

Corrections and Retractions NAS remarks

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1. The low rate of retractions in sociology journals (with a little data from Retraction Watch)

Since 2000:

Retraction

2 Fraud; first reported in SocArXiv paper by co-author

Criminology

Social Problems

2 Criminology scandal continued; author eventually fired

Journal of Health and
Social Behavior

1 Coding error. Discovered by others. Corrected paper
republished with same title

Social Psychology
Quarterly

1 Diederik Stapel suspected fraud

Correction

American
Sociological Review

2 Coding errors discovered by authors; correction only. Results
changed, some hypotheses survived. 1 reanalysis website link
now dead; 1 on OSF ([case 1](#); [case 2](#))

Retraction watch shows none in these journals, 2020-2025:

American Journal of Sociology

Demography

Population and Development Review

Gender & Society

Social Forces

Social Science Research

Sociological Science

Sociology of Education

Sociology of Race and Ethnicity

Work and Occupations

Work Employment & Society

Sociology of Religion

2. The substandard, but improving, use of open science practices in sociology, which hinders both pre- and post-publication error and fraud detection (with data from my informal counts)

ASR Volume 90: Informal survey

18 quantitative papers: 6 which provide nothing; 12 provide packages of code and data (2/3)

4 mixed qual-quant papers: 1 provides a replication package

12 qualitative papers, of which 7 provide nothing, 5 provide interview guides, and 2 provide coding schemes

Was 1/4 for quant papers in 2020, 1/3 in 2023.

Still some “available by request”, or on author websites

Source: <https://familyinequality.wordpress.com/2025/12/10/another-update-on-american-sociological-reviews-failure-to-meet-current-social-science-standards/>

2a. How preprints can help!

Get analysis out to relevant experts before “publishing” and let errors be corrected without retraction.

3. The tendency to paper over errors with the comment-and-reply mechanism, which leaves the record uncorrected (with examples), and the lack of guidance from the ASA.

ASA Publications Manual: Guide for Editors, 2018 edition, literally does not include the word retraction: https://www.asanet.org/wp-content/uploads/publications_manual_june_2018.pdf

I have had two corrections for ASR rejected where the editors conceded the error but didn't want to publish it because it would be wasting page space and creating controversy.

Three ASR cases of Comment and Reply where reasonable people think papers are wrong:

Police Violence and Citizen Crime Reporting in the Black Community

American Sociological Review
2016, Vol. 81(5) 857–876
© American Sociological
Association 2016
DOI: 10.1177/0003122416663494
<http://asr.sagepub.com>



Matthew Desmond,^a Andrew V. Papachristos,^b
and David S. Kirk^c

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0003122416663494>

Social Isolation in America: Changes in Core Discussion Networks over Two Decades

Miller McPherson

University of Arizona and Duke University

Lynn Smith-Lovin

Duke University

Matthew E. Brashears

University of Arizona

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/000312240607100301>

BIOLOGICAL LIMITS OF GENDER CONSTRUCTION

J. RICHARD UDRY

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/000312240006500307>

4. The need to distinguish between correction and retraction, and the consequences for the scholarly record

Corrected and Comment-and-Replied papers are still cited for their original findings – which tend to be high profile, which is why the errors are discovered.