

# **Academic Research Climate in Amsterdam**

***Lex Bouter***

# Content

## Academic Research Climate in Amsterdam study design

- Survey
- Focus group interviews
- Pilot interventions

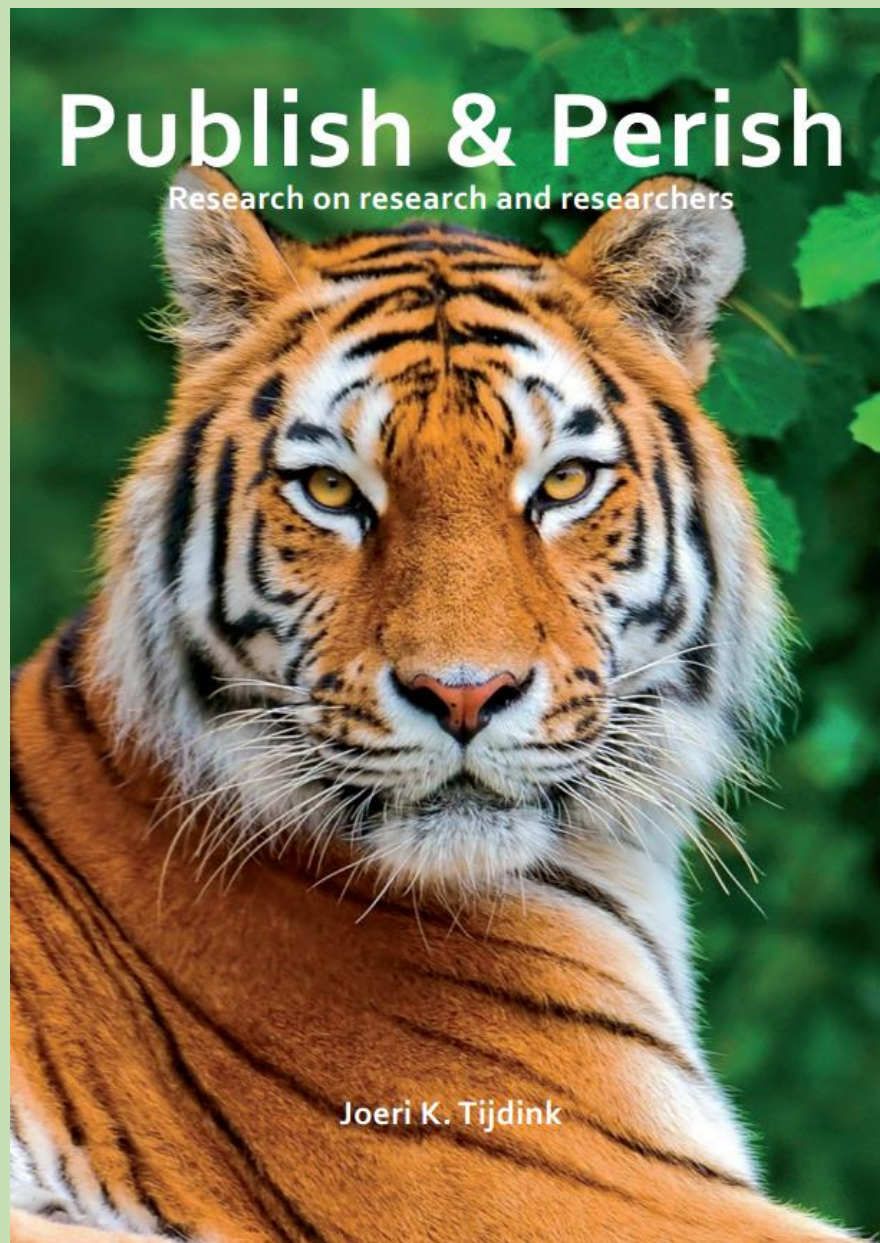


# **Rotten apple spoils the barrel**

Always go through the rest after  
removing the rotten one....



Joeri Tijdink



Tamarinde Haven



# Academic Research Climate in Amsterdam

- Part of project on **epistemic responsibilities** of universities
- Funded by the Templeton Foundation – and 4 institutions
- Research integrity is key responsibility of universities
- **Aim:**
  - to explore salient aspects of **research climate**
  - to identify ways to **promote RCR**

# Phase I: Web-based survey (1)

- Ranking 60 major and minor **Research Misbehaviors**
  - Frequency
  - Impact on trust and truth
- Revised **Publication Pressure** Questionnaire (PPQ)
- Survey on **Organisational Research Climate** (SOURCE)
- Stratification for academic rank and disciplinary field
- Focus on **descriptive** data - also hypotheses on **associations**

# Phase I: Web-based survey (2)

- Including **all scientists** (>0.2 fte) of VU, UvA, AMC, VUmc
- Solid **identity protection** (charter – ethics committee)
- Multiple measures to get a high **response rate**
- Short **questionnaire** (15 minutes)
- Each respondent gets a random **selection of items**
- **Aggregated results** per faculty and UMC research institute
- No cells with fewer than N=25

# Phase II: Focus group interviews

- Homogeneous for **academic rank**
- Homo- and heterogeneous for **disciplinary field**
- Informed by survey results
- Semi-structured interviews, focusing on:
  - **Perceived barriers** for RCR
  - Thoughts on **preventability** of research misbehaviors
  - Exploring **solutions** and **interventions**



# Phase III: Pilot interventions (1)

## Moral Case Deliberation in research groups

- Led by certified **moderator**
- Case presenter explains personal **dilemma**
- Participants ask only clarifying questions
- Exploration of **values** and **norms** from different perspectives
- Group **discussion**
- **Reflection** on consensus solution or differences in choice

# Phase III: Pilot interventions (2)

## Training program for novice PhD mentors

- Adequate **mentoring** and **supervision** are essential
- Substantial room for improvement
- Little formal **training** is offered
- **Window of opportunity** when one gets his/her 1<sup>st</sup> PhD student
- Core of **RCR** but embedded in other topics
- **Mix** of mentoring, intervision, course work, capita selecta

# Conclusions

- **ARCA** will yield relevant empirical evidence on the perceived **research climate** in Amsterdam
- **ARCA** will provide **disciplinary field** specific rankings of major and minor research misbehaviors
- **ARCA** will enable fact-oriented **discussions** on measures to foster Responsible Conduct of Research
- **ARCA** will inform the **National Survey on Research Integrity**



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**Optional additional slides**

# Connection to National Survey

- **ARCA** pilots logistics and identity protection
- **ARCA** selects 5 misbehaviors per disciplinary field



# National Survey on Research Integrity (1)

- Web-based survey among **all active scientists** of Dutch Universities and UMCs
- Focus on **frequency** and **explanatory variables** of minor/major research misbehavior
- Attention to differences between **academic ranks** and **disciplinary fields**
- **Validated questionnaires** and expert steering committee
- **Solid identity protection** of participants and institutions

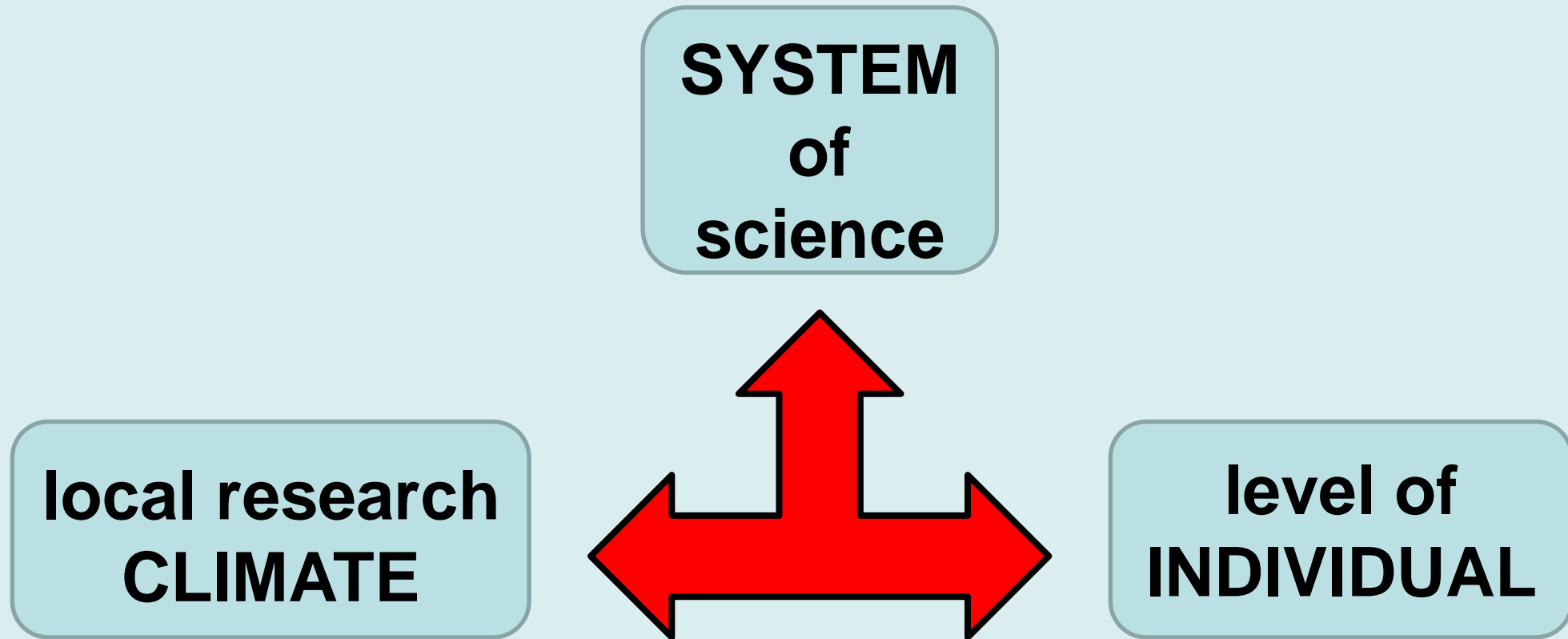


**ZonMw**

# National Survey on Research Integrity (2)

- **Advanced methods**: randomized response technique + missingness by design
- Preparatory pilots, including **Academic Research Culture in Amsterdam**
- Involvement of relevant **stakeholders**
- **Focus group interviews** and **invitational conferences** on survey results
- Recommendations for fostering **Responsible Research Practices**

# Explanatory variables of Detrimental Research Practices



# **Explanatory variables of Detrimental Research Practices**

## **SYSTEM of science**

- Organizational injustice of science system
- Likelihood of detection by reviewers

## **level of INDIVIDUAL**

- Scientific norm subscription
- Perceived work pressure
- Dependence on external funding

# **Explanatory variables of Detrimental Research Practices**

## **local research CLIMATE**

- Scientific norm adherence in the group and discipline
- Perceived competition
- Received mentoring for survival (+) and RCR (-)
- Perceived social support at work
- Organizational injustice in group and institution
- Likelihood of detection by colleagues in the group