

Brewing Up a Storm: Developing Open Research Culture through ReproducibiliTea



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ReproducibiliTea Reading is a group of researchers and students who meet regularly to discuss Open Research practice. Our aim is to reduce the perceived costs of adopting open and reproducible practices by increasing Open Research literacy. We have developed our technical skills and promoted open practices that have been taken up in our research. We are also exploring ways in which Open Research objectives can be integrated into student learning activities and researcher incentives.

ReproducibiliTea Reading is a group of researchers and students who meet as part of the international [ReproducibiliTea initiative](#), a journal club network which promotes Open Research, reproducibility, and ways to improve research quality. The Reading chapter was established in the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences in January 2020 and meets fortnightly for tea and discussion. We aim to overcome barriers to Open Research by increasing awareness of its benefits and sharing practical skills within our research community. The club is registered on the [ReproducibiliTea website](#), and materials are stored in a publicly available [repository](#).

Topics discussed by the group have included [pre-registration of research protocols](#), [reproducible results](#), [open data and code](#), [questionable research practices](#), and [the ethics of Open Science](#). The topics tie in with student teaching and other Open Science initiatives in the School, including Repro-monthly sessions. These are monthly workshops that focus on practical skills for Open Research, such as [pre-registering research plans on the Open Science Framework](#), and scripting reproducible analyses using R, the Open Source statistical computing language.

A major barrier to engagement with Open Research is the perceived psychological cost of bridging the gap in knowledge and skills to [change research practice](#). ReproducibiliTea aims to make participation easy – sessions are interleaved with research meetings in the School, and a presenter introduces the paper under discussion, reducing the need for advance preparation. The group now has a well-established membership consisting mostly of early career researchers and PhD students. The challenges presented by the COVID-19 lockdown have led us to develop new ways of working and have informed our thinking about how we can sustain and grow the local network. Meetings are now held online, and recordings of presentations will be made available. A schedule is published at the beginning of each term so that people can plan to attend meetings that are pertinent to their needs.

We hope to expand participation from both the student population and more senior academic staff, and we have developed a number of new initiatives for this purpose. Those who teach statistics and research methods modules at all levels are asked to inform their students about our meetings. We also plan to run workshops to inform academics about the Open Research requirements of funding agencies. Finally, we are exploring ways in which Open Research objectives might be integrated into student learning activities and researcher incentives within the School.

ReproducibiliTea Reading Mission Statement

To improve Open Research literacy and use of open and reproducible research practices at the University of Reading




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ReproducibiliTea meetings are actively leading the change towards open and reproducible research. We uphold the values promoted by the University in its [Statement on Open Research](#) and by the [UK Reproducibility Network](#), which the University joined in 2020. We have improved Open Research literacy in our School, and more researchers are now adopting open practices in their projects by pre-registering their studies¹ and sharing data, study materials and analysis code. We welcome new members and guests, and we would be delighted to share our experiences with members of other Schools interested in joining us or setting up their own group.

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Open at a glance

- ReproducibiliTea Reading is a group of researchers and students who meet regularly to learn about open and reproducible research, as part of the international ReproducibiliTea initiative
- Fortnightly journal club meetings discuss Open Research topics, while Repro-monthly sessions focus on developing practical skills
- Driven by early career researchers, the group is seeking to engage students and academics by linking to research skills training and offering practical support
- The ReproducibiliTea model can be easily adopted by researchers in any discipline to meet specific interests and needs

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References and further information

1. Examples of pre-registrations and project repositories on the Open Science Framework from our members. <https://osf.io/ba6kg/>; <https://osf.io/ahpq5/>; <https://osf.io/mtsqv/>

ReproducibiliTea Reading repository. Meeting schedule, resources and materials for meetings. <https://osf.io/de79r/>

ReproducibiliTea reading lists.

<https://www.zotero.org/groups/2354006/reproducibilitea/library>

ReproducibiliTea initiative website. <https://reproducibilitea.org/>

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