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Motivations for peer reviewers to perform pre-publication review of manuscripts: a systematic review

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How authors see reviewers?

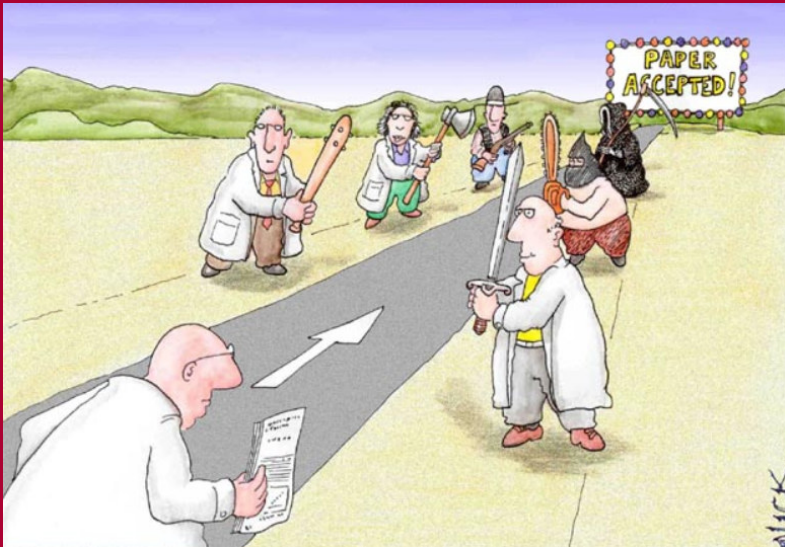
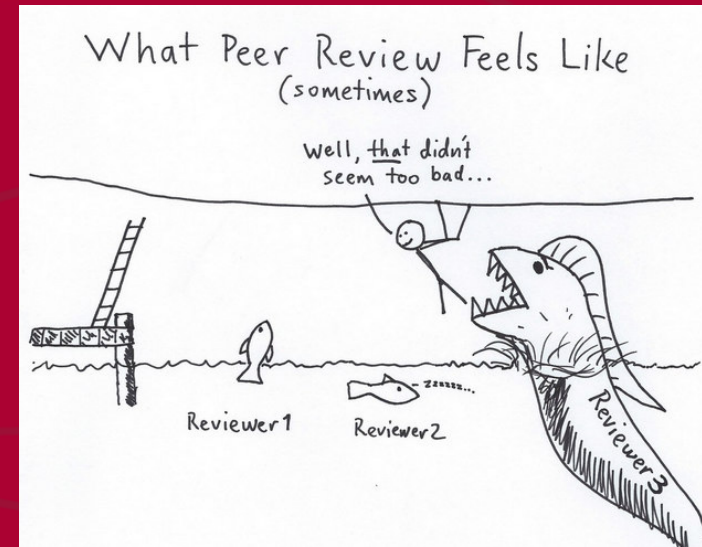


Image Credit: Nick at <http://www.lab-initio.com/>



<https://twitter.com/iamsciart/status/910377122962788352>

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Well... it is not the whole truth 😊

#DearReviewer

You bring pain, training, and joy!

I appreciate peer reviews, they bring pain, training and joy. It's all a mixture of what life truly is. This training is only possible because of the efforts of some people. We just say 'reviewers', yet these are individuals with life responsibilities and demands, who go out of their way to make publishing worthwhile. And what's more, they are mostly not rewarded for this noble cause!

I just want to say thank you to all peer reviewers out there...even though authors do not always agree with you! And yes, we know that you, too, are individuals with your own opinions! The academic publishing world needs you more than ever before! Thank you!

– Olubusola Johnson –
Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria



#DearReviewer

Where would science be without you?

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the peer-reviewers for their hard work. I have done some peer reviews myself and it is always a great challenge to undertake. It implies giving time away that can reduce your productivity; nevertheless, it is an essential activity for science. You don't get recognition and you don't get paid, and it seems like it is pretty much a bad deal for the reviewer! Nevertheless, where would science be without it? It is the commitment from the reviewers that keep science going! I really want to thank all peer reviewers for their hard and unconditional work! We may get frustrated when we get the reviews, but I doubt that anyone can say that the reviews have not contributed to make their research better... well, Einstein did it, and many years later he regretted it and apologized for it, since he recognized that the peer review he despised was correct. Thanks to all the peer reviewers!!!

– Christian M. Appendini –
Institute of Engineering of UNAM in Sisal, Yucatan, Mexico



<https://www.slideshare.net/editage/dear-reviewer-notes-of-appreciation-from-authors-to-peer-reviewers>

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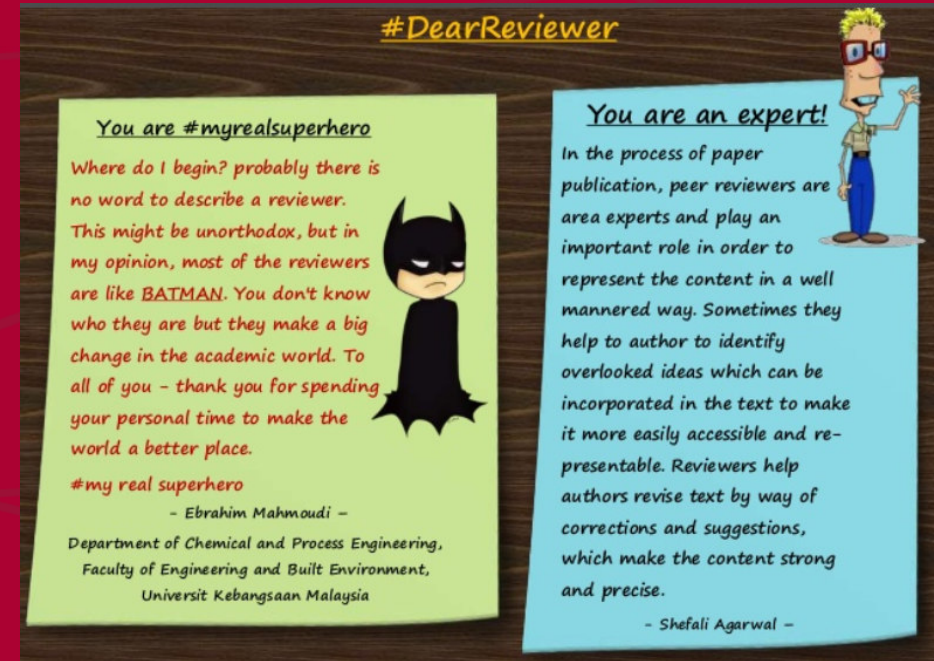
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PEERE Peer reviewing is a thankless task!



<http://www.slate.com/technology/2018/05/what-politics-and-religion-could-learn-from-science.html>

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<http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-evidence-tampering.htm>

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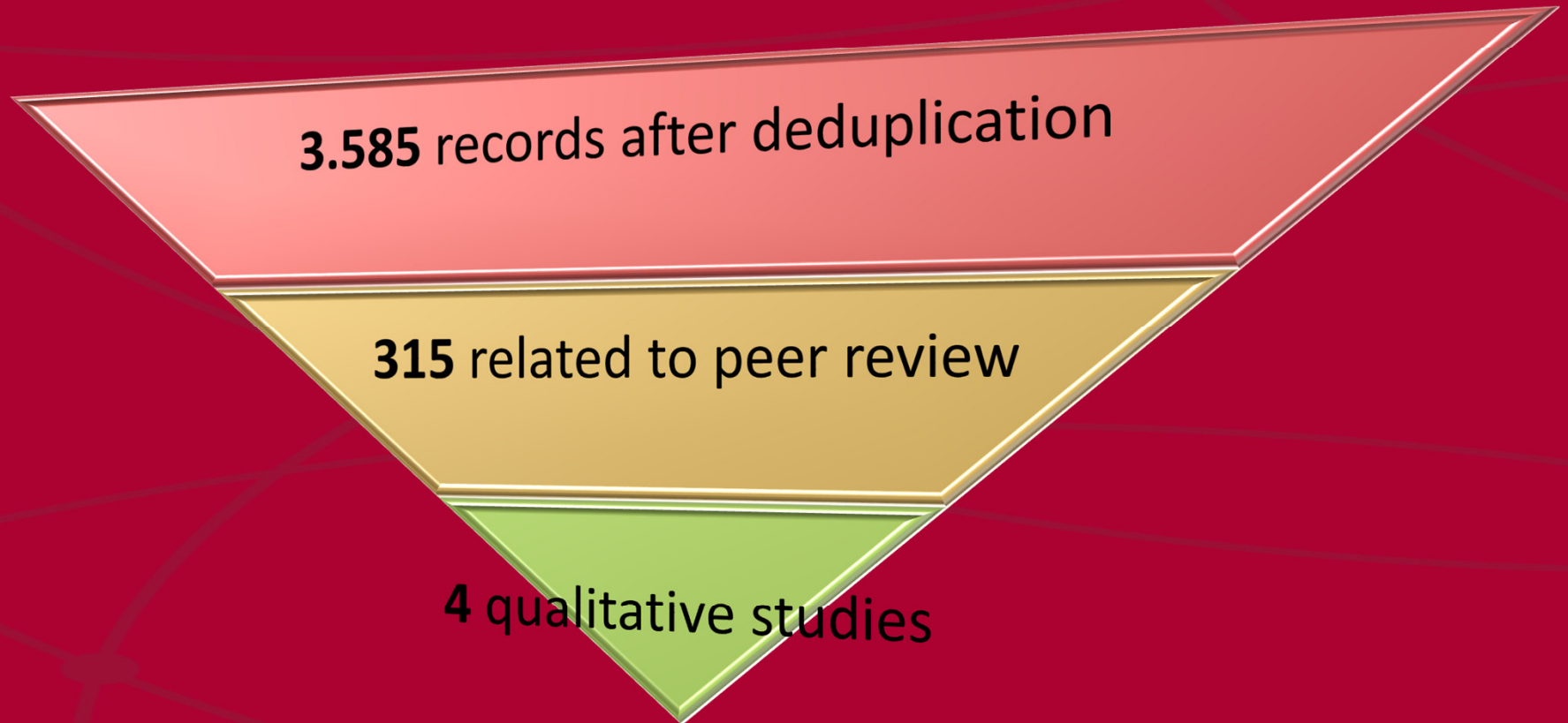
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- **Objective:** identify studies and synthesize data on what motivates peer reviewers to perform peer reviews.
- **Design:**
 - Systematic review of studies
 - MEDLINE Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus
 - no time or language limitations





1st author	Year	Title of the manuscript	No of respondents	Response rate	Respondents	Country	Methodology
Emden	1998	Manuscript reviewing: what reviewers have to say	15	50%	Nurses, reviewers	Australia	53% (8) post, 27% (4) mail, 20% (3) telephone interview
Kearney	2008	Experience, time investment, and motivators of nursing journal peer reviewers	1,439	35%	Nurses, reviewers, doctorally prepared academics involved in research	44 countries (74% US)	69-question anonymous online survey containing both fixed-option and open-ended questions mail
Tite	2007	Why do peer reviewers decline to review? A survey	551	62%	Reviewers of 5 biomedical journals BMJ publishing group	---	Questionnaire 5 point Likert scales (reasons why reviewers decline to review, opinions on financial incentives and opinions on non-financial incentives)
Savulescu	2004	What makes the best medical ethics journal? A north american perspective	82	63%	Medical ethicists	USA, Canada	Online survey

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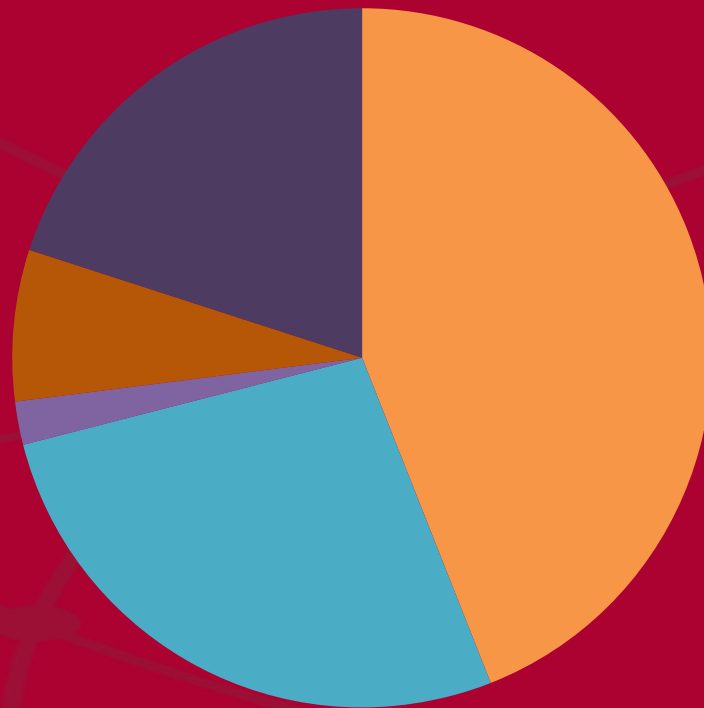
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Internal motivators to peer review

Emden, Kearney, Tite, Savulescu



- keeping up-to-date (E,K,T,S) 3.9
- gaining skills (E,K,T)
- recognition (E,K)
- academic/career reward (E,K,T,S) 3.9
- enjoyment or satisfaction (K)
- relevance to my research (T)

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Internal motivations

Emden	Kearney	Tite	%	Savulescu	1-5
Keeping abreast of developments	Keeping up to date	Desire to keep-up-to-date on current research	44	Keep up date on current research	3.9
Improved critiquing and writing skills	Gaining skills	Opportunity to learn something new	27		
Recognition of skills and expertise by peers and editors	Recognition		2		
Career advantages	Career advancement	Academic reward (career advancement)	7	Academic reward (career enhancement, letter of acknowledgement)	3.9
	Enjoyment or satisfaction	Relevance of the topic to my own interest	20		

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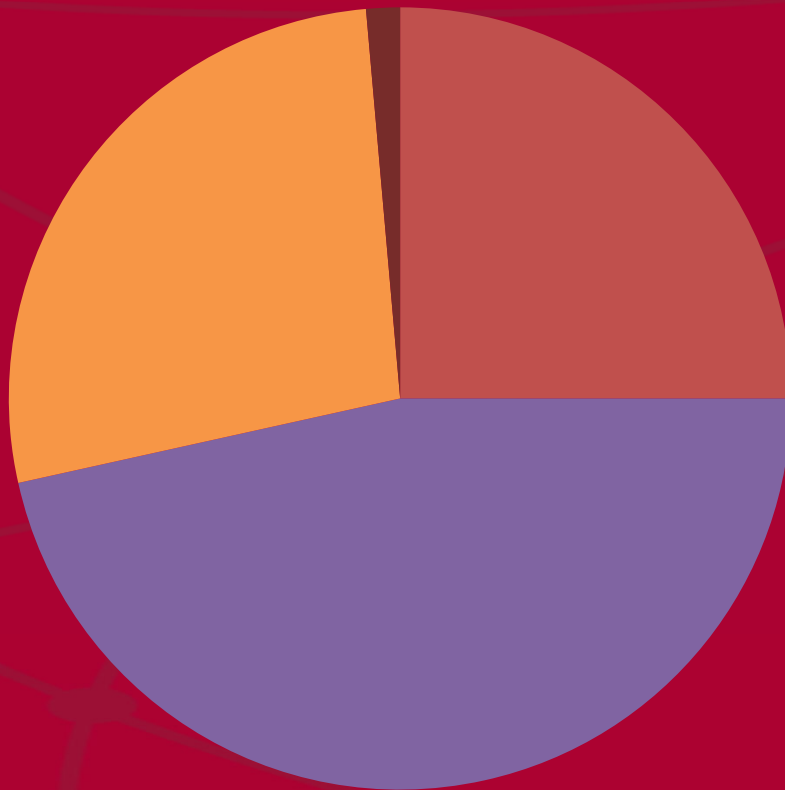
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External motivators of peer reviewers



- contribution to science (E,K,T,S) 4.2
- reputation of the journal (T,S) 4.0
- using online review system (T,S) 3.9
- monetary payment (T,S) 3.9

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External motivations

Emden	Kearney	Tite	%	Savulescu	1-5
Extension of academic role	Contributing to science	Contribution of the paper to the subject area	36	Opportunity to contribute to field/profession	4.2
		Sense of professional duty	25		
			10		
		Reputation of the journal	67	Reputation of the journal	4.0
Considered as a duty	Contributing to the profession			High impact of the journal	4.0
	Helping others publish	Reputation of the authors of the paper	18		
		Being able to use online review system	39	Online system for manuscript retrieval and review submission	3.9
		Monetary payment	2	Financial incentive	3.9

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Reviewers are volunteers because

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Their job is priceless! 😊

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