

EDITORIAL

Encouraging Registered Reports at the *Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology (CJEP)*: An Invited Tutorial by [Oshiro et al. \(2024\)](#)

Debra Titone¹, Ben Dyson², Myra Fernandes³, and Marc Joanisse⁴

¹ Department of Psychology, McGill University

² Department of Psychology, University of Alberta

³ Department of Psychology, Waterloo University

⁴ Department of Psychology, Brain and Mind Institute, Western University

Continuing *Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology*'s ongoing commitment to Open Science, we invited [Oshiro et al. \(2024\)](#) to submit a peer-reviewed tutorial of the typical format and to offer key pieces of advice when preparing Registered Reports.

Keywords: Registered Reports, Open Science, publishing, research practices

Researchers in cognitive science and experimental science hold varying opinions; however, one value most of us hold dear is the ideal of Open Science. By this, we refer to the value of making our research efforts and products as transparent, accessible, and replicable as possible. Doing so not only facilitates rigorous science but also serves as a means of collective information exchange and discipline-wide education and training.

In today's highly competitive environment for career establishment, promotion, and grant funding, researchers may be tempted to only submit positive results for publication. These seem to be viewed more favourably by reviewers and editors and hence are more likely to be cited. This in turn may lead to the perception that a given phenomenon is more prevalent and replicable than is warranted. Such a traditional process ignores negative findings and failures to replicate ([Open Science Collaboration, 2015](#)).

Registered Reports offer one means of countering this potential source of bias. In doing so, they encourage methodological rigour along with open and transparent a priori predictions, statistical planning, and reporting. Registered Reports are not only helpful in reducing biases during the research process but they are also important as a public-facing practice by presenting a less distorted picture of the outcomes of research compared to what are typically seen in most journals.

For these reasons, the *Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology (CJEP)* encourages authors to submit Registered Reports as part of a larger ongoing commitment to the value of Open Science. For example, former *CJEP* Editor Penny Pexman introduced a variety of data badges to the journal in 2017 ([Pexman, 2017](#)). This initiative

has been taken up with great enthusiasm, as attested by the number of published articles that now bear such badges in our journal. Sharing research artefacts openly has made it possible for published articles to be clearer, and for reviewers as well as readers to have more faith in what is reported. It also provides a public knowledge base for people to learn more about the specifics of the work undertaken, including statistical approaches (when data scripts and data are available) as well as methodological innovations (when stimulus materials and experiment scripts are available). Moreover, aspiring authors can learn a great deal from having reviewers actively consider such materials, which can lead to the unique opportunity of having one's R code complimented by a stranger!

Compared to data badges, Registered Reports are less utilized at *CJEP* and discipline wide. This is likely because they require a new way of thinking about the research lifecycle that is less familiar and practiced. *CJEP* introduced Registered Reports to the journal in 2019 under Editor Randall Jamieson ([Jamieson et al., 2019](#)). To date however, *CJEP* has received very few Registered Report submissions and has yet to publish a single article of this type, perhaps reflecting the general lack of familiarity with this approach.

Thus, to better familiarize researchers with the process associated with Registered Reports, this issue of *CJEP* contains an invited peer-reviewed article by [Oshiro et al. \(2024\)](#) that provides both an overview of the typical format as well as key pieces of advice when preparing Registered Reports. We hope that [Oshiro et al.'s \(2024\)](#) tutorial will serve both as an important citation about conducting Registered Reports and as a nudge to researchers to consider submitting a Registered Report to *CJEP*.

Registered Reports are an extension of the more widely recognized concept of preregistration. Already part of the way there, many people in our field are preregistering studies prior to running them and that has improved science. Preregistration has helped researchers to differentiate anticipated versus exploratory analyses and results and to also temper runaway exploration driven by their own curiosity or that of reviewers encountered after article submission. As detailed in [Oshiro et al. \(2024\)](#), Registered Reports

Debra Titone  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9060-9896>

Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Debra Titone, Department of Psychology, McGill University, 2001 McGill College Avenue, Montreal, QC H3A 1G1, Canada. Email: dtitone@mcgill.ca

take the practice of preregistration a step further by including a formal journal submission and peer review experience, thus giving authors an opportunity to have their whole plan evaluated before undergoing the resource-intensive research process.

Like data badges, there are potential benefits of using Registered Reports in one's work, as detailed by Oshiro et al. (2024). For example, Registered Reports allow for peer review of the merits of the study before the results are known. Thus, a key benefit is that idea generation, design, and analysis planning can be enriched from the feedback of reviewers prior to conducting the study. Registered Reports also allow researchers to refine their research questions, develop an analysis plan, reflect on key assumptions, and prepare for alternative outcomes for their data. Registered Reports can also help to ground and document trainees' research efforts, which is why many graduate programmes have a proposal stage that functions in similar ways. Through this route, readers can expect the resulting article to be more robust.

Crucially, however, are we or Oshiro et al. (2024) saying Registered Reports are the only way to do science? Absolutely not. Indeed, this tool tends to work well for mature fields where we have established methods, well-articulated theories, and competing hypotheses about outcomes. Other important scientific approaches address more novel questions where the contribution is as much establishing a new paradigm, technique, modality, or answers a much more exploratory set of questions to the tune of "what do you think would happen if we tried X." We affirm that there is room in science, and at *CJEP*, for both of these things so long as they are clearly identified. In fact, one should build meaningfully from the other (e.g., a Registered Report that serves as a replication study of prior exploratory research). Accordingly, to the extent that one's science is amenable to the Registered Reports format, the curious reader will find much to learn from the article by Oshiro et al. (2024) in this issue of *CJEP*.

Résumé

Poursuivant l'engagement continu de la Revue canadienne de psychologie expérimentale en faveur de la science ouverte, nous avons invité Oshiro et al. (2024) à soumettre un tutoriel révisé par les pairs du format type et à fournir des recommandations pour la préparation des *Registered Reports* (rapports enregistrés).

Mots-clés : Registered Reports, science ouverte, publications, pratiques de recherche

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