

NEGATIVE IS POSITIVE

moringa.pub/ojs/index.php/negative

ISSN 2567-3416



Negative Results Are The Dark Matter Of Science.

Editorial

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Moringa Science Publishing

published: 2017-07-24



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Manifesto

The largest part of research is the recording of negative results. If it is impossible to publish this work, then a fundamental part of science is simply invisible.

Experiments are repeated *ad infinitum* using the same parameters because no one knows that they have been done already and have led to a negative result. Just imagine, what could have been achieved with all the time needlessly spent!

Scientists' work is not valued this way. Research means to try out new things. Until an experiment is done, no one knows if it will be successful or not. Therefore, success is often decided by chance.

Think about publication bias: 20 research groups investigate pure random noise, and on average one of these groups will find something interesting on a typical level of significance of 95%, even though there is nothing but only random noise. This group will then publish their exciting new discovery, while the other 19 cannot publish their negative results. This means that, possibly, a substantial part of all published positive results may not be real at all, but are seen as such for a significant period of time.

When the experiment is repeated by others, this is not viewed as original work and their negative results cannot be published either. Thus the problem chases its own tail!

To make things worse, the fixation on positive results and the chances of actually finding them, creates strong incentives for scientists to make their results "look prettier" or even falsify them. The difficulty to publish negative results of repeated experiments further protects the fraud and inhibits control in science.

By publishing negative results we show all scientists our respect for their effort. And we reward them for their scientific work.

Share your negative results with the world to make the long overdue difference!

Our journal *Negative is Positive* is at your disposal!