

Frequently Asked Questions on the Hong Kong Principles

Q: What is the difference with DORA (San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment)?

A: The Hong Kong Principles (HKPs) are written from the perspective of the research integrity community. We – like [DORA](#) - strongly believe that current metrics may act as perverse incentives in the assessment of researchers. But the HKPs focus specifically on the undermining effects of the currently prevalent assessments on research integrity. When we say research integrity we mean more than the avoidance of research misconduct (fabrication, falsification, plagiarism) and other detrimental research practices. The core idea of the HKPs is that in the assessment of researchers the responsible research practices and positive contributions to the research environment should be rewarded. For that reason the HKPs for instance have an emphasis on open science practices that make research more transparent and thus more easy to check and re-use. It is important that this is rewarded because following open science practices takes more time and resources. Furthermore it sends a strong message about what is important for good quality research.

Q: Who are the people behind the HKPs?

A: The authors of the HKP manuscript are leading experts and represent the most important stakeholders in the research enterprise: researchers, research performing institutions, funding agencies and scientific journals. More formally the author team combines members of the governing board of the World Integrity Conferences Foundation ([WCRF](#)) and the steering committee of the REduce research Waste And Reward Diligence ([REWARD](#)) Alliance.

The draft of the HKPs has been commented upon online by participants of the [6th World Conference on Research Integrity](#) held in Hong Kong in 2019 and the next version was discussed during that conference in three sessions. After the 6th WCRI the penultimate version was commented upon again online by 6th WCRI participants. The WCRF governing board subsequently endorsed the final version formulated by the author team.

Q: Why is the list of endorsing institutions and individuals so short?

A: That's because the [possibility to endorse](#) the HKPs has only been launched on 21 February 2020. Furthermore, the WCRIF has no resources for a large campaign, the authors of the HKPs have all busy jobs and we have to rely on spontaneous dissemination mainly.