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After lunch, I will be attending and posting from Workshop 7 - Publication Integrity & Institutional Investigations: Setting the record straight

Tim Kersjes is opening the workshop. We have a good mix of people working at institutions or at publishers.

#WCRI2026

[wcric2026.org/pre-conferen...](http://wcric2026.org/pre-conferen...)



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Lisa Leventhal will busts some myths about the role of institutional research integrity officers. She is an army of one. She needs to handle allegations of misconduct, authorship disputes, and training. She does not do disciplinary actions or screen publications.

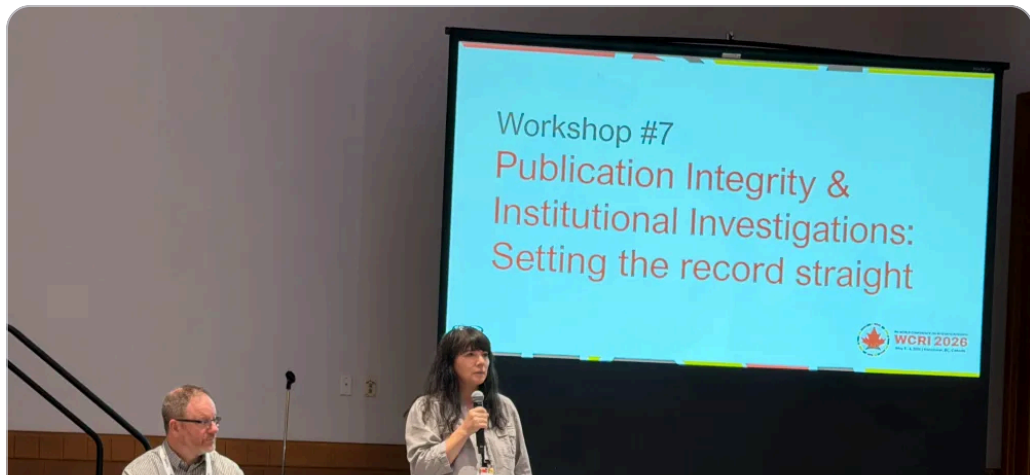
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Feedba



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LL: how can we build trust and better understand what other parties are doing? I sent out retraction requests to publishers, but could not share a lot of details because of legal council. Doing informal calls first before sending out those letters helped everyone understand that better.

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LL: I would be better at my job if I had a person to contact at a publisher, instead of filling out an online form, to brainstorm complex situations.

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Next, Daniel Ucko [@danielucko.bsky.social](#) from [@apsphysics.bsky.social](#) and COPE.

We receive 46k submissions per year, currently lots of AI slop. Responses from institutions vary quite a bit. Often difficult to know whom to contact, some don't have any research integrity officer.

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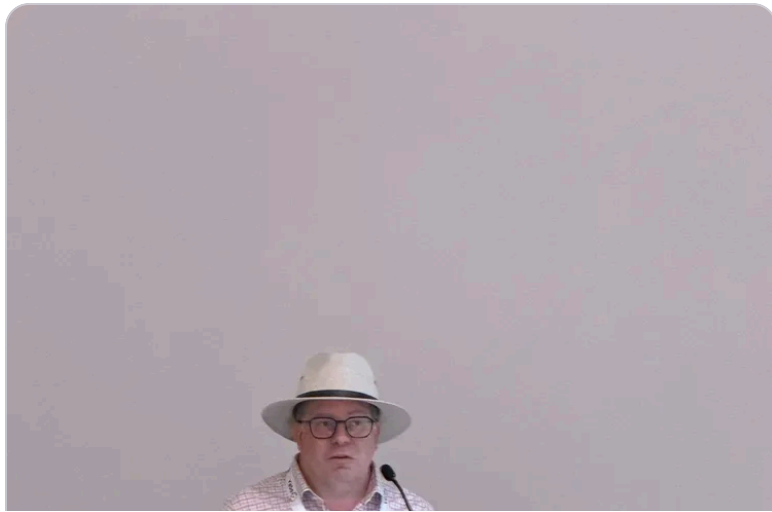
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DU: in other cases, there was much better communications, it has been very helpful to work with institutions around e.g., authorship disputes. [#WCRI2026](#)



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Next, Daniel Barr from RMIT University.  
We had some frustrating experiences with publishers, where publishers ignored our requests for retraction, even if our institution found ethical violations.  
Mixed success in identifying editors, duplicate investigations, lots of challenges.  
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DB: Institutions should improve transparency and responsiveness, and collaborate with publishers/editors.

Often, investigations are author-centric, should change this?

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Panel discussion:

We all agree investigations take too long. Getting faculty members together is very hard.

We could separate data from misconduct findings, and perhaps publish findings in different stages.

Sometimes papers get retracted, and institutions have no idea.

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Next: we need to introduce ourselves and have a brainstorm discussion with folks at our tables.

(Aaaaah [#Introvert](#) [#Anxiety](#) !)

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Discussions: Both institutions and publishers have autonomy, institutions can investigate, but publishers can take their own decisions. Also, countries have different definitions of misconduct. What is confidential? Different jurisdictions and regulations. That is a struggle.

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You cannot speak to "An Institution"; there is no single person representing it.

Sometimes NDA can be inhibitive, or it can actually help.

We would love a global database of research integrity persons at publishers, institutions, funding bodies. Email addresses for offices, not persons.

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\* Ask a RIO: collection of people who can answer general 'hypothetical' questions.

\* COPE membership now open to institutions. Could they host resources like lists of contact information?

\* [@COSIG.net](#) has a list of contacts at publishers.

\* Scheduling calls w/ global institutions is hard

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\* Maybe have authors fill out a form who their Research Integrity Officer is, who their conflict of interest spokesperson is - let them figure it out.

\* Journals can include institutional's decision in the retraction notice, even if the institution does not agree with the retraction.

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[the microphone sound is very echo-y, having trouble understanding what people are saying, especially those who mumble, talk very fast, or use vocal fry ugh]

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[also the online program does not provide who the speakers/moderators are, while the app gives incorrect times and information, but I am doing my best]

Frits Roosendaal introduces 2nd half: "Methods to ensure reliability



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published research record - Asian, European, African perspectives"

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Mai Har Sham, from the Chinese University of Hong Kong talks about how to maintain the reliability of published research records. While some unis have clear guidelines in handling allegations, but others may not. They might not even know about investigations/retractions by publishers.

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Practices in the Asia-Pacific region: ever-expanding volume of research work and output - but lack of systematic training of RCR/publication ethics. Few countries have national code of conduct (China has one!). Very few institutions have Research Integrity Offices.

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MHS: Every uni/institution must have a person in charge of research integrity issues.

Incentives of unis/instns to work with publishers/journals.

But there are still important even wider issues to address.

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Tom Lindemann from the Luxembourg Agency for Research Integrity (LARI), non-profit organization found in 2016. We give advice/policy, prevention and education, and do investigations. That latter activity is



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not always done by other national RIO offices (many only do mediation).



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TL: Investigations are conducted by an independent Commission for Research Integrity (CRI), all LARI member investigations are delegated to the CRI. That makes us pretty unique among European countries. We conclude with a final report with non-binding recommendations.  
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2:58 PM · May 3, 2026

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Write your reply



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TL: Some issues: Sometimes parallel investigation can happen if allegations are reported to journals and institutions at the same time.

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[It seems one of the speakers, who would give the African perspective, was not able to make it, so we will continue with the discussion]  
 Limitations when multiple affiliations are involved.  
 Now, we are switching again to a per-table discussion about regional differences and issues.

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Discussion:

Institutions are sometimes actively encouraging unethical behavior, and they might not be interested in investigation allegations. Institutional websites might not be in English, making it harder for English-speaking publishers to find contact details.

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More discussion points: Some institutions do not take on anonymous allegations - but most do.

Researchers with multiple affiliations are another issue - which institution will investigate?

Privacy rules are different per country.

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