

Review of: "What Factors Influence the Punishment of Research Misconduct: Evidence from Hospitals in Mainland China"

Ana Clara Borrego¹

¹ Instituto Politécnico de Portalegre

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article is very interesting and analyses a very relevant topic; however, it needs to be improved in some aspects:

1 - It does not have a chapter dedicated to the literature review; it immediately moves on to the hypotheses, although they support them in the literature. The fact that it does not have a chapter dedicated to the review and only supports the hypotheses in the bibliographic references means it is only focused on the independent variables and leaves studies from other perspectives apart from the "state of the art."

2 – Regarding the defined hypotheses, they need to be clarified because:

- H1 does not make clear whether it is the gender of the offending researcher, the gender of the person who reported it, or even the gender of the person who will punish the offending researcher.
- H2 does not make clear whether it is the professional status of the complainant or the offending investigator.

The list of bibliographic references needs to be revised, as it does not comply with any specific standard; it has a mixture of standards.

Still with regard to bibliographical references, there is a set of reference literature on this topic (either by quartile of publications or by their number of citations) that was not addressed in this article. For example:

Sox, H. C., & Rennie, D. (2006). Research misconduct, retraction, and cleansing the medical literature: lessons from the Poehlman case. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 144(8), 609-613.

Fanelli, D., Costas, R., & Larivière, V. (2015). Misconduct policies, academic culture and career stage, not gender or pressures to publish, affect scientific integrity. *PloS one*, 10(6), e0127556.

Smith, R. (2006). Research misconduct: the poisoning of the well. *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 99(5), 232-237.

Berggren, C., & Karabag, S. F. (2019). Scientific misconduct at an elite medical institute: The role of competing institutional logics and fragmented control. *Research Policy*, 48(2), 428-443.

Rogers, W., & Ballantyne, A. (2008). Gender and trust in medicine: Vulnerabilities, abuses, and remedies. *IJFAB*:

International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics, 1(1), 48-66.