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Opinion

LETTER

Better Scientific Research

Nov. 14, 2011



To the Editor:

“[Fraud Case Seen as a Red Flag for Psychology Research](#)” (news article, Nov. 3) discussed my concerns about current scientific practices within the context of a critique of psychology. I believe that the practice of publishing only a portion of collected data can enable scientists to present a biased perspective, even inadvertently (as I discuss in a recent [Nature commentary](#)).

However, neither such biases nor the entirely different case of outright fraud are unique to psychology. Both are problems faced across disciplines. Indeed, psychology should be applauded for detailing how current scientific practices can lead to erroneous conclusions.

I concur with the emerging “open science” movement, which is being pioneered within the psychological community, that science is in need of an overhaul to make its procedures and findings more transparent. However, such concerns are not a specific indictment of the field of psychology, which has in fact been leading the way toward such change.

JONATHAN W. SCHOOLER
Santa Barbara, Calif., Nov. 9, 2011

The writer is a professor of psychology at the University of California, Santa Barbara.



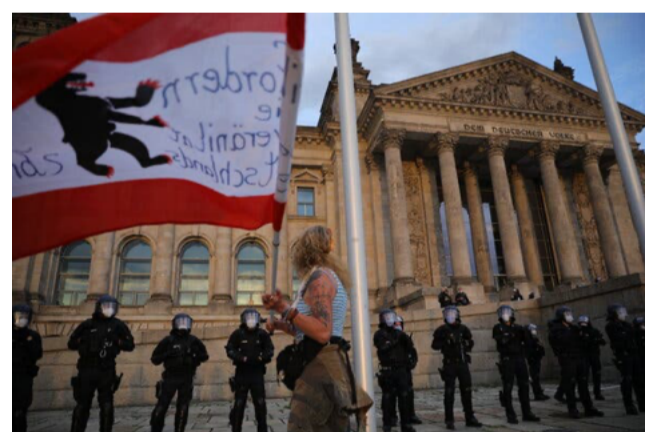
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