Boris Barbour

Post-publication review and curation with PubPeer and Peeriodicals

Scientific research has been deformed by hyper-competition and a focus on formal and informal metrics such as journal rankings. The pressure to publish in glamour journals and to publish frequently forces us to follow fashions and rush out inconclusive work. In parallel, financial incentives lead journals to publish as many papers as possible. The result is that we now find ourselves in the middle of a replication crisis - too much unreliable work is published. The PubPeer web site was created to enable discussion and criticism of published work without conflicted editorial interference. It has enabled the discovery of an unexpected volume of research misconduct. A sister site, Peeriodicals, offers a flexible platform for virtual journals and allows researchers to replace all journal functions except publication itself: discovery, selection, validation. I shall present these tools, which offer researchers the ability to retake control of their careers