



UNIVERSITY OF PADOVA

Beyond $p < .05$
Modern statistical approaches
in psychological science

INTERNATIONAL WINTER SCHOOL 2019

School abstract - Rens van de Schoot

The living room of science

Science has always been a dynamic process with continuously changing rules and attitudes on responsible research practices. Most of these rules are subjective and ‘unwritten’ which makes them difficult to identify. The current debate about appropriate scientific practices is fierce and lively and has moved from academia to the public domain, resulting in many public opinions, not solely driven by objective information, but instead loaded by emotions. Many Early career scientists feel uncertain of how to act and who to talk to.

The Young Academy of the KNAW (www.dejongeakademie.nl/) has started a project titled ‘The living room of science: promoting responsible research practices through an interactive discussion’. The ultimate goal of this project is to create an accessible online open platform for early career scientists to acquire information about appropriate research practices. We hope that arguments like “this is how we always do it”, or “get used to it, this is what it takes to publish your paper” will no longer be used.

I will present the results of a vignette study among PhD-students in The Netherlands and Belgium about responsible research practices. Topics are data fabrication, deleting outliers to get significant effects, and salami slicing. I also interviewed 34 senior scholars (deans, vice-deans and research directors working at 10 different faculties of Social and Behavioral Sciences or Psychology in The Netherlands). The statistics behind this project are: expert elicitation, mixture priors, prior-data conflicts, Bayes truth serum, and testing for replication effects using the Bayes Factor.