Open Scholarship at the University of Melbourne

Preregistering Research  
Preregistration, Part 1

**Video transcript**6 February 2023

# Introduction

Welcome to this video on preregistering research.

In this video, we'll look at what prerestrictions are, how they can benefit research, and the role of registries in sharing them.

We'll then look at two important kinds of preregistrations: clinical trial registrations and Registered Reports.

Let's dive in...

# What is a preregistration?

A preregistration is a detailed description of a study plan, including hypotheses, data collection procedures, and an analysis plan. It includes the protocols and methodology of the study to be undertaken. It is created before the study has been conducted as a record of intention.

Preregistrations are made available in a publicly accessible registry, although they can be embargoed if necessary.

Importantly, preregistrations are time-stamped and immutable, meaning that they are permanent, unalterable records, although subsequent time-stamped versions can be uploaded if the registration needs to be updated.

Preregistrations have seen strong uptake in some disciplines, including psychology, with more gradual uptake continuing in other hypothesis-driven fields.

# Why preregister research?

Here are some of the benefits of preregistering research.

One of these benefits is that you're informing others of what you're working on. This, in turn reduces the likelihood of others undertaking the same study unnecessarily.

It's an embrace of transparency, as you're releasing a public record for yourself and others of your research procedures and methods.

Preregistration supports reproducibility. If you release a clear record of what you've done, others can attempt to replicate results.

It will also improve the credibility of your work. Having been upfront about your methods before undertaking the research, readers can confirm that you haven't been hypothesising after results are known (or HARKing). Showing commitment to your original study design also indicates that you've avoided study bias and selective reporting.

Finally, preregistering your hypotheses can help you take credit for accurate predictions.

# Registries

Study preregistrations are usually shared in registries, and we have some examples here.

[OSF Registries](https://osf.io/registries) is perhaps the most widely used registry and includes various templates for different kinds of preregistrations.

[AsPredicted](https://aspredicted.org/) is another prominent registry run by the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton Credibility Lab, integrating with [Research Box](https://researchbox.org/).

For sharing protocols and methods specifically, [protocols.io](https://www.protocols.io/) was designed for this purpose and is now quite widely used.

There are also discipline-specific registries, including [PreReg](https://prereg-psych.org/), for the preregistration of studies in psychology, and the [American Economic Association's Randomised Control Trials Registry](https://www.socialscienceregistry.org/), which covers economics, political science, and social science studies around the world.

# Example preregistration: [“Preregistration of Preregistration evaluation 2016”](https://osf.io/jsznk)

Here's an example of a preregistration on OSF Registries.

The registration begins with the study's research questions and hypotheses, before detailing a sampling plan, the variables considered, a design plan, and an analysis plan.

On the right, we notice that the registration is timestamped with when it was created and registered, with persistent DOI URLs for the registration itself and for the final publication.

# Outro

Thank you for joining us for part one of this series on preregistering research.

Please join us again for parts two and three as we look at preregistering clinical trials and Registered Reports.

If you'd like to find out more about this topic, you can visit our [Open Research guide](https://unimelb.libguides.com/openresearch/) or [Open Scholarship website](https://library.unimelb.edu.au/open-scholarship/).

# Contact a librarian

For enquiries relating to open scholarship, including open access, open research, and open educational resources (OERs), please email your discipline's [Liaison Librarians](https://library.unimelb.edu.au/liaison), or arrange a time to [consult a librarian](https://unimelb.service-now.com/student?id=sc_cat_item&sys_id=6398b1e1dbc763c00032cae43a961971&category_id=2768ae9d4fae22807861a90f0310c7f0).

Alternatively, you can [contact the library](https://library.unimelb.edu.au/contact_the_library) by emailing [library-enquiries@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:library-enquiries@unimelb.edu.au).