Open Peer Reviewers in Africa

Module I

What is this about?

Open Peer Reviewers in Africa is a 3-part workshop developed with a Train-of-Trainer framework (slide 10) in which trainees are invited and empowered to become trainers themselves.

This slide deck contains content from the workshop (overview on slide 14) and is a **TEMPLATE** for any African-based researcher who wish to:

1. Read/learn about the content of the workshop
2. Train others

Template slides for Module II can be found at
https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7145213

About the content and how to cite it

- Content in this slide deck was adapted from the PREreview Open Reviewers program with contributions from all members of the organizing team of Open Peer Reviewers in Africa.
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- The design template for this slide deck was done by Frasia Kemunto (TCC Africa) and adapted by Daniela Saderi (PREreview).
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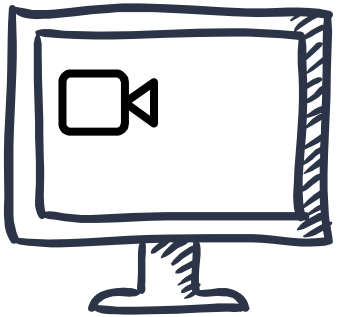
How to use this slide deck to train others

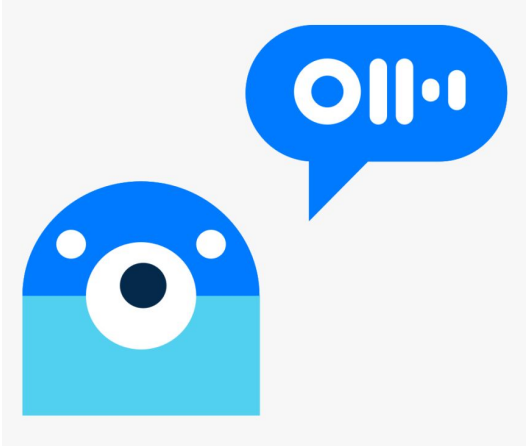
1. Download this slide deck from Zenodo and open them as Google slides.
2. Slide 8-10 contain information about the Open Peer Reviewers in Africa project.
3. For each slide, you will find speaker notes and tips on how to present the slide. Please use those as suggestions and feel free to adapt the content to your community.
4. Information that is left as a placeholder is highlighted in YELLOW. Once the space is replaced with your info, remember to format the text with the white background.
5. This slide deck is meant to be interactive with the workshop participants, and the course assumes the use of Zoom as the virtual platform for workshop delivery.
6. If you have questions or concerns related to the content of this workshop or the program, please email us at openreviewers@prereview.org.

To know before we start



We are going to RECORD THIS CALL so that you all have access to it as a future reference. The recording will be made available to all trainees in this cohort and the facilitators. It will never be shared with others without your consent.

Accessing Live Captions



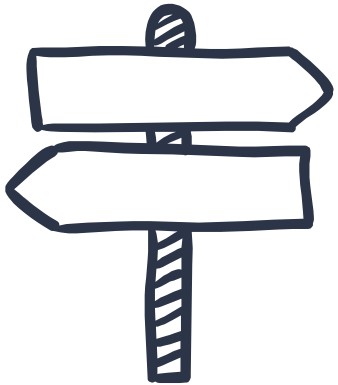
2

We are using Otter.ai for live caption services. That means:

1) You can access the live caption transcript of this call by clicking on the otter icon at the top left of your Zoom window;

2) You will have access to the transcript and audio recording after this call.

Slide deck etiquette



You all have EDITING ACCESS to this Google slide deck which means you can change things. Please:

DON’T change the content of the slide deck

DON’T SHARE this link with anyone

DO edit only when prompted by the facilitator.

DO follow along as we present.

Meet the Open Peer Reviewers in Africa Founding Team

Frasia Kemunto

Joy Owango

Joyce Wangari

Aurelia Munene

Daniela Saderi

Kora Korzec

Shane Alsop

Godwyns Onwuchekwa

Antoinette Foster, Sam Hindle, Katrina Murphy (Open Reviewers Program content developers, left to right) with input from Monica Granados.

Nicholas Outa

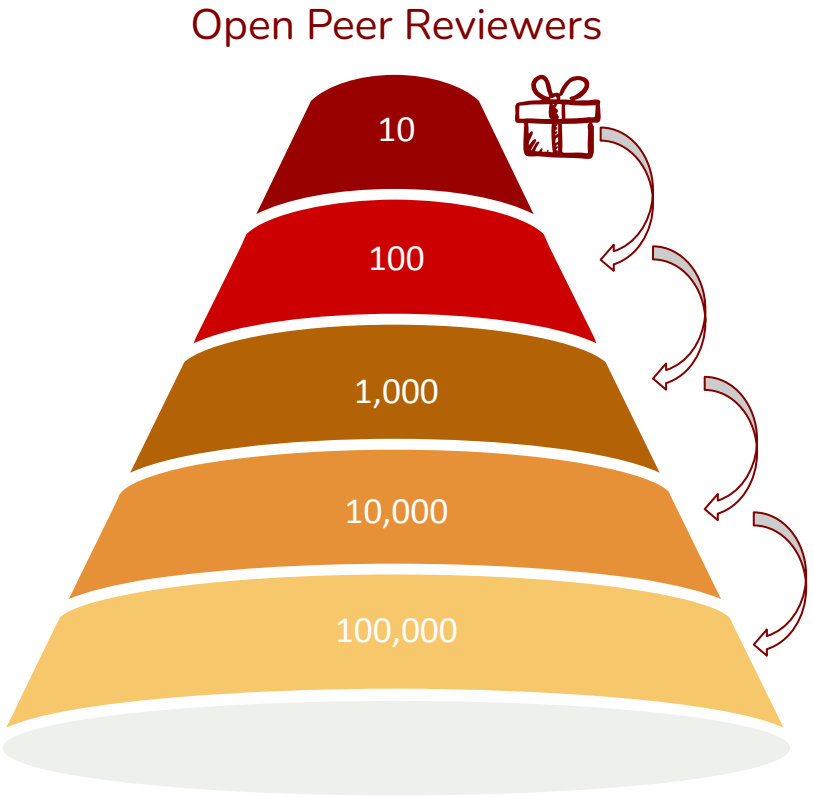
Johanssen Obanda

Jo Havemann

Why an African-centric peer review workshop?

- To build capacity and enthusiasm for scholarly open review of preprints among African researchers
- To offer opportunities to actively participate in peer review and gain recognition through community engagement
- To help decolonize the academic publishing process by creating equitable opportunities for African researchers to engage, lead, and teach others

Train-of-Trainer Model



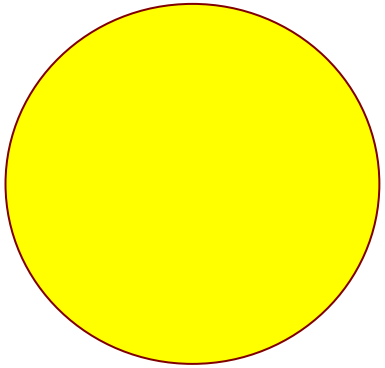
- After taking this workshop, you will receive training and resources to train others in your research communities
- They will in turn have the opportunity to become trainers
- We hope this will have a multiplier effect that will lead to a large community of trained peer reviewers in Africa

Participation Guidelines

The Open Peer Reviewers community is committed to fostering learning in a space where everyone is and feels safe. This workshop has **participation guidelines** to which everyone is asked to abide. Expected behaviours from all participants include:

- Using welcoming and inclusive language;
- Providing feedback that is constructive, *i.e.*, useful to the receiver;
- Being respectful of differing viewpoints and experiences;
- Gracefully accepting constructive criticism;
- Focusing on what is best for the community;
- Showing empathy towards other participants and community members.

Today's Safety Officer



[ADD NAME and PICTURE OF SAFETY OFFICER]

How to report a violation

- If you experience a violation of our participation guidelines during this workshop that needs immediate response, please send the Safety Officer a direct message on Zoom, and they will do their best to address the issue immediately.
- For non-immediate threats, please email [INSERT EMAIL ADDRESS TO REPORT VIOLATIONS].
- Any questions or concerns about this before we get started?

Engagement norms

- Please feel free to eat, stretch, move, step away for any reason.
- Your kids, creatures, and podmates are welcome!
- We'd love to see you, but welcome you to turn off your camera if it is supportive for you.
- Please turn off your mic when you are not speaking.
- **To ask a question please use the Zoom chat or raise your Zoom virtual hand.**
- When invited to speak by the facilitator, please share your name as you start to speak.
- Feel free to use the Zoom chat to share resources and constructive comments on the materials shared throughout the workshop.

Open Peer Reviewers in Africa workshop overview

Module I - 2 hours

- Methods of peer review: how it's done and what can be improved
- Systems of oppression in peer review: what are they and why it is important to recognize and combat them

Module II - 2 hours

- Constructive peer review step-by-step guide
- Assessing and addressing biases in peer review

Module III - 2 hours

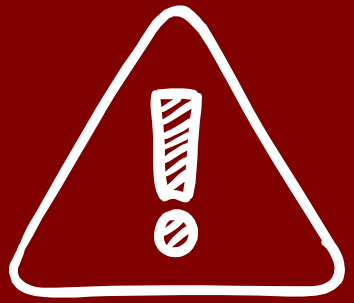
- Collaborative preprint review
- Summarize the discussion in a preprint review
- Share the preprint review on PREreview.org

Module I learning outcomes

- Know how to give clear, constructive, and actionable feedback;
- Appreciate how systems of oppression manifest in the peer-review process;
- Identify, reflect on, and address biases in peer review;
- Know how to write a manuscript review for a journal or self-organized to a preprint;
- Access opportunities to participate in the open peer review of preprints and build a public profile as a reviewer.

Trigger Warning

Some of the content we are going to cover today includes real life examples and it may trigger unwanted memories or uncomfortable feelings. Please know that we are here to support you, and PARTICIPATION IN THE GROUP DISCUSSIONS IS OPTIONAL.



I am Joyce Wangari Ngugi, and I use she/her pronouns.

I am a Consultant Psychologist and Research Mentor. I am also Lead Mentor at Eider Africa Journal Club. I am a researcher-storyteller, TED Talk 2020 laureate on Humor for Resilience, and I love learning spoken languages and socializing in Kenyan Sign Language.

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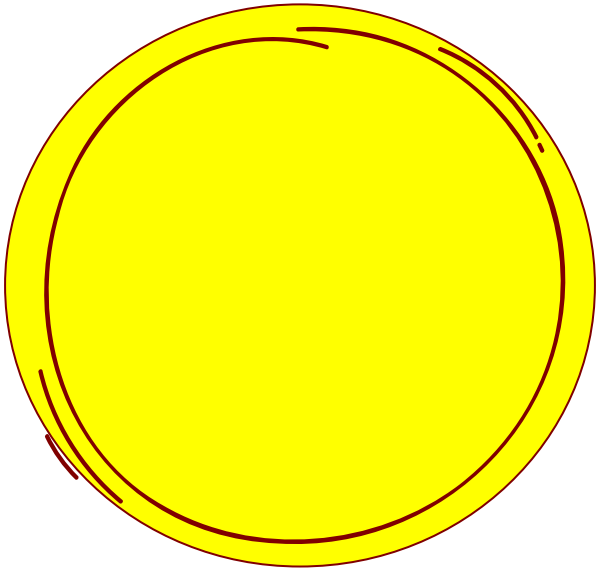


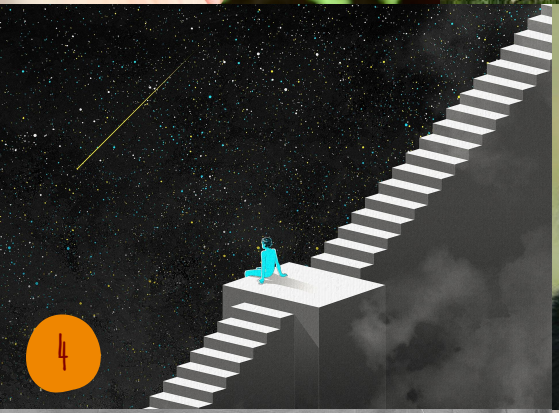
I am [INSERT NAME OF FACILITATOR]. I use [INSERT PREFERRED PRONOUNS] pronouns.

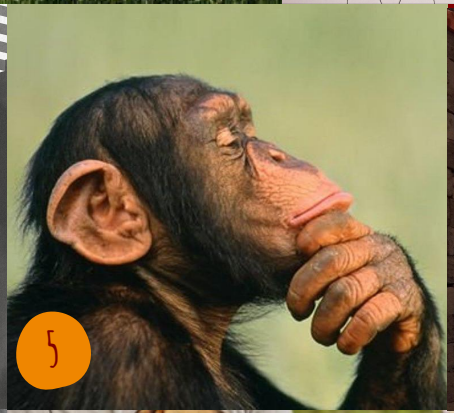
[INSERT SHORT FACILITATOR'S BIO]

Let’s get to know each other!

Ice-breaker and participants' intros

Choose one image that best represents your idea of peer review. When prompted, please unmute your mic and share name & pronouns, location, and why you chose that image. Engagement optional.



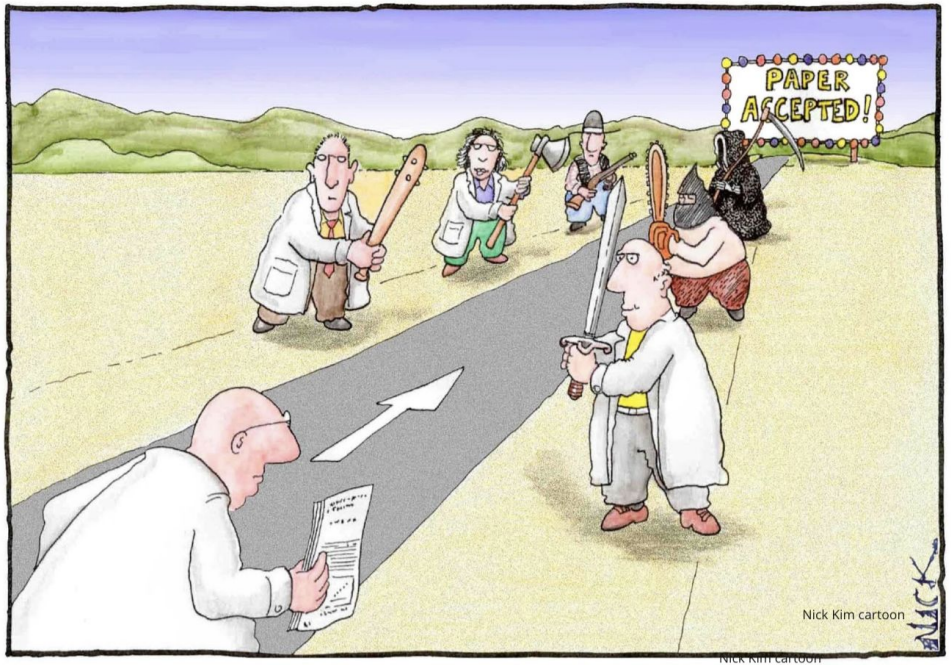


What is Peer Review?

Peer review is the evaluation of work by one or more people with similar competencies as the producers of the work. It functions as a form of self-regulation by **qualified members of a profession** within the relevant field.

—Wikipedia

Publish or Perish



Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as "quite an improvement."

It’s a black box

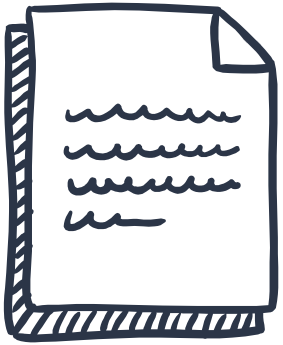
https://twitter.com/digitalsci/status/781860071831642113

Peer review has many shapes and shades…

Timing	Preprints	Pre-publication	Post-publication
Identifiability	Double blind	Single blind	Open
Mediation	Editors mediate all interactions between reviewers and authors	Reviewers interact with one another openly	Reviewers and authors all interact with one another openly
Publication	Peer reviews are not published	Peer reviews are published but not signed	Peer reviews are published and signed
Facilitation	Review facilitated by a journal	Review facilitated by a third party	Review facilitated by authors
Ownership	Review owned by a journal or third party	Review owned by the authors of the reviews	Shared or mixed ownership of reviews

https://publicationethics.org/files/cope-ethical-guidelines-peer-reviewers-v2_0.pdf

What is a Preprint?



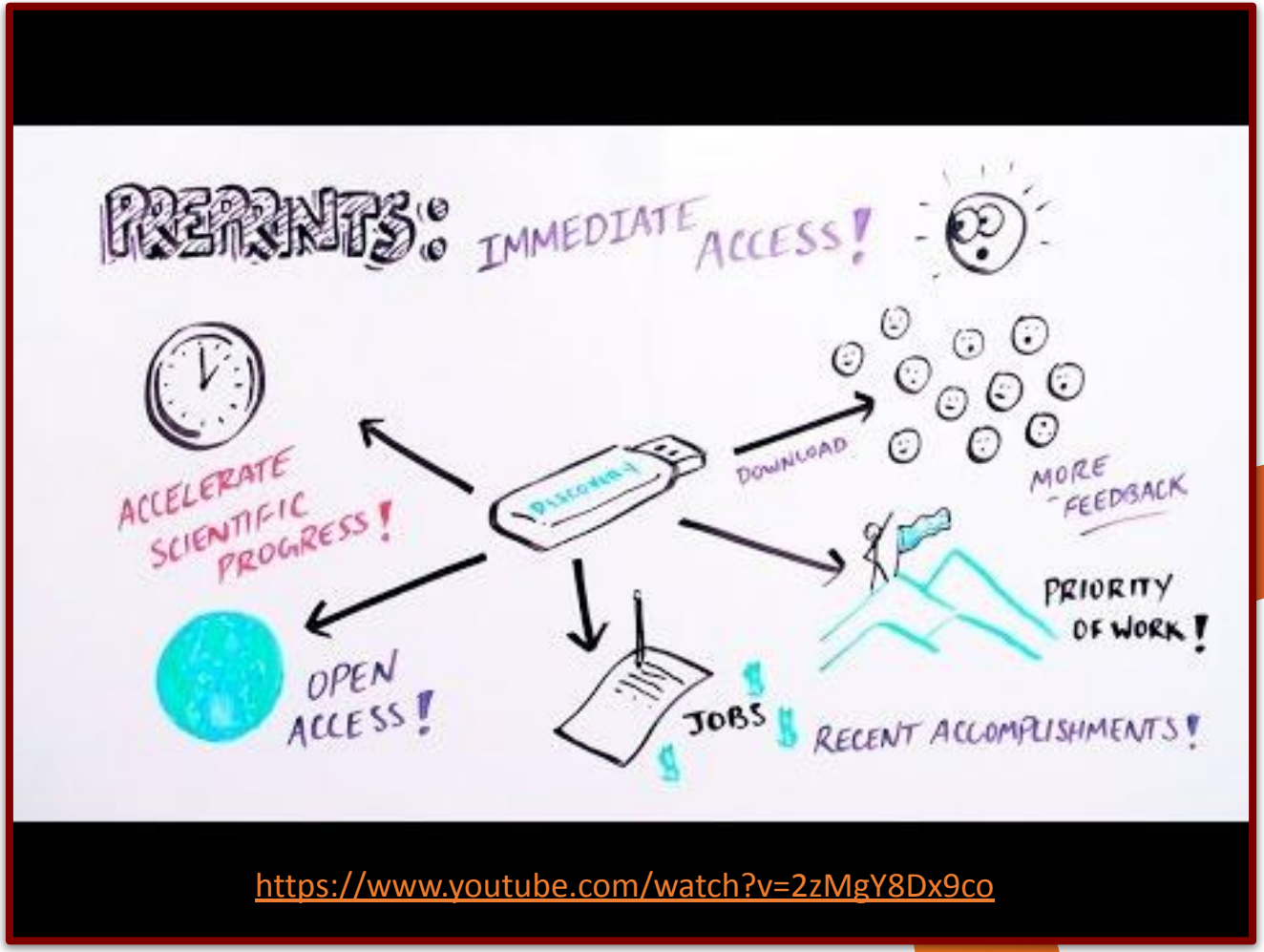
A **preprint** is a version of a scholarly or scientific paper that precedes formal peer review and publication in a peer-reviewed scholarly or scientific journal. The preprint may be available, often as a non-typeset version available free, before or after a paper is published in a journal.

—Wikipedia

Preprints complement journals & open up peer review

ASAPbio Slide modified from original by Jessica Polka, ASAPbio (CC BY 4.0)

Emojis by Mozilla (CC BY 4.0)



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zMgY8Dx9co

Research Square	16,373
SSRN Electronic Journal	4,984
bioRxiv	3,127
medRxiv	2,021
Authorea	1,073
arXiv	500
EGUsphere	406
ESSOAr	171
PeerJ Preprints	164
ChemRxiv	135
ScienceOpen Preprints	99
Bulletin of the World Health Organization	56
Cambridge Open Engage	40

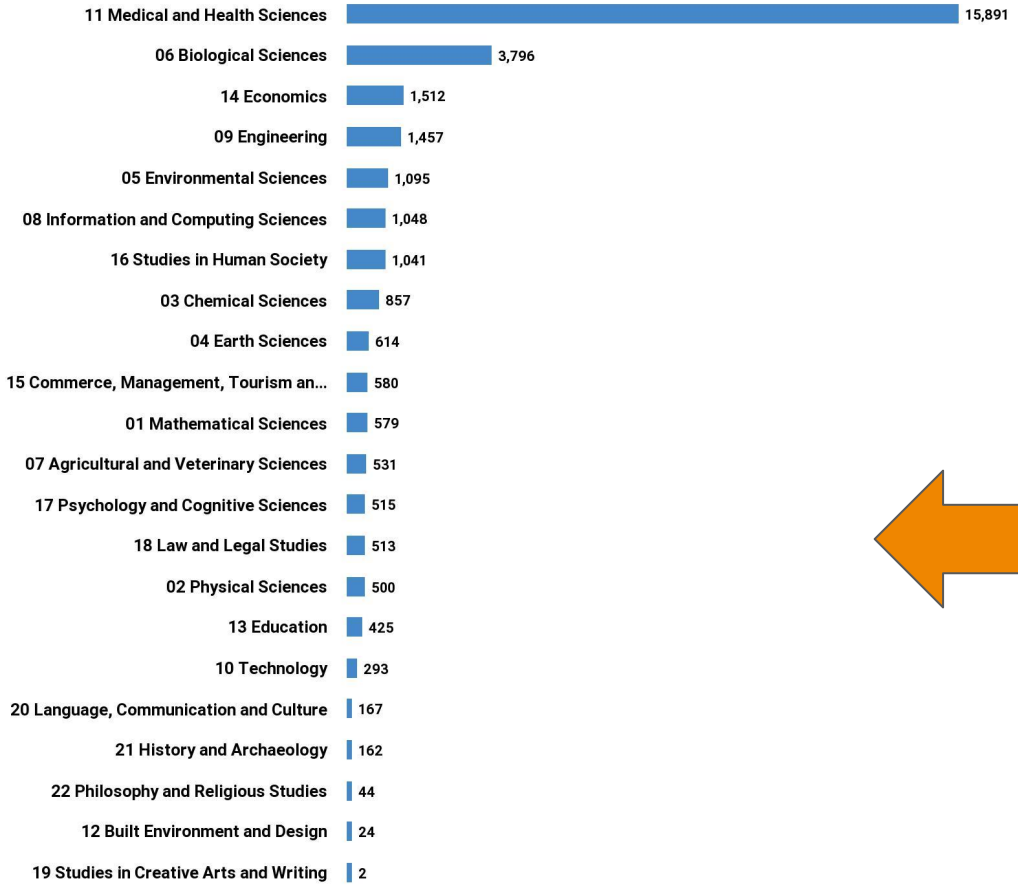
2018-2022

Top preprint servers used by African researchers

29,199 preprints produced

Dimensions.ai (2022)

number of publications in each research category. (Criteria: see below)



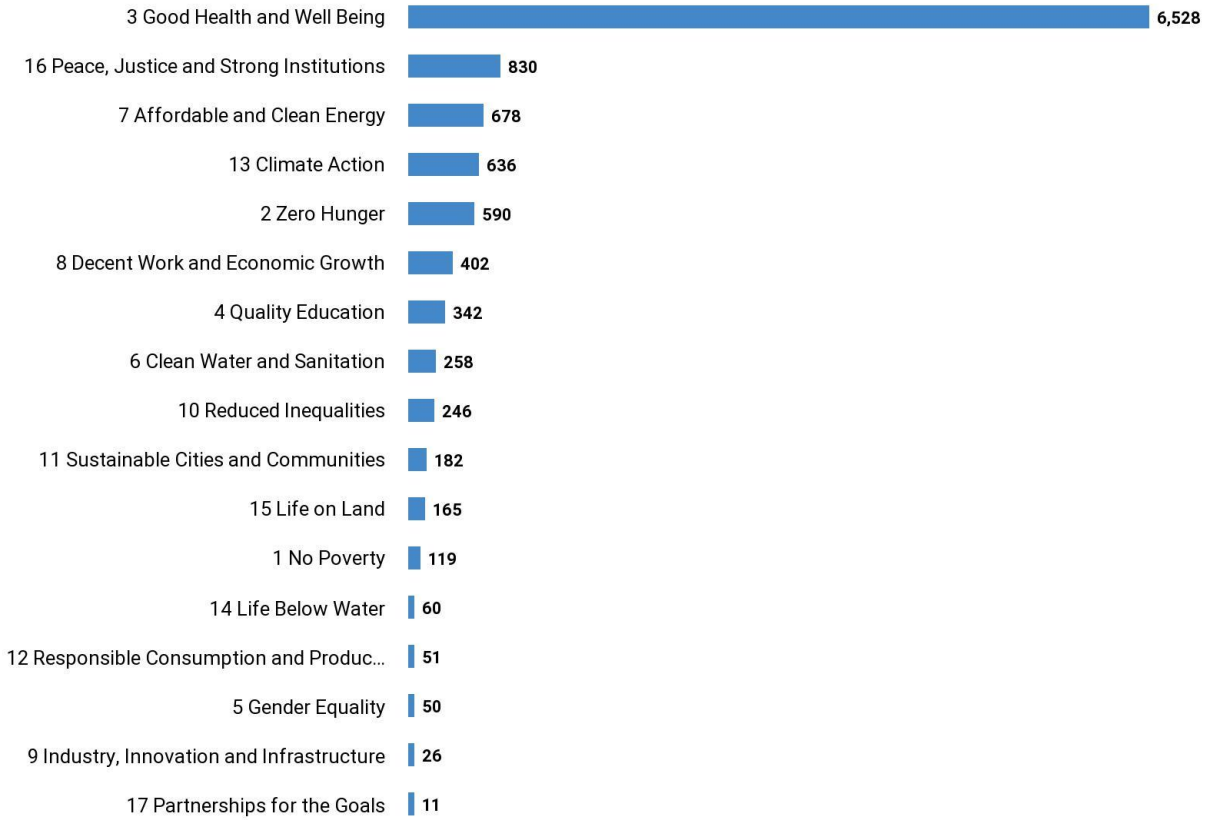
Source: https://app.dimensions.ai
Exported: April 05, 2022
Criteria: Publication Year is 2018 or 2019 or 2020 or 2021 or 2022; Country/Territory is Algeria or Angola or Benin or Botswana or Burkina Faso or Burundi or Cabo Verde or Cameroon or Central African Republic or Chad or Comoros or Democratic Republic of the Congo or Republic of the Congo or Ivory Coast or Djibouti or Egypt or Equatorial Guinea or Eritrea or Eswatini or Ethiopia or Gabon or Gambia or Ghana or Guinea or Guinea-Bissau or Kenya or Lesotho or Liberia or Libya or Madagascar or Malawi or Mali or Mauritania or Mauritius or Morocco or Mozambique or Namibia or Nigeria or Rwanda or Sao Tome and Principe or Senegal or Seychelles or Sierra

2018-2022

Top preprint submission research areas

Dimensions.ai (2022)

number of publications in each research category. (Criteria: see below)



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2018-2022

Top research areas by Sustainable Development Goals

Dimensions.ai (2022)

Peer review has many shapes and shades…

Timing	Preprints	Pre-publication	Post-publication
Identifiability	Double blind	Single blind	Open
Mediation	Editors mediate all interactions between reviewers and authors	Reviewers interact with one another openly	Reviewers and authors all interact with one another openly
Publication	Peer reviews are not published	Peer reviews are published but not signed	Peer reviews are published and signed
Facilitation	Review facilitated by a journal	Review facilitated by a third party	Review facilitated by authors
Ownership	Review owned by a journal or third party	Review owned by the authors of the reviews	Shared or mixed ownership of reviews

https://publicationethics.org/files/cope-ethical-guidelines-peer-reviewers-v2_0.pdf

Reviewers' identity: From closed to open

What makes peer review “open”

- Open **identities**: Authors' & reviewers' identities are known to each other
- Open **reports**: Review reports are published online
- Open **participation**: Anyone can contribute to the review process
- Open **interaction**: Discussion between authors & reviewers &/or between reviewers
- Open **manuscript posting** (as preprints prior to journal-led peer review): Manuscript drafts can be posted online on preprint servers prior to a journal submission
- Open **final-version commenting**: Open commenting on the final version of record (VOR)
- Open **platforms** (“decoupled review”): Independent discussion sites enable community review of manuscripts–*e.g.*, PREreview

*Adapted from Ross-Hellauer T. What is open peer review? A systematic review [version 2; peer review: 4 approved]. F1000Research 2017, 6:588 (https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.11369.2)

Let’s imagine a new, better peer review system

- In the next few minutes we will spend some time thinking about and sharing **aspects of the peer review system** that we would like to keep and aspects that would be better changed or completely eliminate.
- We will divide you in smaller **breakout groups of 3-4 participants.**
- You will have **8 minutes** to discuss among yourselves before we come back to have a group discussion with the facilitators.
- Each group please **nominate one note-taker** who can write down the considerations discussed in the group and report back once we come back to the main group.

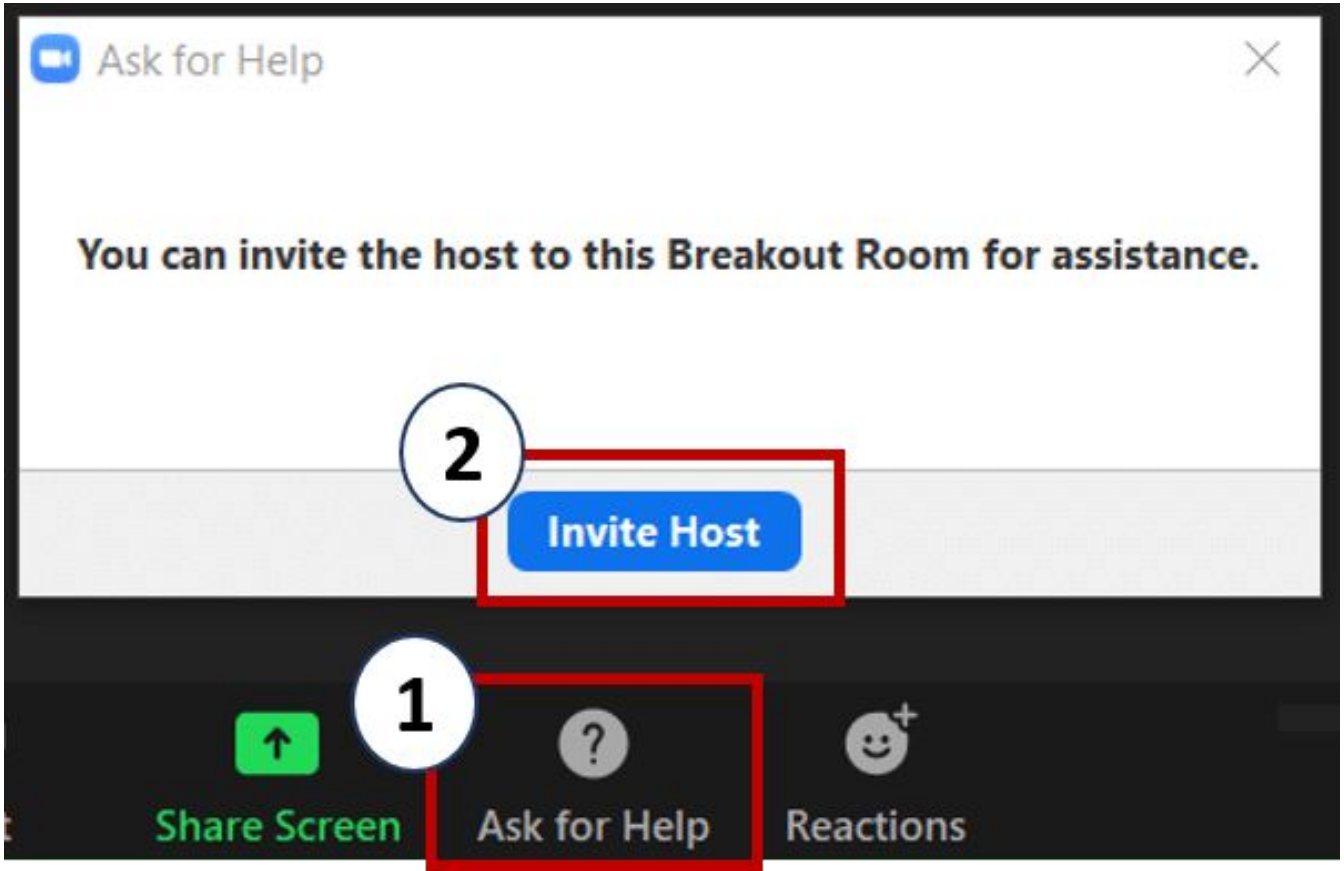
Of the current peer review system I'd like to change/eliminate...

Of the current peer review system I'd like to keep...

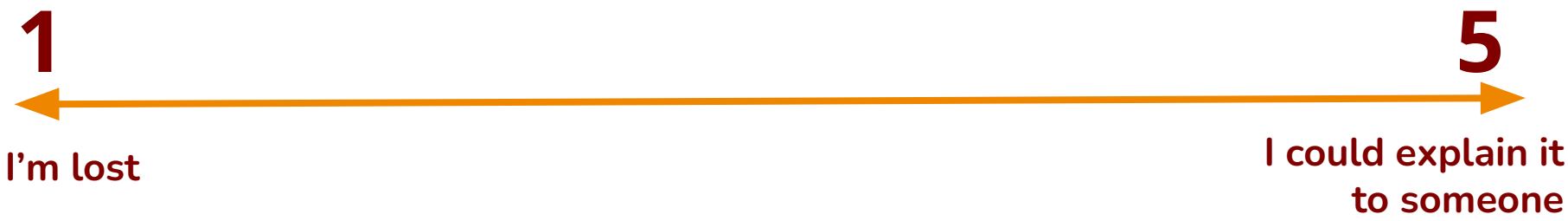
Group X [TEMPLATE] - Keep or ditch?

Use the cards in this slide to share aspects of the current peer review process you wish to keep and/or aspects you wish to change or eliminate.

How to Ask for Help from Breakout Rooms in Zoom



How clear are you with instructions?



Enabling provision of feedback after review

Group 1 - Keep or ditch?

Use the cards in this slide to share aspects of the current peer review process you wish to keep and/or aspects you wish to change or eliminate.

Enabling provision of feedback after review

Group 2 - Keep or ditch?

Use the cards in this slide to share aspects of the current peer review process you wish to keep and/or aspects you wish to change or eliminate.

Enabling provision of feedback after review

Group 3 - Keep or ditch?

Use the cards in this slide to share aspects of the current peer review process you wish to keep and/or aspects you wish to change or eliminate.

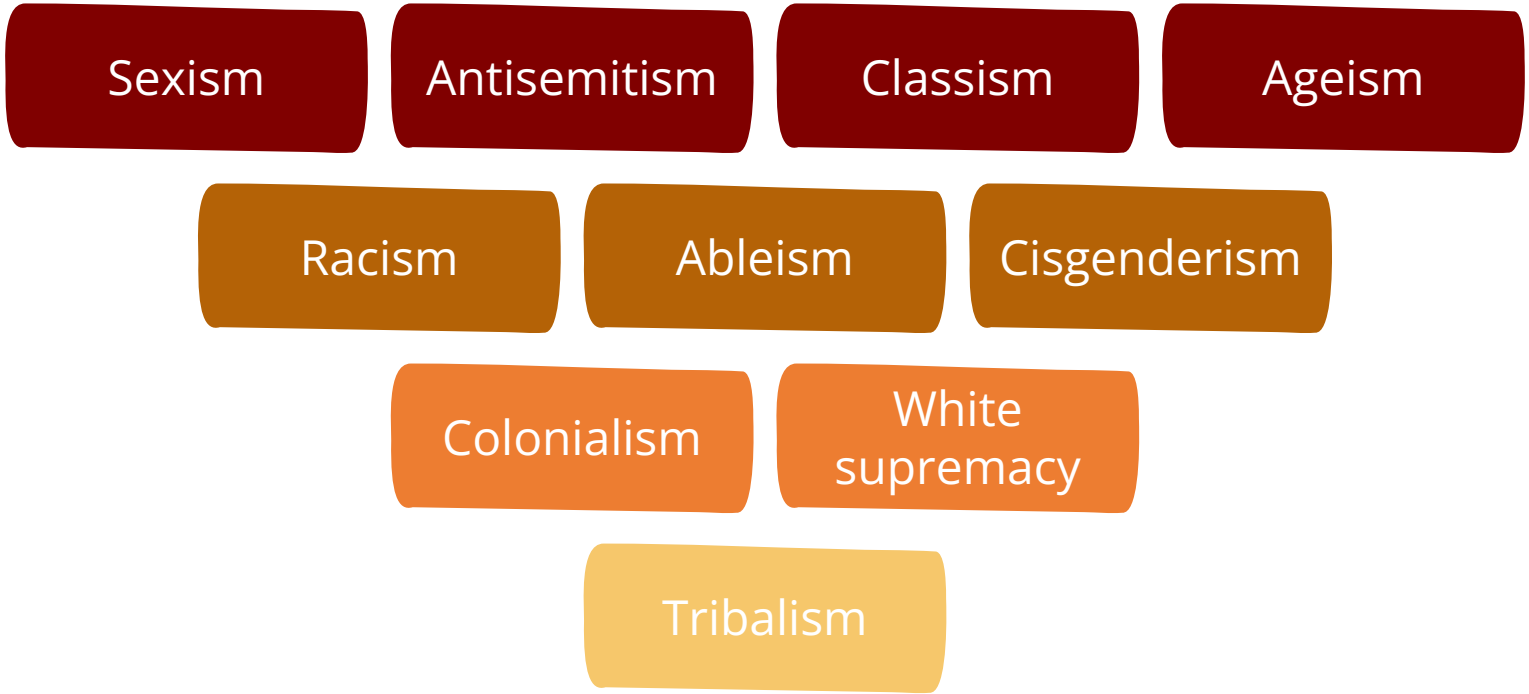
5 MINUTE BREAK

Systems of Oppression in Peer Review

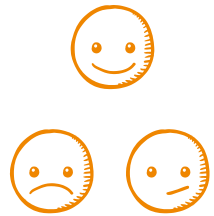
- Peer review does not happen in a vacuum; it is subject to the same **oppressive systems** that affect all human endeavours.
- It is often assumed that peer review is an objective process, but in reality **it is subject to the same biases, assumptions, and stereotypical preconceptions of people**, and consequently can perpetuate oppressive systems.

What do we mean by Systems of Oppression?

Discriminatory institutions, structures, norms, policies, and practices used to oppress groups of people.



How do biases become "systemic"?



Who we are with ourselves and others

Personal

Internal values, beliefs, thoughts, prejudices & ideas that individuals have

Interpersonal

The expression of beliefs between individuals

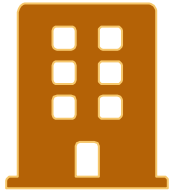
Institutional

Discriminatory treatment, policies & practices within organizations and institutions

Structural

Systems in which public policies, institutional practices, & other norms perpetuate inequities

How we build who we are into what we do



Let’s reflect together using an example

- In the next few minutes we will spend some time reflecting on **how a system of oppression manifesting in peer review** may develop and propagate through the personal/interpersonal (Group A), and institutional/structural (Group B) levels.
- We will divide you in **2 breakout groups, Group A and Group B.**
- You will have **10 minutes** to discuss among yourselves before we come back to have a group discussion with the facilitators.
- Each group please **nominate one note-taker** who can write down the considerations discussed in the group and report back once we come back to the main group.

Belief: “Publications from the UK are higher quality than publications from India.**”**

GROUP 1 - Personal & Interpersonal

Which systems of oppression are tied to this belief and what are the implications at the personal and interpersonal levels?

GROUP 2 - Institutional & Systemic

Which systems of oppression are tied to this belief and what are the implications at the institutional and systemic levels?

Group A - Personal & Interpersonal

Belief: “Publications from South Africa are higher quality than publications from Uganda.**”**

Which systems of oppression are tied to this belief and what are the implications at personal and interpersonal levels?

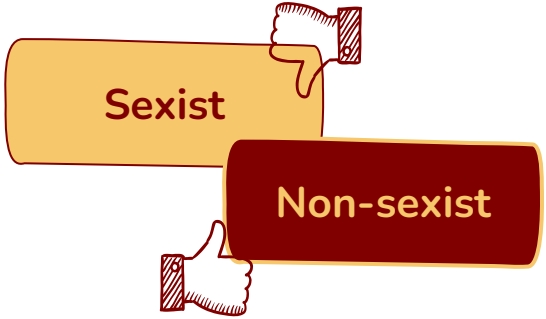
Group B - Institutional & Systemic

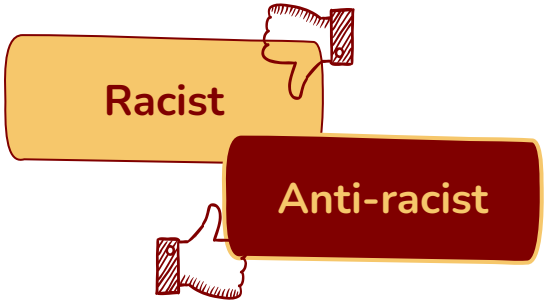
Belief: “Publications from South Africa are higher quality than publications from Uganda.**”**

Which systems of oppression are tied to this belief and what are the implications at institutional and systemic levels?

A word on socialization

We are taught certain values, beliefs, cultural norms, and practices – these are all rooted in systems of oppression. **This is part of our socialization as people.**



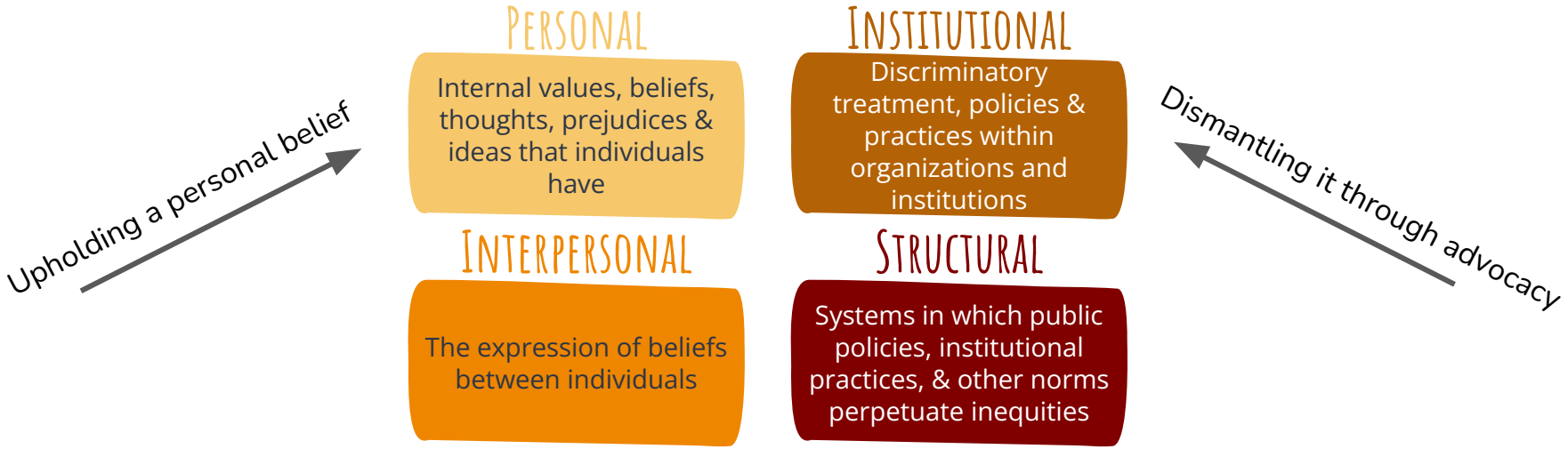


When we believe these conditioned beliefs and/or practices are tied to our own morality, discussing them can **trigger guilt or defensiveness**.

These feelings can prevent us from thinking critically, make us feel powerless, and prevent us from learning and taking action.

“Either-or” thinking is also often not true

What if: A research department head at the university is advocating for opportunities to have more research publication coming from African scholars and believes that publications from the UK are of higher quality than those of Kenya.

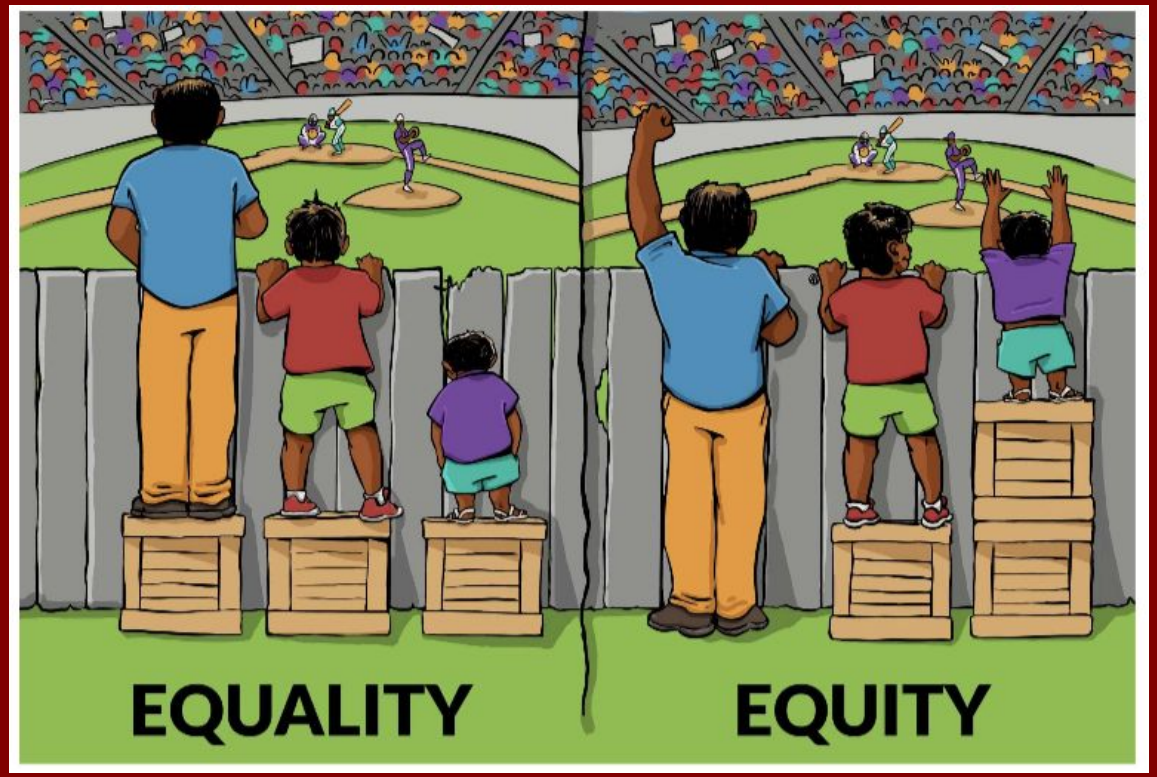


Calling a person “Racist” *vs* “non-racist” isn't just an unhelpful way of thinking about a person, but it’s often not a true reflection of a person’s actions.

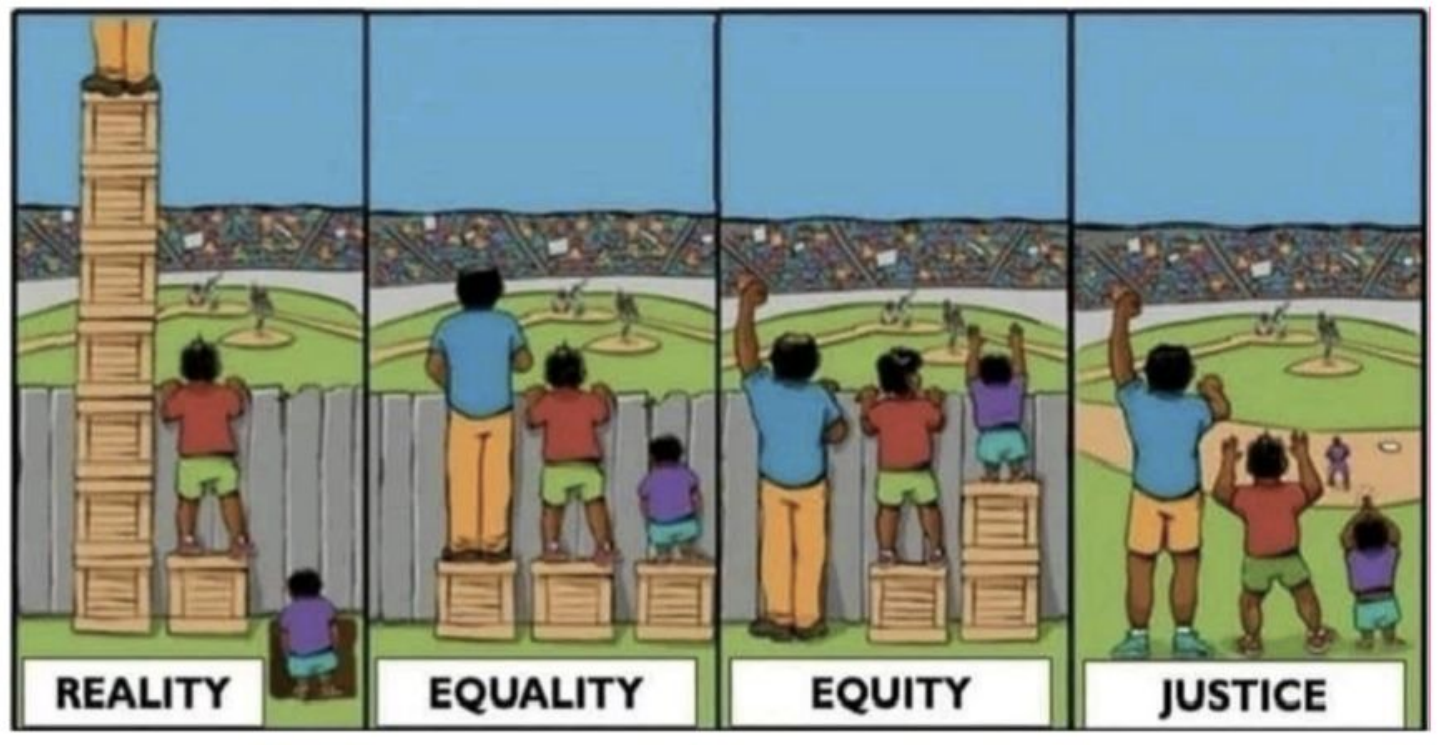
It is possible we can both uphold and simultaneously dismantle racism.

How do we move forward?

What can we do to mitigate systemic oppression in the space we live and work in?



“Interaction Institute for Social Change | Artist: Angus Maguire.” For online use please provide links: interactioninstitute.org and madewithangus.com.



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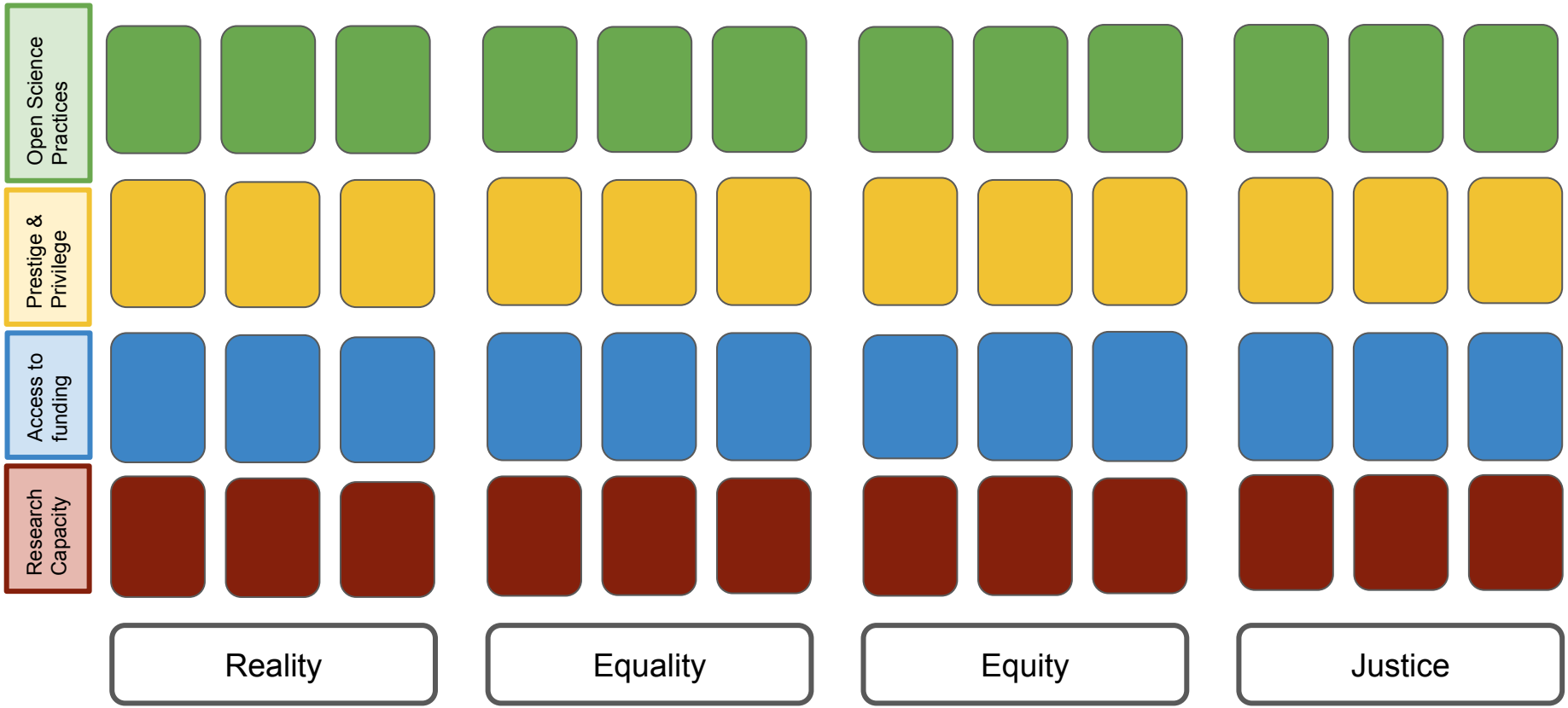
DOI 10.5281/zenodo.5470604

Research Effectiveness
(i.e. Societal Impact)



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Research Effectiveness
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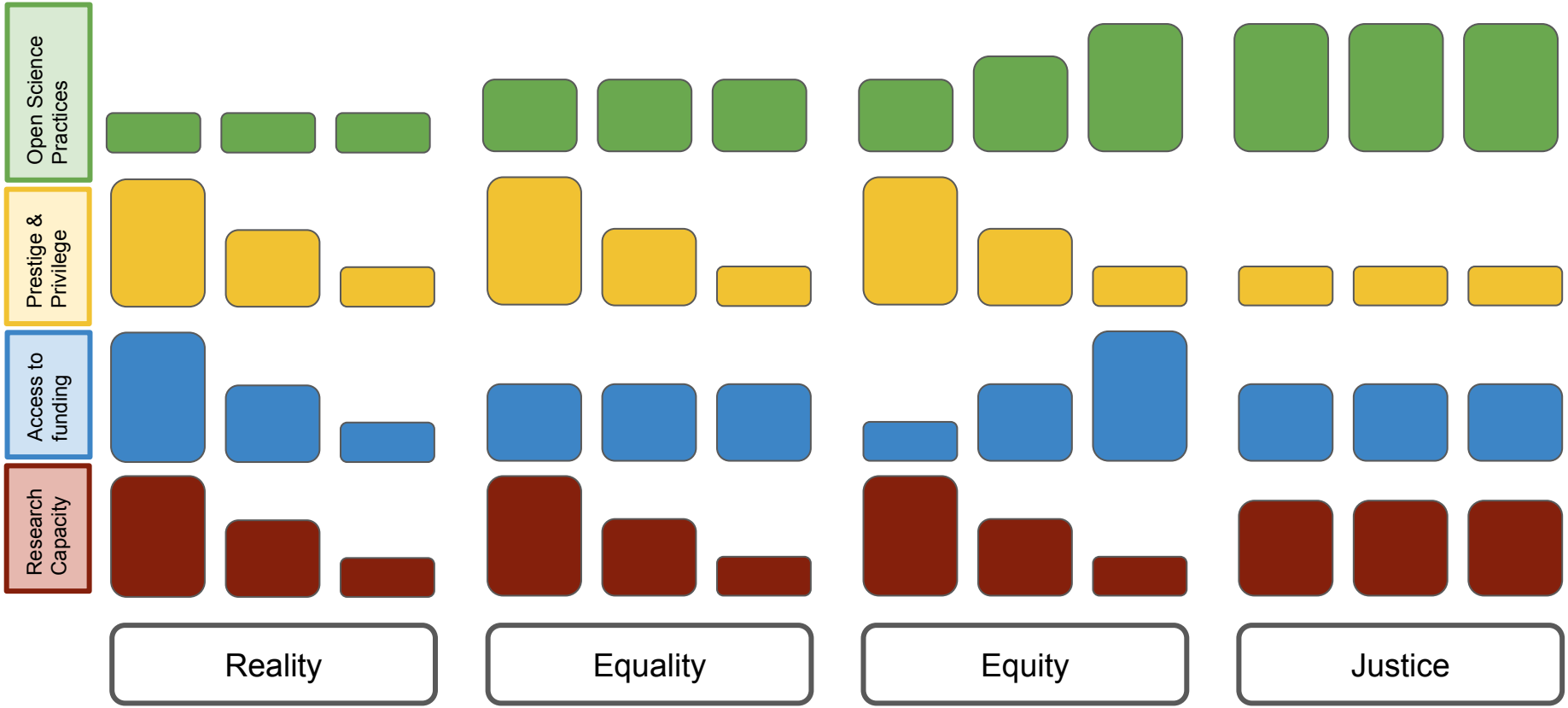

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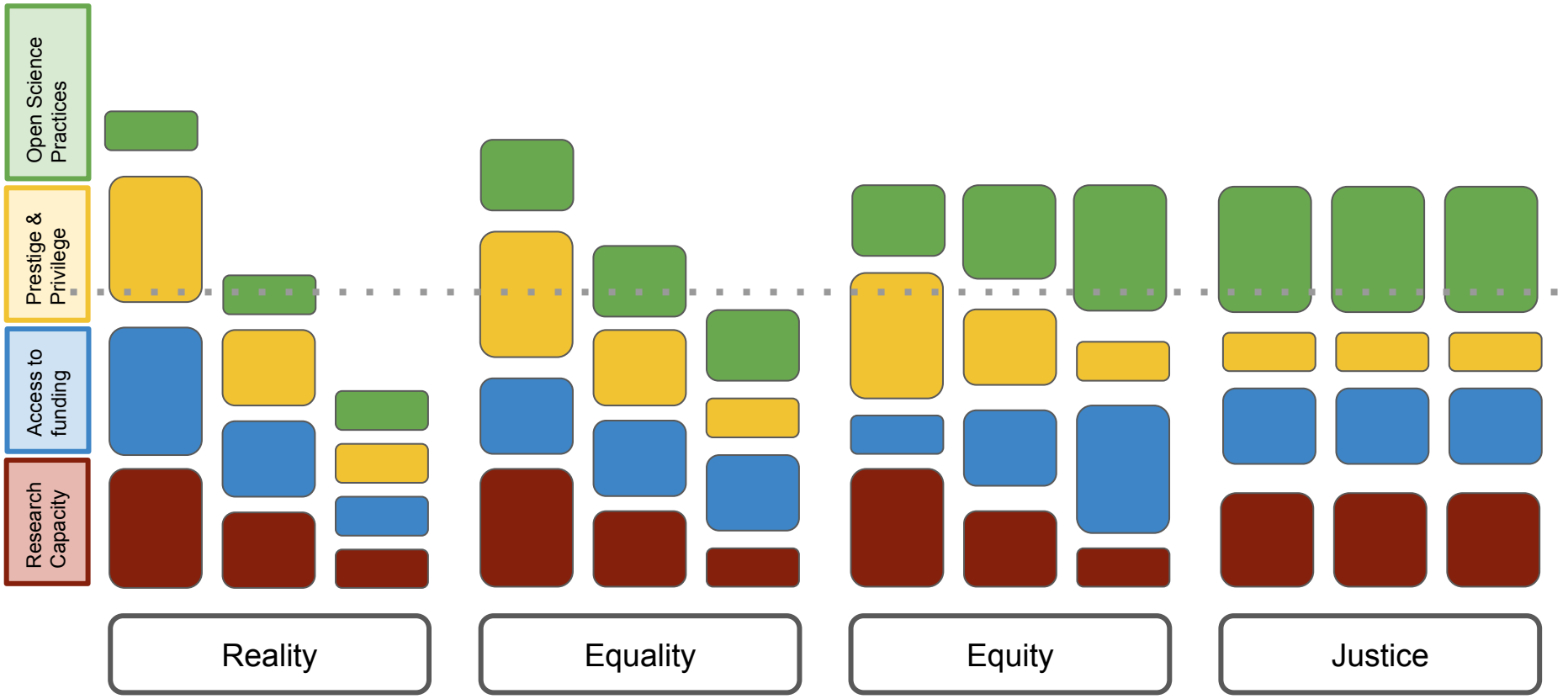

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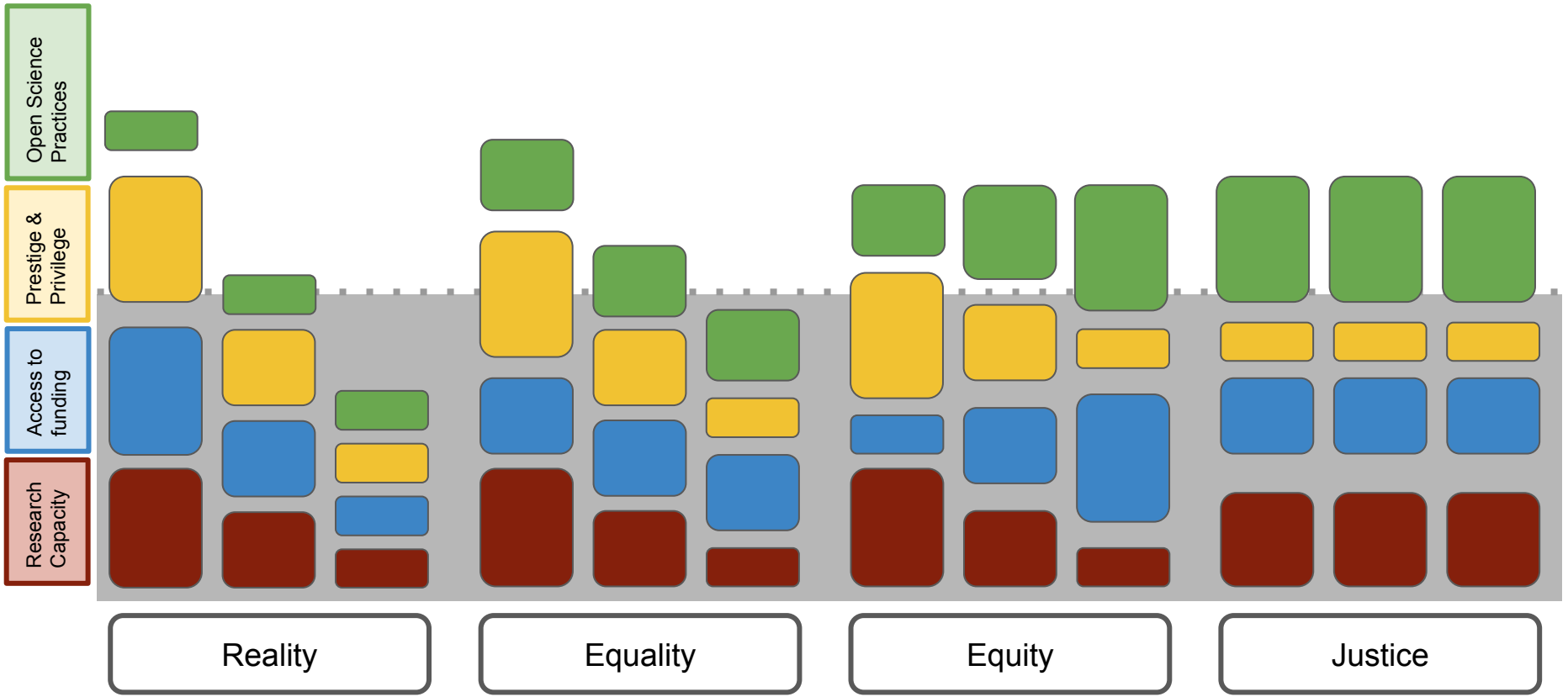


Next week we will...

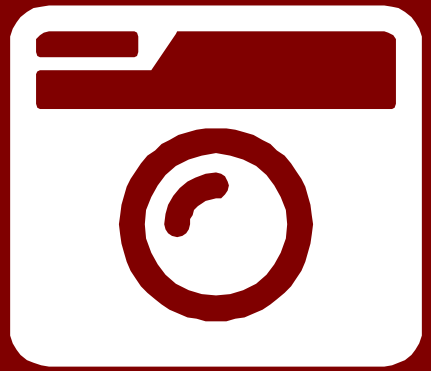
- Move through a step-by-step guide on how to write a review
- Learn how to provide constructive, actionable, and clear feedback
- Learn and practice how to identify and mitigate our biases

Expect an email from us with some reading assignments in preparation to next week's module.

References and resources

- A New “Golden Rule” for Peer Review?
- COPE Ethical guidelines for peer reviewers
- ‘Editorial Peer Reviewers as Shepherds, Rather Than Gatekeepers’
- Understanding oppression and “isms” as a system - Michigan State University
- And many more we will share with you in a document at the end of this workshop

Smile?



#OpenPeerReviewersInAfrica

Thank you!