



IZA Guiding Principles of Research Integrity

IZA is a private independent non-profit economic research institute financially supported by the Deutsche Post Foundation. It has the responsibility and is committed to ensuring that the research conducted by its staff and partners maintains the highest possible standards of professional and academic integrity. Therefore each person engaged in research for IZA is expected to follow the highest professional and academic standards in the conduct of the activities.

In pursuance of such high standards it is expected that researchers shall:

- take steps to acquaint themselves with all available guidance as to 'best practice' relevant to any part of their work, including but not limited to these guiding principles, international standards and national and international law
- remain honest, reliable, objective, impartial and independent in their research
- document their findings and results openly and accessibly
- practice strict honesty with regard to their own contributions to their work, remain fair in providing references and give adequate credit to the contributions of others
- understand their responsibility for future generations of scientists and act accordingly
- take steps to ensure a working environment that promotes professional integrity
- avoid conflicts of interest and, if a conflict cannot be prevented, communicate all relevant information to those concerned.

As part of its mission, IZA encourages researcher interactions with practitioners and policymakers as these can be beneficial to the research process and are part of the obligations of researchers for society. In this context, IZA believes that it is generally in the best interests of authors, readers and researchers to disclose the sources of support for their research as well as any related material and personal relationships of themselves or their immediate family that could be considered a conflict of interest.

Thus, it is expected from authors and researchers that they:

- acknowledge any relevant sources of research funding in scientific publications,
- disclose any material relationships – financial or otherwise – that may be or could appear to be relevant to their research or publication, including consultancy or paid relationships with any commercial organization or governmental body which may stand to benefit from the research findings,
- disclose any relevant personal relationships of themselves or their immediate family that may be relevant to their research or publication.

Researchers should include any such information either directly in their publication or in a brief statement accompanying the publication or any research results.



Each person engaged in research for IZA shall avoid the occurrence of all forms of scientific misconduct. Most notably scientific misconduct includes, but is not limited to, deliberate or grossly negligent

- fabrication of research results and the misrepresentation of such results as actual findings,
- falsification of data by way of manipulating, modifying or omitting actual results,
- breaches of intellectual property rights of others,
- wrongful appropriation or imitation of the work of others or one's own or utilization of any such work through false claims of authorship or without giving adequate credit (plagiarism)
- publication, utilization or misrepresentation of the work of subordinates as one's own work, and
- failure to provide fair and transparent peer-review.

Researchers are expected to respect and uphold any special standards and requirements of scientific performance and ethical practices imposed by law, contract, professional bodies or IZA in relation to particular categories of research or individual projects.

Update: April 30, 2014

[First version](#): April 23, 2012