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**Journal of Public  
Administration and Theory:  
Current Practice, Globalization  
and Trends**

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# Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory

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- Receive over 420 manuscripts a year
- Publish 36-40 articles a year
- 8% acceptance rate
  - 46% of submissions desk rejected
  - 38% are rejected in the first round of reviews  
(70% of those sent for review are rejected)
  - 8% are rejected in second round of reviews  
(45% of those sent for 2<sup>nd</sup> review are rejected)

# JPART: Impact

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## ■ Online Downloads

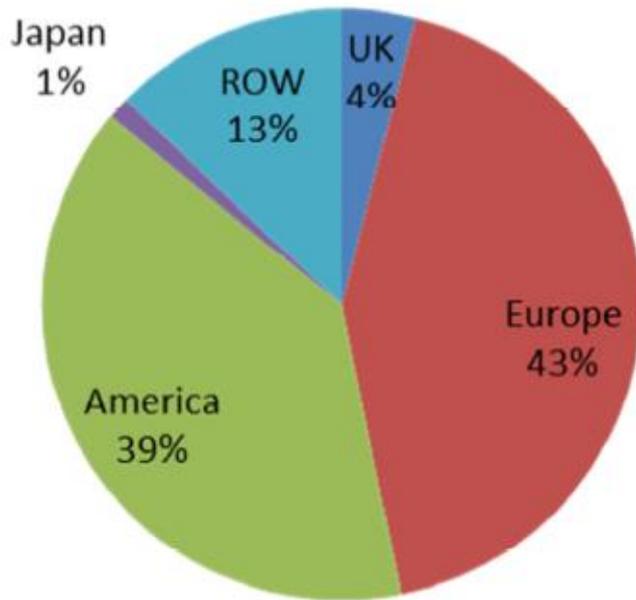
	Full Text	Abstracts
2008	83,409	200,537
2014	153,219	279,718

## ■ Impact Factor

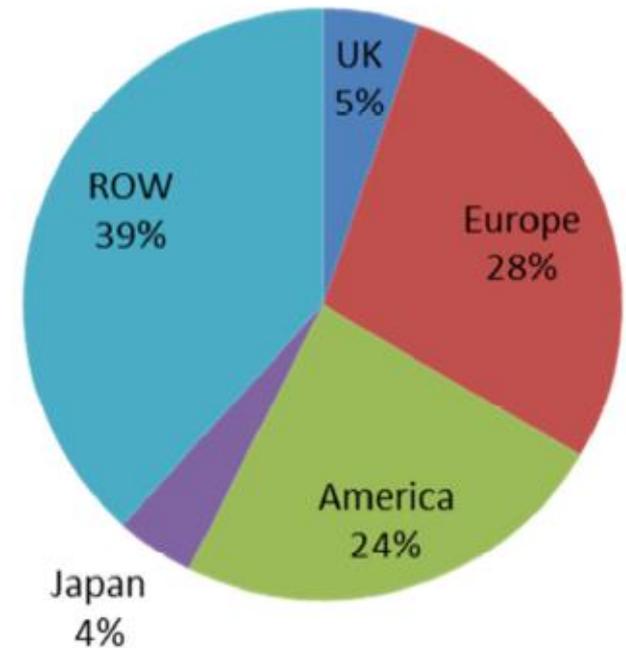
	2 year	5 year
2008	1.509	2.493
2014	2.883	3.552
Ranked #1 since	2013	2009

# JPART: Circulation

Traditional Subscriptions

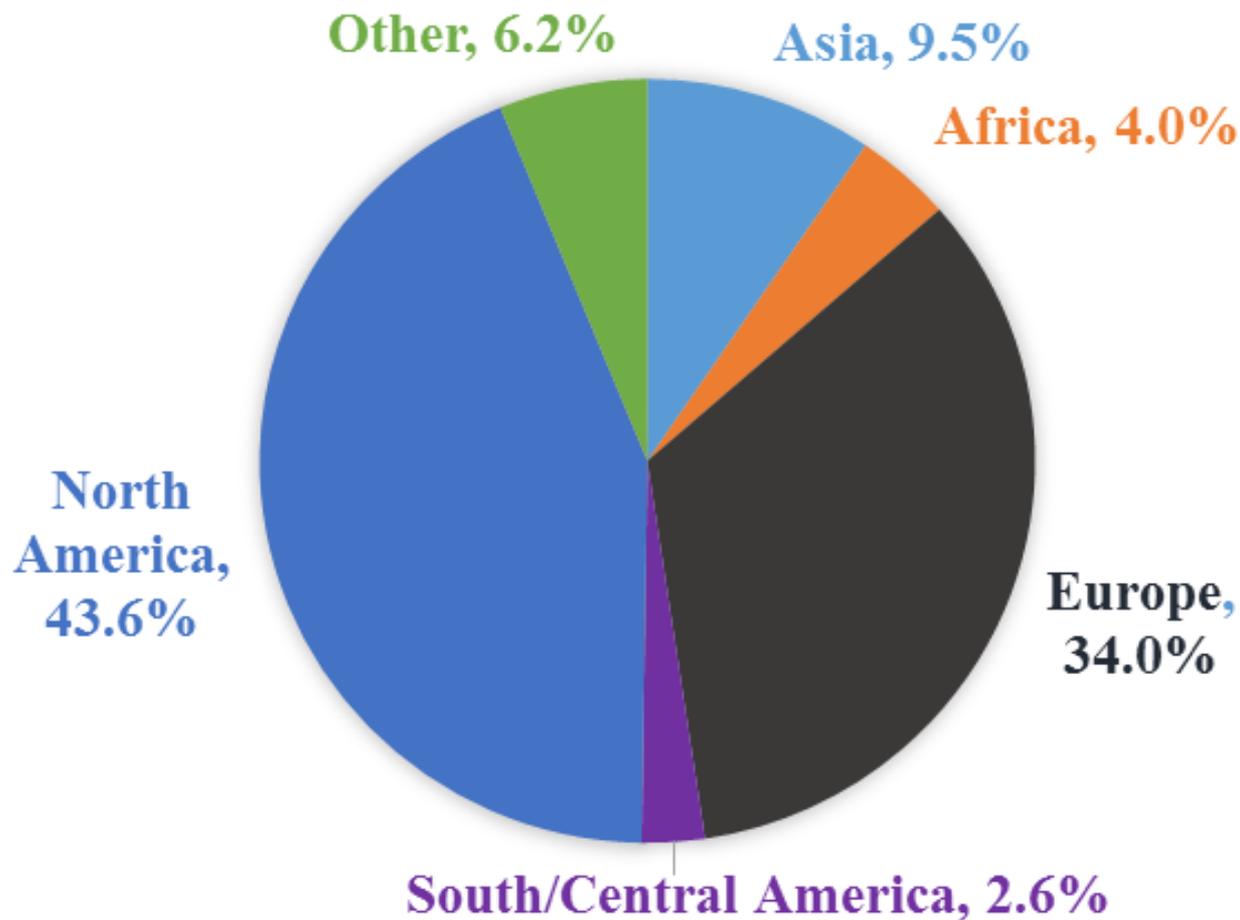


Sites with Access via Consortia

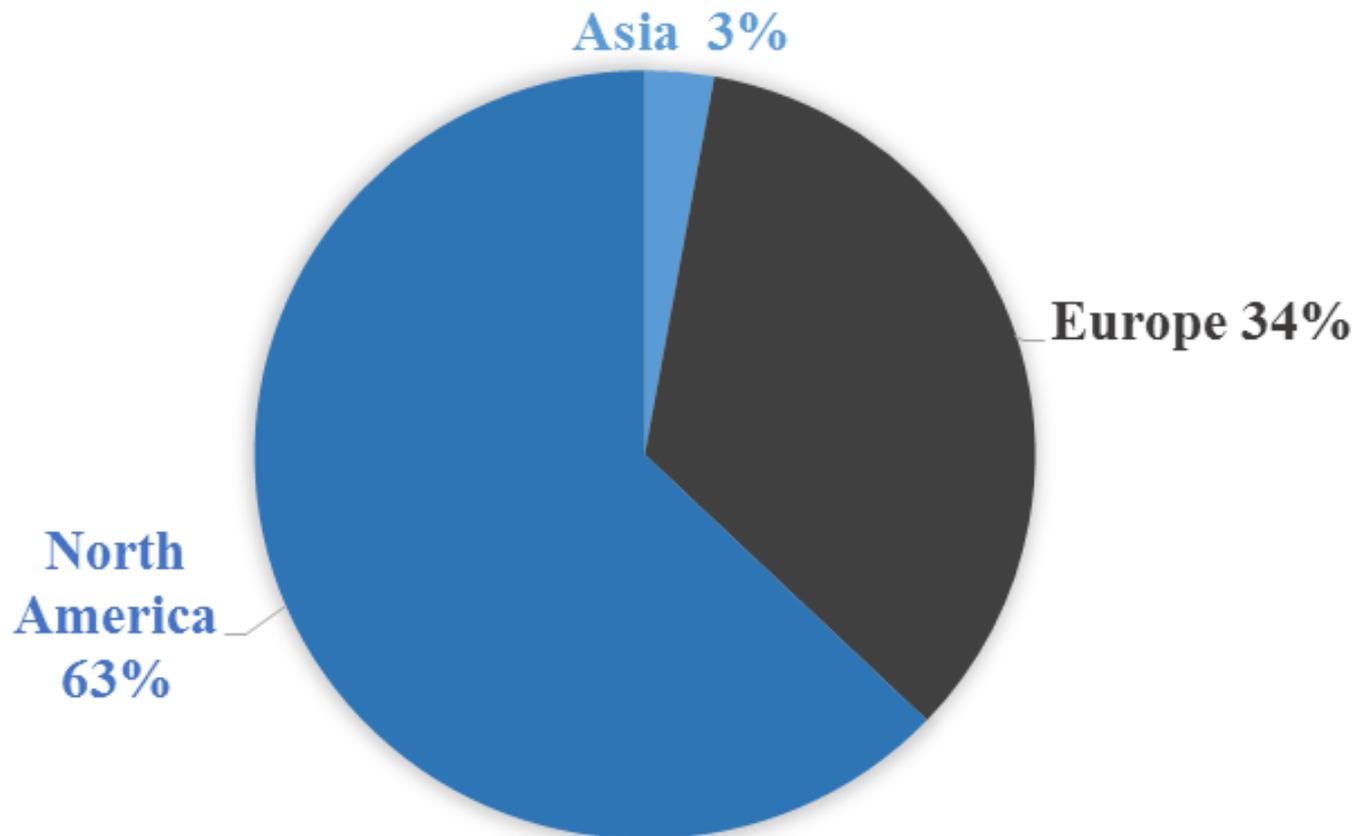


# JPART:

## 2015 Submissions By Country of Origin



# JPART: Accepted manuscripts since 2014 By Country of Origin



# Common Themes for Rejections

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- 1. Fit**
- 2. Framing & Theoretical Contribution**
- 3. Readability**
- 4. Methodological Rigor / Method**

# JPART: Mission

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Serves as a bridge between public administration and public management scholarship on the one hand and public policy studies on the other.

Its multidisciplinary aim is to advance the organizational, administrative, and policy sciences as they apply to government and governance.

The journal is committed to diverse and rigorous scholarship and serves as an outlet for the best conceptual and theory-based empirical work in the field

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Serves as a bridge between public administration and public management scholarship on the one hand and public policy studies on the other.

We publish manuscripts on policy implementation but not policy analysis/evaluation or policy process

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Its multidisciplinary aim is to advance the organizational, administrative, and policy sciences as they apply to government and governance.

We do not publish studies on the private or nonprofit sector unless they have a very strong tie to government administration

# JPART: Mission

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The journal is committed to diverse and rigorous scholarship and serves as an outlet for the best conceptual and theory-based empirical work in the field

The primary criterion used for publication is whether it makes a significant theoretical contribution

Good data and strong methods alone is not enough

Focus is on testing and advancing academic theory not on practice

# Common Themes for Rejections

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## **Fit**

- Review journal mission
- Look at what they publish
- Look at what you cite

# Common Themes for Rejections

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## **Framing & Theoretical Contribution**

### ■ **Underdeveloped Theory**

- Theory by citation with causal reasoning and explanation lacking
- “Reviewers look to the theory section to find a clear theoretically driven narrative not a literature review”

### Some helpful resources

- What Theory is Not (Sutton & Staw, 1995)
- What Constitutes Theory (Whetten, 1989)
- Grounding Hypotheses (AMJ, 2011, 54(6), 1098-1102)

# Common Themes for Rejections

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## Framing & Theoretical Contribution

- Make it clear how your paper helps close the gap between what we know and what we need to know.
- Sell the reader on why we needed to know it
  - Just because no one has done it before is not a reason to do it now
- Small contributions and validation studies are important but may limit where you can publish
  - Primary criterion for publishing in JPART is the ability to make a significant theoretical contribution

# Common Themes for Rejections

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## **Framing & Theoretical Contribution**

- **Old Idea in New Country** - Applying well established theories and ideas to a new setting is not enough
  - Must show how the variability in the setting adds new insights or boundary conditions to current theory
- **Comparing Countries** - Identifying descriptive differences between 2 countries
  - Need to develop new/interesting ideas on why the differences might exist that challenge old assumptions

# Common Themes for Rejections

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## Framing & Theoretical Contribution

- **Consensus Shifting** – Challenge widely held theoretical assumptions and describe the implications of that challenge
- **Consensus Creation** – Identify inconsistencies in the literature and try to resolve the conflict
- **Synthesized Coherence** – identify and link theories/ideas/literatures together in new ways

# Current Concerns: Replication & the Crisis of Confidence

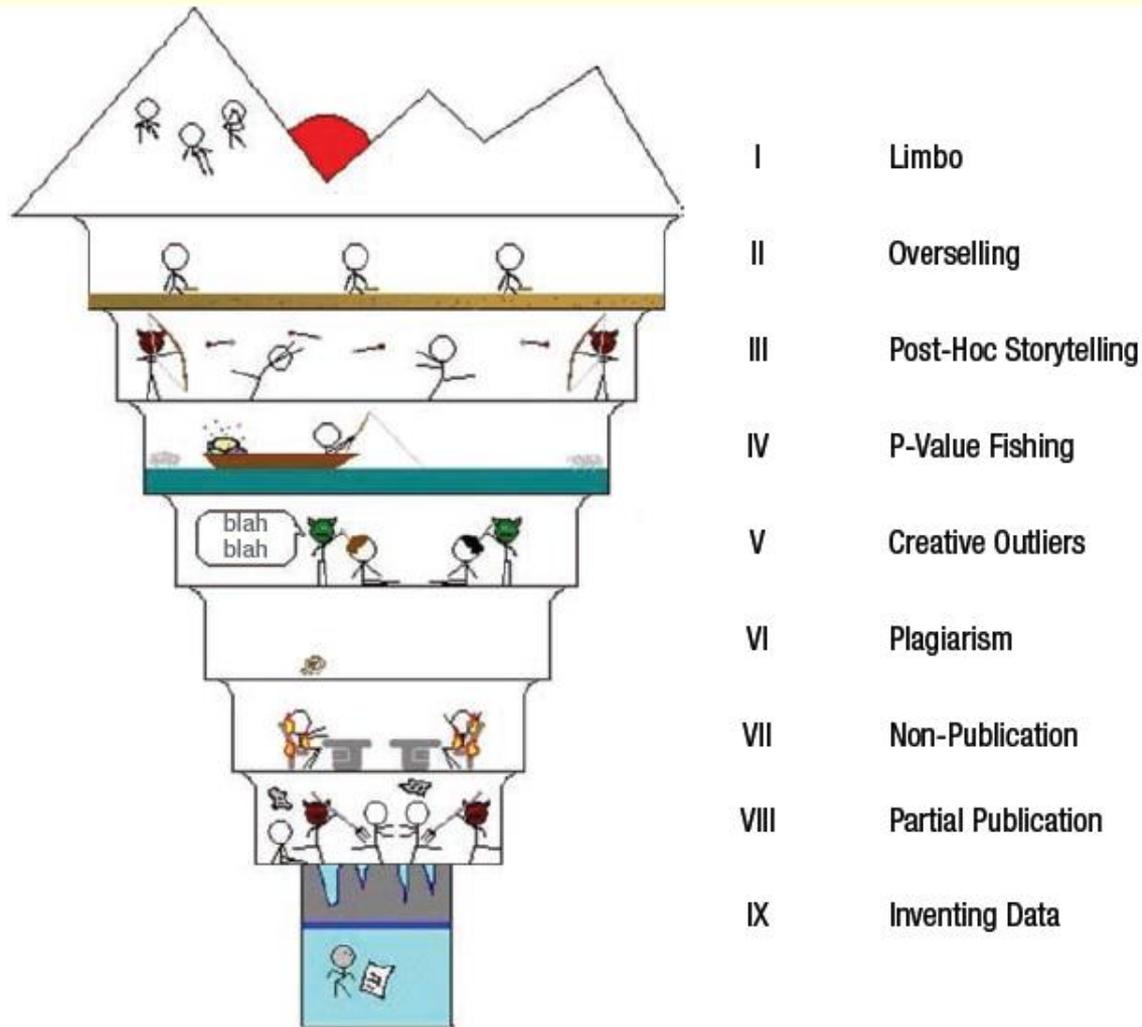
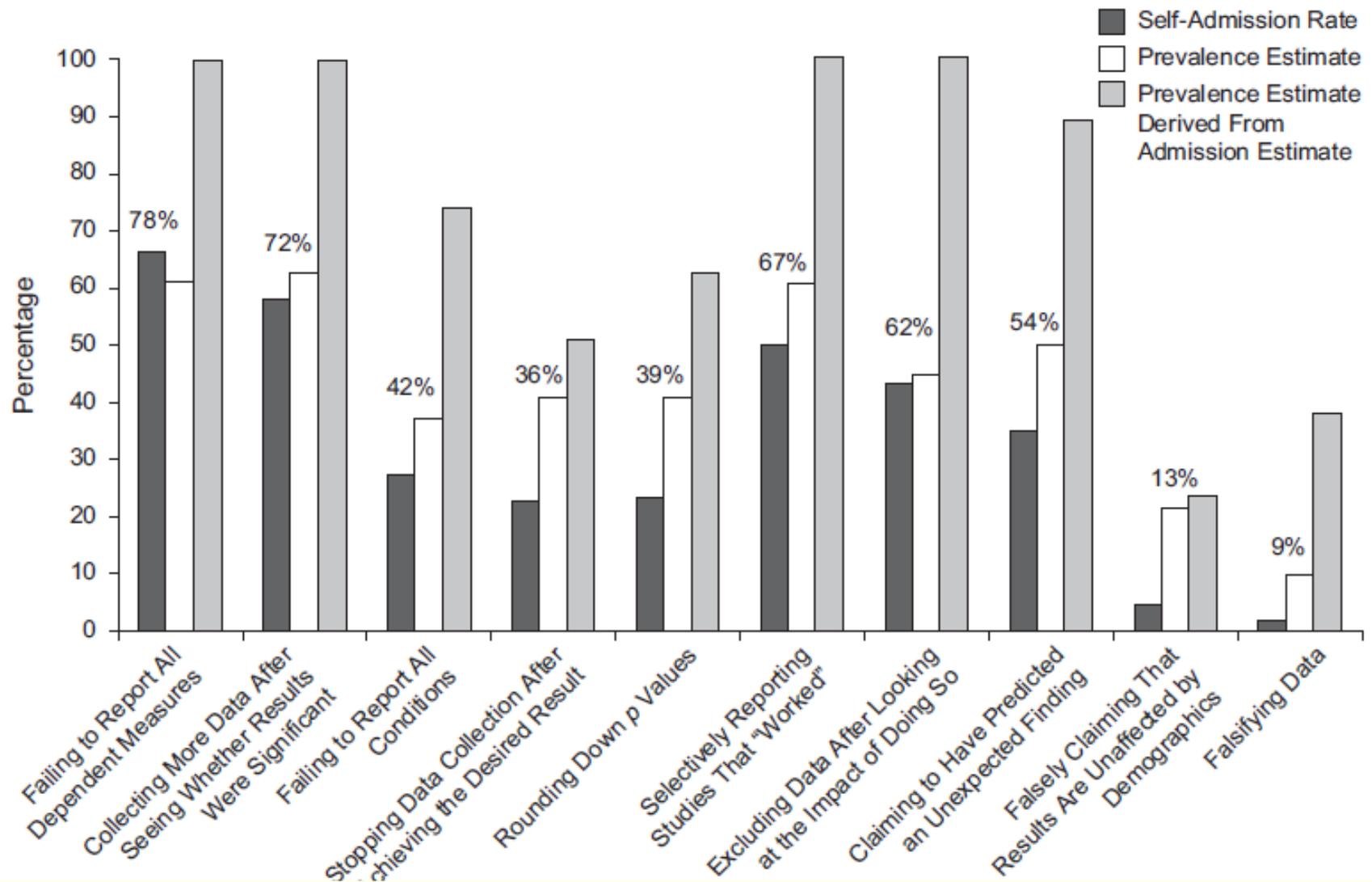


Fig. 1. The nine circles of scientific hell (with apologies to Dante and xkcd)

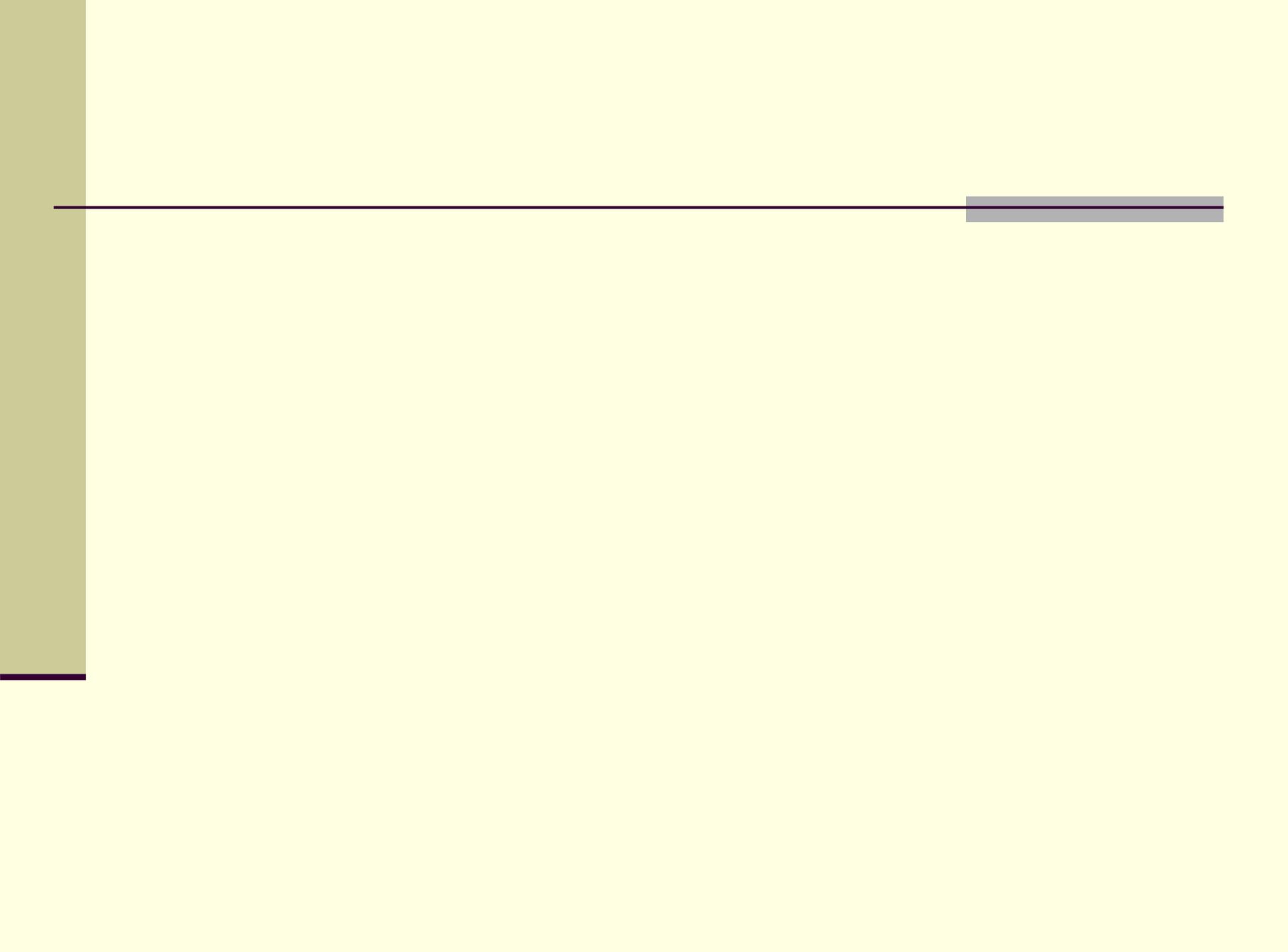
# Current Concerns: Replication & the Crisis of Confidence



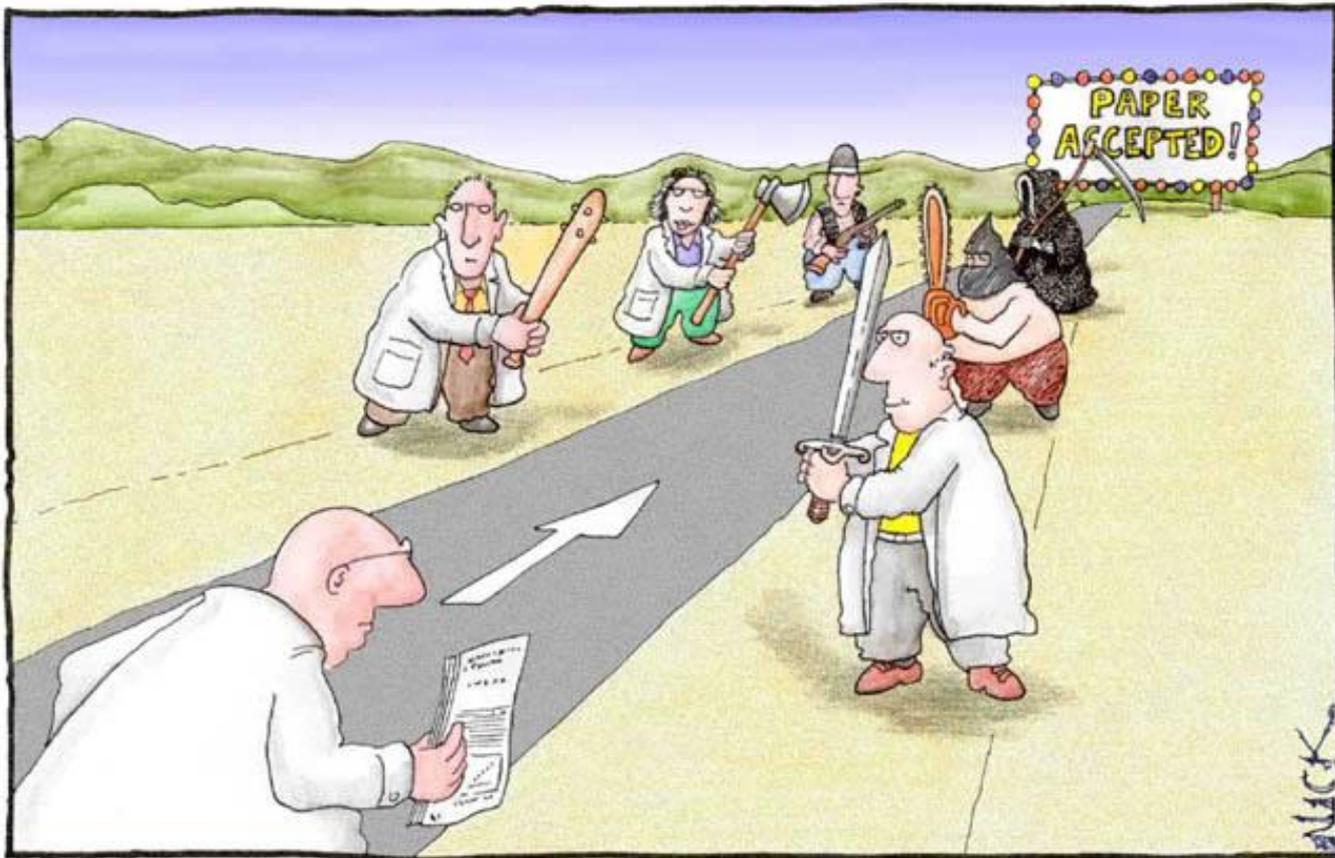
# Current Concerns: Replication & the Crisis of Confidence

Table 1. Likelihood of Obtaining a False-Positive Result

Researcher degrees of freedom	Significance level		
	$p < .1$	$p < .05$	$p < .01$
Situation A: two dependent variables ( $r = .50$ )	17.8%	9.5%	2.2%
Situation B: addition of 10 more observations per cell	14.5%	7.7%	1.6%
Situation C: controlling for gender or interaction of gender with treatment	21.6%	11.7%	2.7%
Situation D: dropping (or not dropping) one of three conditions	23.2%	12.6%	2.8%
Combine Situations A and B	26.0%	14.4%	3.3%
Combine Situations A, B, and C	50.9%	30.9%	8.4%
Combine Situations A, B, C, and D	81.5%	60.7%	21.5%



# Review Process



Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as 'quite an improvement.'