

Tuesday late afternoon session Track B, Tuesday, Sep 23 2025, 16:00-17:45

Location: Seminar 1

Session: Power Dynamics

Chair: Jasna Podreka

OR-27

What does it mean to address power dynamics in research seriously?

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Recently there is increasing emphasis on the importance of addressing power dynamics, and increasing diversity, equity and inclusion, among research integrity researchers and other stakeholders. However, the importance of these topics for research integrity is often also contested, with some stakeholders viewing research integrity as separate – and at times even conflicting – with such concerns. In this presentation, I will reflect on the tension between these two perspectives to explore whether, and if so how, power dynamics should be addressed within initiatives focusing on research integrity. I will argue that if research integrity is about doing good research, then power dynamics, and diversity, equity and inclusion, should be central considerations in all research integrity efforts. This is because power dynamics not only influence the healthiness of the culture of research, but also have an influence on biases - such as related to gender and race - in knowledge production which can compromise the integrity of research. I will then argue that most approaches currently only focus on power dynamics superficially (e.g. by focusing only on binary notions of gender, or junior researchers), rather than taking an intersectional approach that takes into account the political situatedness of research. More specifically, I will discuss that most research integrity initiatives in Europe usually ignore the entanglement of ongoing Euro-American colonialism with research. By refusing to see the systemic power structures that research institutions and researchers are situated in within a colonial, capitalist landscape, these research integrity initiatives then themselves become vectors of reproducing the colonality in research. Two concrete ways they do this is by 1) prioritizing Eurocentric concerns about research, such as replication, above concerns such as epistemic injustice, and 2) imposing Eurocentric ideals about responsible research to other countries, thereby contributing to ‘ethical imperialism’. I will end with a plea to the research integrity community to become aware of the entanglement of research integrity and power dynamics, in order to resist against rather than reproduce colonality in research.