

# ***Economic Science Association***

## **Policy for public availability of data and replication materials**

**Adopted by ESA Executive Committee April 2021.**

**This version November 2021.**

### *Background*

The policies below were unanimously approved by email vote in late April 2021 by members of the Executive Committee of the Economic Science Association. The intention is to further our objective as a society to encourage open science and facilitate the replicability of research published in our journals. Many journals (e.g., those of the American Economic Association) allocate substantial resources to replication and data quality teams. We believe it is infeasible, given the ESA's budget and our publisher's constraints, to reproduce such efforts internally. Nevertheless, it is our aim to create a system that satisfies the following objectives:

- 1) Requires authors to make available all of the materials necessary for secondary analysis and replication of their work. This includes instructions, experimental software, data and statistical programs.
- 2) Encourages researchers to replicate the analysis and experiments in articles published in our journals, and facilitates the dissemination of such replication attempts.

### *Policy*

The following policies aim to achieve this objective, while minimizing the administrative burden and costs for the ESA:

- 1) The "Data and Replication Policy" (included at the end of this document) will be communicated clearly on the *Experimental Economics* and *Journal of the Economic Science Association* websites. Authors will be informed of and must agree to the policy when submitting manuscripts. Requests for exemption from this policy must be made at the time of the first submission.
- 2) Upon conditional acceptance, authors have to provide a link in the form of a DOI to a trusted permanent public repository (see [list](#)), where replication materials are stored and made publicly available. These materials should include: experimental instructions, experimental software (unless the authors provide a reason why it cannot be shared), raw data, information on used statistical programs, all author-generated codes (e.g., do files) necessary to clean and organize the data and reproduce the analysis and results contained in the paper, as well as a README file explaining this documentation. This link will be displayed both in the notes on the first page of the published journal article and on the journal's article webpage. Authors will be encouraged to provide materials that are, to the extent possible, accessible to the general readership of our journal.

For experiments conducted in languages other than English, authors are required to provide the original instructions as well as instructions translated into English.

3) Before final acceptance of a manuscript, the ESA's Data Editor (see below) will inspect the materials, verifying that the files exist, that they are accessible and that they appear to contain the required content. The Data Editor will not be responsible for performing the reproduction work, though the Data Editor may choose to do so if he or she believes that something may not work properly. The Data Editor's approval is required before the manuscript can be formally accepted. The Data Editor will correspond directly with the editor of the journal handling the paper, providing approval to accept a paper. Editors are encouraged to ask authors to provide the link to the replication material once a paper nears the stage where it can be accepted, but no later than an "accept pending minor revisions" stage. A paper will remain in that stage of the review process until the Data Editor has provided approval to the editor.

4) The Data Editor will create a new entry for every accepted article on a new page ("Data and Replication") on the ESA website that is linked to the ESA journals. This page will list and link to the articles accepted in our journals and provide links to the replication material. If possible, this page will also list and link to subsequent repository depositions indicating revisions and replication attempts.

5) We will encourage members of the ESA community to conduct and report replication attempts. These can include exercises (e.g., for students) that involve re-doing the analysis in the paper using the authors' data and code, or attempts by researchers to replicate the experiment using the instructions and software provided. We will ask that all such replication attempts also deposit the materials on a trusted permanent public repository. When notified, the Data Editor will maintain links to the replications on the ESA journals website.

### *Decision of the Executive Committee*

The Executive Committee approves the creation of a new position of **Data Editor**. The Data Editor's responsibilities will include two primary functions.

- 1) The Data Editor will review the materials on the public repository prior to the final acceptance of a paper in our journals, to ensure that these materials comply with the policy.
- 2) The Data Editor will also create and maintain the database on the ESA journals webpage that will allow easy access to the link for the article's replication materials and, if possible, to the reports of replication attempts.

The Data Editor will be appointed to renewable three-year terms by the Executive Committee, with the input of the society journal's editors. Ideally, it should be a researcher from our community, even a junior researcher, with an interest in topics related to data and reproducibility.

Springer has provided us with an annual budget of USD 5,000 for replication efforts. This money could go towards partial compensation of the Data Editor's time or to hire assistants to help with the effort.

## Data and Replication Policy for Journals of the Economic Science Association

The Economic Science Association and the editorial boards of its journals are committed to openness and replicability in experimental research. This follows from a long tradition in the experimental economics community to make data and instructions available for published papers. In order to create a standardized and simple system in pursuit of these objectives, we require that authors of all papers submitted to *Experimental Economics* and the *Journal of the Economic Science Association* agree to the following steps as part of our Data and Replication Policy. Authors must agree to this policy before submitting their manuscripts. **Any requests for exemption from this policy must be made in writing at the time of the first submission of a manuscript.**

- 1) Upon conditional acceptance of an article, authors must make available any materials necessary to permit replication by posting the materials with a trusted public repository (see [list](#)). The posted materials should include: experimental instructions (original version as well as a copy translated into English if relevant), experimental software, raw data, information on used statistical programs and the author-generated statistical code necessary to clean and organize the data and reproduce the analysis in the paper, as well as a README file explaining this documentation. If the author prefers not to share the software used to conduct the experiment, the materials should include a statement explaining why and the conditions under which it will be shared. The author may also include other materials. A link to the materials in the form of a permanent identifier such as a DOI should be displayed in the note on the first page of the conditionally accepted manuscript and later on the journal's article webpage. In the note, please use the statement "The replication material for the study is available at [LINK]."
- 2) Formal acceptance of an article is only possible after the Data Editor of the Economic Science Association reviews and verifies that the link contains the necessary materials. The Data Editor may test the integrity and reliability of the replication materials, but it is the responsibility of the author to ensure that the documentation is correct. The corresponding author agrees to be responsive to any queries from the Data Editor.
- 3) The Economic Science Association encourages its members and other researchers to use the publicly available materials for replication exercises and to in turn post their materials and results to a trusted public repository. The corresponding author agrees to be responsive to queries from researchers attempting to replicate the experiment and analysis reported in the paper. The Economic Science Association will promote and disseminate the replication of research published in its journals.

Version	Date	Author/updated by	Comments
1.0	April 2021	Executive committee of the Economic Science Association	
1.1	Nov. 2021	Data Editor (Eva Ranehill)	Updates made with respect to: 1. Specifying list of trusted repositories

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. Specifying the requirement to provide a link the form of a DOI</li><li>3. Specifying the requirement to provide instructions in the original language in addition to and English version.</li><li>4. Including the request for a README file</li></ol>
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