

Workshop 3. Taking the regret out of preregistration

Speakers:

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Objectives:

In this workshop, we aim to give you practical guidance on formulating and following preregistrations, advice on balancing priorities and on handling the inevitable unforeseen pitfalls and regrettable decisions. Preregistrations and registered reports can drastically reduce overfitting and other questionable research practices and hence improve the trustworthiness of your research. It is less commonly appreciated that they can help you make more principled decisions, and avoid getting sidetracked through post-hoc requests from advisors, co-authors, and reviewers. Still, they also offer a chance to get intimately acquainted with the planning fallacy. You will truly "appreciate" how much statistics knowledge you acquire over the course of your career only once you have regretted the decisions of that utter naïf, past you. Are registered reports superior to mere preregistration, because you get an outside reality check sooner and cannot write an ambitious yet unfinishable plan? Or is it wiser not to spend the time upfront in review? What advantages can PCI:RR offer? What can we do, when we inevitably regret some of our fixed decisions and how can robustness checks help? Which decisions should you really preregister and which matter less for overfitting concerns? What do you do when you have resolved to do something that you now know was truly wrong? We cannot claim to know the right answers, but we have been through it all. We will talk about our mistakes, lessons learnt, and why and when we still think it is great to preregister and submit registered reports.

Requirements:

Ideally, you are currently planning a study, writing a preregistration, or writing up a preregistered study. We will share R code examples with attendees, but **it is** not a necessary precondition to work with R.

Short Workshop Program:

1. Brief introduction to preregistration, registered reports, and the PCI:RR model
2. Discuss common decisions to be made in a preregistration and how to strike a balance between excessive rigidity, potential for overfitting, and sheer length.
3. Compare templates for preregistration
4. How to deal with that naïve fool, past you.
5. Deviating from the preregistration, testing robustness, and reporting it all.