Funding Agencies' responsibilities to foster research integrity. The example of data sharing policies

Should public funding agencies foster research integrity by way of obligating funded scientists to good research practices? In our short pitch we want to argue that public funding agencies have the responsibility to require funded scientist to abide by good scientific practices. They have this responsibility towards society whose money they are spending and towards the scientific community. We contend that one of the main objections against funding agencies' exertion of influence in these matters – that they would constrain academic freedom – is not persuasive. Academic freedom does not include the freedom to neglect the requirements of good scientific practice, or so we argue. Using the example of data sharing policies, we maintain that funding agencies can and should contribute to fostering research integrity by requiring funded scientists to share research data for replication studies and re-use in further research. Drawing on empirical insights on international data sharing policies and on interviews with funding agencies, we will claim that agencies could strengthen their efforts in fostering data sharing as part of good scientific practice. Some desirable measures will be presented.

Dr. Christian Wendelborn, Dr. Michael Anger, Dr. Christoph Schickhardt

The authors are part of the interdisciplinary research project DATABLIC that is focused on the question of how public funders could and should design their funding policies and grant conditions to get funded scientists to share their data in a systematic and reliable way with the scientific community.

Further information can be accessed on our website: https://www.nct-heidelberg.de/forschung/nct-core-services/nct-epoc/research/datablic.html

And more on *researchgate*: https://www.researchgate.net/project/DATABLIC-Carrots-and-Sticks-Data-Sharing-Policies-for-German-Public-Research-Funders-Ethical-Legal-Social-and-Behavioural-Aspects