

# Meta-Research in Economics

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**Lecturer:** Dr. Stephan Bruns

**Language:** English

**Credits:** 6

**Format:** Lecture + Exercise

**Room:** Nora-Platiel 6, Room 0213 (Tuesday) + Nora-Platiel 5, Room 1108 (Wednesday)

**Time:** Tuesday 14:15-15:45 (Lecture) and Wednesday 12:15-13:45 (Exercise)

**First Lecture:** 19.04.2016

**First Exercise:** 27.04.2016

**Requirements:** Good knowledge of basic statistics and econometrics

**Contact:** [bruns@uni-kassel.de](mailto:bruns@uni-kassel.de)

## Overview

The seminal work “Why most published research findings are false” (Ioannidis, 2005) resulted in a broad discussion about the reliability and credibility of empirical research across a wide range of scientific disciplines. If scientists face incentives to publish statistically significant or even theory-confirming results, the findings in published articles may be distorted and misleading. We discuss different types of selection processes in academic publishing, such as  $p$ -hacking and publication bias, and their consequences for the reliability and credibility of empirical research in economics.

The lecture also covers approaches to improve the reliability of empirical research in economics including meta-regression models that integrate the findings of different articles (Stanley, 2001). The aim of these models is to detect  $p$ -hacking and to identify the presence of genuine empirical effects. We discuss how these models are used to synthesize the findings of experimental studies and what issues occur if these models are applied to findings of observational studies.

## References

Ioannidis, J. P. (2005). Why most published research findings are false. *PLoS Medicine*, 2(8), e124.

Stanley, T. D. (2001). Wheat from chaff: Meta-analysis as quantitative literature review. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 15(3), 131-150.

## Credit Requirements

Final exam (90 minutes)

## **Literature**

To be announced during the lecture.