme, “International perspectives I”, explored how approaches to research integrity differ across states and cultures. The third session, “Misconduct I”, discussed cases of research misconduct, and the fourth one, “Integrity education”, addressed the challenges of teaching ethics to students. After a short break, the conference participants could choose the continuation sessions “Good science II” and “International perspectives II”, to explore the topics of the morning sessions in depth, or one of two new sessions: “Integrity narratives” dealt with issues arising from recent changes in science practices, and “Integrity practices” tackled plagiarism and the role of scientific institutions in establishing good science policies. The first day of the conference ended with a walking dinner, which gave everyone a chance to continue the discussion, talk and exchange ideas.

The second day of the conference began with the plenary lecture given by Dr. Maura Hiney, a member of the Ireland Health Research Board and a Chair of Science Europe Working Group on Research Integrity. She gave an inspiring talk about successful policy implementations after important scientific discoveries in the field of public health in Ireland.

Afterwards, another set of parallel sessions took place, with “Good science III”, continuing onto research integrity of scientists and in academia. The session on “Fraud” investigated different aspects of misconduct. The third parallel session, “Questionable research practices”, explored

academic deviant behaviour and the last morning session, “Research misconduct”, dealt with ghostwriting practices, retractions and how scientists perceive research misconduct. After the lunch-break with poster exhibition, another set of sessions took place. In the “Journals” session, participants could learn more about retractions and publication bias, and the session on “Responsible research” discussed the ideas how to strengthen the responsibility in research. During the second day, there were two interactive sessions, held using an online software. This way, participants anonymously shared their opinions and ideas, and all of the exchange was displayed on the wall. Session chairs addressed the participants' comments directly and asked for more feedback. Participants also exchanged ideas amongst each other, both using online tool and face to face. Afterwards, lead speakers joined a panel discussion on how to promote together a supportive research integrity culture. Key speakers of the panel discussion were Dr. Isidoros Karatzas (European Commission, DG Research & Innovation, Head of the Ethics and Research Integrity Sector), Dr. Caroline Gans Combe (INSECC, Senior Researcher), Dr. Dirk Lanzerath (German Reference Centre for Ethics in the Life Sciences (DRZE), Director), Gareth O'Neill (European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers, President) and Prof. Dr. Guy Widdershoven (VU University Medical Center Amsterdam, Head of the Department of Medical Humanities). The closing remarks of the panel discussion were given by Dr. Luca Consoli, PRINTEGER project participant and Assistant Professor of Science and Society at the Radboud University Nijmegen.

The recurrent theme during the conference was that the whole research community can become engaged in writing a code of conduct for research integrity,² and how important it is for scientific institutions to develop policies against research misconduct. PRINTEGER conference in Bonn was dynamic, with well-chosen topics and interesting speakers. It warned against new trends in academic misconduct and shed light on the topic of research integrity, journal and social politics in the changing world.

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References

- 1 PRINTEGER - Promoting Integrity as an Integral Dimension of Excellence in Research. [cited 2018 March 2]; Available from: <https://printeger.eu>.
- 2 PRINTEGER Newsletter Edition 01/2018. [cited 2018 March 2]; Available from: http://printeger.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/PRINTEGER_Newsletter_201801.pdf.