Suggestions for Reviewers, Referees, Editors (and Members of Institutional Review Boards)

• Base acceptance on the quality of the design, implementation, analysis, and writing (as well as the importance of the questions being studied), but not on the results of the analysis
  o For example, a well-done study with a negative result for a worthwhile question is more worthy of publication than a poorly-done study with a novel result.
• See the Suggestions for Researchers.
  o Have authors followed these guidelines?
• See the Suggestions for Reading Research.
  o Is the paper written to facilitate reading following these suggestions?
  o How would a reader following these guidelines rate the research?
• Is the research "reproducible"? That is, is the information given in the paper and the material referenced in the paper adequate for someone to duplicate the data gathering and analysis?
• Check to be sure power calculations are prospective, not retrospective.
• As needed, join with others to help promote "best practices" in research and publication. These include:
  o Establishing guidelines for submission that encourage best practices.
  o Establishing submission options for registered replications of important but unreplicated results. Examples which might themselves be in need of improvement) include:
    ▪ Cortex registered reports,  
    ▪ Perspectives on Psychological Science registered replication reports,
      https://www.psychologicalscience.org/index.php/replication
    ▪ See also  
      https://www.psychologicalscience.org/index.php/replication and 
  o Encourage collaborations to increase power for research studies and replications.
• Consult the references below for more suggestions.

Further References:

J. Coyne (2009), Are most positive findings in health psychology false ... or at least somewhat exaggerated?, European Health Psychologist, Vol. 11, No. 3, pp. 49 - 51.


Nature.com Peer-to-Peer blog, now closed, but archives online at http://blogs.nature.com/peer-to-peer/


This is an editorial response to the Ioannis article mentioned in the course descriptions and introduction to Day 1 of this SSI course.