



DFG

Rules of Good Scientific Practice

The German System of Scientific Self-Regulation

Rules of Good Scientific Practice

1. What is the DFG?
2. How does the DFG safeguard good scientific practice?
3. Self-regulation in the German research system



What is the DFG?

Germany's largest research funding organisation

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)

- serves **all branches of science and the humanities** by funding research projects and facilitating collaboration among researchers
- supports the **education and advancement** of young scientific researchers
- promotes **equality** between women and men in science

...



What is the DFG?

Germany's largest research funding organisation

- **advises parliaments and public authorities** on scientific matters
- fosters **relations between** the research community and society and the private sector



What is the DFG?

An association under German private law

Member institutions include

- ▶ German universities (69)
- ▶ non-university research institutions (16)
- ▶ German academies of sciences and humanities (8)
- ▶ scientific associations (3)



What is the DFG?

Germany's central, self-governing research funding organisation

The DFG is funded by

- ▶ German federal government (67,4%)
- ▶ German states (32,5%)
- ▶ Private sources (0,1%)*

The DFG's 2014 budget totalled approx. **€2.85 billion**.



* Figures refer to revenues in 2014

How does the DFG safeguard good scientific practice?

The DFG safeguards good scientific practice through

- ▶ Commission on Self-Regulation in Science and Research
- ▶ Guidelines for its funding activities
- ▶ Procedures to deal with scientific misconduct
- ▶ Research Ombudsman



How does the DFG safeguard good scientific practice? Through the Commission on Self-regulation in Science

This commission

- was initially convened in **1997 by the DFG Executive Committee** to investigate a particularly severe case of scientific misconduct
- consisted of **international experts**
- was tasked with investigating **the causes of improbity in the research system**, discussing **preventive countermeasures**, and verifying and safeguarding existing mechanisms for scientific self-regulation



How does the DFG safeguard good scientific practice?

Memorandum "Safeguarding good scientific practice"

Recommendations for safeguarding good scientific practice

- 17 recommendations for safeguarding good scientific practice
- Established at universities and research institutes
- Revised and updated in 2013



How does the DFG safeguard good scientific practice? Recommendations of the Memorandum

Recommendations of the Memorandum

- Good Scientific Practice
- Supervision of Young Scientists
- Ombudsman System (local and nationwide)
- Safeguarding and Storing of Primary Data
- Authorship
- Whistleblower
- Misconduct Procedures



How does the DFG safeguard good scientific practice?

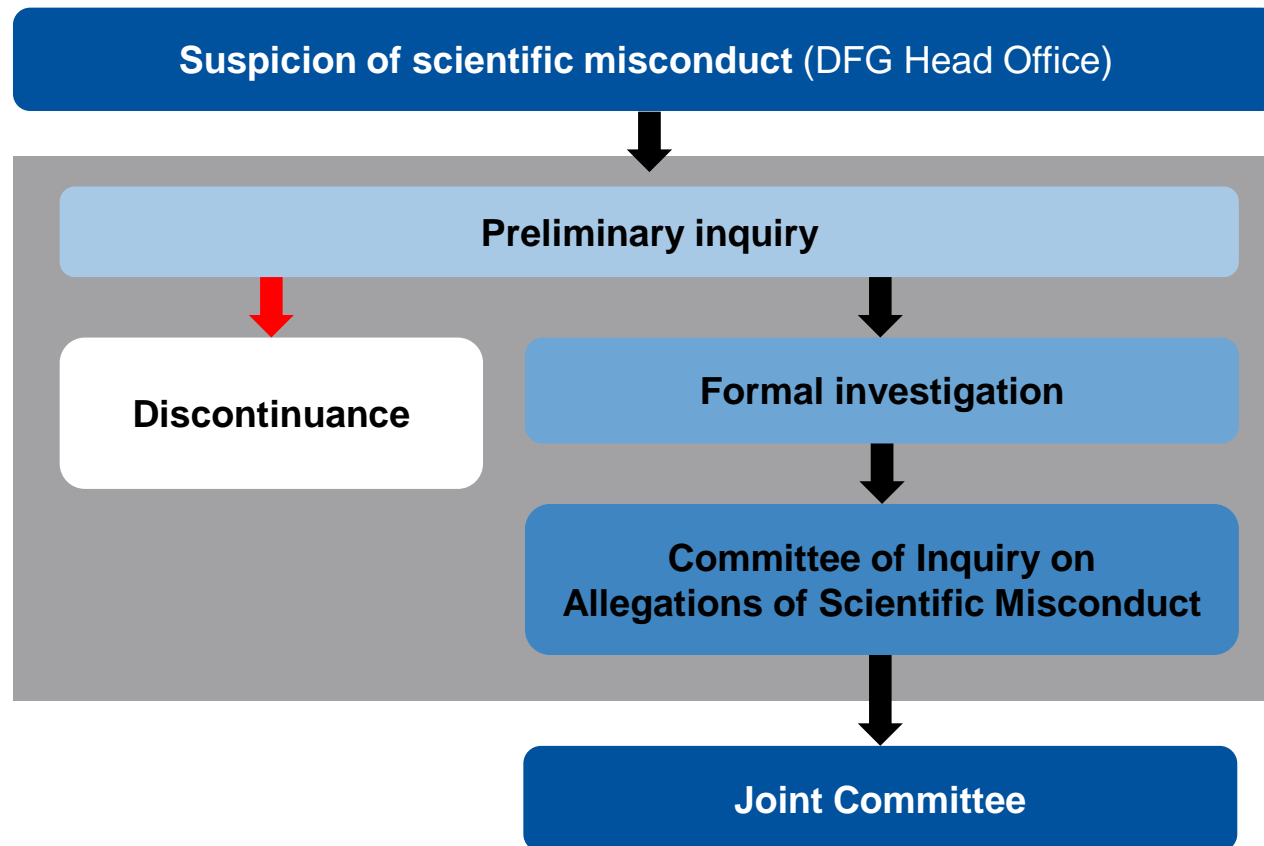
By prescribing usage guidelines for applicants

In addition to other requirements, DFG funding may only be granted if

universities and other research institutions **establish rules to ensure good scientific practice** in accordance with the recommendations



How does the DFG safeguard good scientific practice? Through a procedure for dealing with scientific misconduct



How does the DFG safeguard good scientific practice? Through the Research Ombudsman

The Research Ombudsman

- ▶ Recommendation 16 safeguarding good scientific practice
- ▶ Is available to all scientists and academics, independent of their relationship to the DFG, in an advisory and supporting capacity
- ▶ Was established by the DFG Senate in 1999
- ▶ Holds office for three years



How does the DFG safeguard good scientific practice? Through the Research Ombudsman

Annual report

- ▶ Working practices and procedures
- ▶ Enquiries primarily from the fields of life sciences, social sciences and the humanities
- ▶ Authorships, suspicion of plagiarism, lack of funding for early career researchers
- ▶ National and international networking

Jahresbericht 2014
an den Senat der DFG
und die Öffentlichkeit

Ombudsman für die Wissenschaft

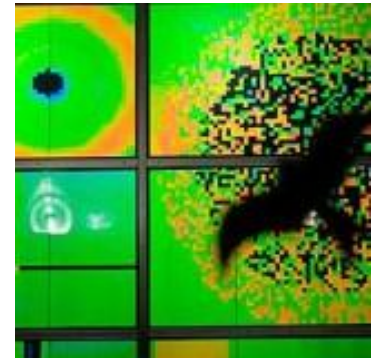
Link: <http://www.ombudsman-fuer-die-wissenschaft.de/>

Self-regulation in the German research system

System of self-regulation established

Comprehensive system of self-regulation

- Establishment of rules at **universities and research institutes**
- Local and nationwide **ombudsman system**
- Establishment of **commissions**





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Thank you for your attention

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