



# Registered Reports

An impromptu proposal for undergraduate PERC submissions

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# PERC Proceedings 2022 Timeline

## 2022 PERC PROCEEDINGS TIMELINE





# PERC Timeline Notes

- ▶ There is very little leeway in the schedule. *Everything* **must** go smoothly.
  - ▶ Just 4 days to make review assignments for 150 papers
  - ▶ Delinquent reviewers have 4 days to submit or their papers are pulled
    - ▶ If delinquent reviewers don't submit, emergency reviewers only have 5 days to review
  - ▶ All reviews and emergency reviews must be in before the program is released to preserve double confidential reviewing
  - ▶ PERC Editors make decisions on 150 papers in less than two weeks
  - ▶ Appeals are due and are decided upon before the PERC so authors have clarity on their paper acceptance at the conference



# PERC Timeline Issues

- ▶ The lack of leeway in the current double confidential schedule means early July PERCs have a manuscript deadline in early May.
  - ▶ Problematic due to finals
  - ▶ Undergraduates can't submit their research
  - ▶ Etc.

# Registered Reports



- For background, see a June 2021 overview article in Science (QR above)
- In brief, in the registered report approach authors lay out their hypotheses, research methods, and analysis plans in advance. Referees then decide whether to accept before knowing a study's results. The question on whether to publish is shifted to being "based on the importance of the question, and the quality of the methodology."
- Registered reports attempt to solve several problems in standard publishing, namely journals not publishing null/negative results and/or replication studies, while avoiding publication bias in which only "interesting" results are reported.
- Concrete data on the registered report publishing model is given in Nature Human Behaviour (June 2021) where reviewers rated registered reports as more rigorous, and their methods as higher in quality, than similar papers published in the standard format (QR on the left).





# What Issues Does This Proposal Address?

- ▶ With a registered report, undergraduates and researchers planning on conducting summer research can lay out a research plan without having the results in hand.
  - ▶ Since authors don't need to have the results when they submit, they can do their research throughout June and July and finalize the paper itself in the days running up to the PERC itself.
- ▶ As registered reports only consist of 1-2 pages of methodology and analysis plans, referees do not need as long for review.

# Registered Report Track Proposal

(based on a July 13 PERC)

## 2022 REGISTERED REPORT TIMELINE PROPOSAL





# Proposal Timeline “Features”

- ▶ Any proposal cannot add appreciably to the Editor Workload, thus:
  - ▶ Reports are due and assigned to referees during the “dead week” editors currently have right before peer reviews are due
  - ▶ Reviews are due when emergency reviews are due
  - ▶ Review decisions go out at the same time regular track decisions go out so no special workflow is needed
  - ▶ To reduce editor workload, registered reports would have no appeal process
- ▶ Registered report decisions would be issued 2 weeks before the conference so accepted authors would have 3 weeks to finalize their manuscripts





# Seeking Feedback

- ▶ This is an unofficial impromptu proposal to a community issue
- ▶ If you would be affected, would deadlines in early June actually help you or your undergraduates submit your research? Or would that deadline still be too early?
- ▶ Would this exacerbate or alleviate issues of accessibility/inclusion?
- ▶ Does the proposal seem viable?
- ▶ Does it solve one issue only to create others?