



Reproducibility, Validity, and Integrity in Scholarly Research: Questions Seeking Answers*

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Commentary

Our Guardians Conferences continue to address the general theme of *reproducibility, validity, and integrity* when conducting and communicating research while avoiding common fallacies and pitfalls in the relevant field of experimental science. Invited speakers at [Guardians 2024](#), Maggie [Mulqueen \(2024\)](#), Philip [Koch \(2024\)](#), Natalie [Burke \(2024\)](#), Joshua [Rubin \(2024\)](#), and Olivia [Sagan \(2024\)](#), addressed the 2024 focus theme of *people talking to people with civility, courtesy, tolerance, and respect*. We honored Peter Ash, as our [2024 Guardian of Truth and Integrity](#) in recognition of his extraordinary role model example of leadership and advocacy for people talking to people in order to promote healthy communities saving the lives of children with albinism.

Next year at [Guardians 2025](#), we will continue the conversation on people talking to people, but refocused on *scholars talking to scholars* with an emphasis on rebuilding commitments to peer review of peer review. Here are the questions seeking answers that we will continue to address at the Guardians Conferences:

- What accountability for willful disregard ([Taswell 2023](#)) of reproducibility, validity, and integrity in scholarly research?
- How should we heal and cure the worsening 4G problem in academia of *Grooming, Gleaning, Gaslighting, and Ghosting* by promoting the alternative of citational justice ([Taswell 2022](#)) and other forms of epistemic justice?
- What new nosology and new metrics ([Taswell 2024](#)) should we develop to evaluate and measure collective, community, social, and public health?
- What can we do to promote collegiality with peer review of peer review ([Craig et al. 2022](#)) supported by *scholars talking to scholars with civility, courtesy, tolerance, and respect*?
- What must we do to end the information wars ([Athreya et al. 2023](#)) threatening to destroy democracy in countries around the world?

Profiles in courage and leadership in support of democracy as represented by the work and words of American Presidents can be found from many sources including the 2024 President's Day list compiled

by [Caldwell \(2024\)](#). Example quotes from the Greatest Generation impacted by the Great Depression, World War II and the Korean War in the 20th Century highlight the importance for all of us to do our part and fulfill our individual duty contributing to our collective responsibility to defend democracy against those who would destroy it.

- F. D. Roosevelt: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.", "We must be the great arsenal of democracy.", "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.", [FDR Presidential Library](#).
- H. S. Truman: "The buck stops here.", "I never did give anybody hell. I just told the truth and they thought it was hell.", "Whether discrimination is based on race, or creed, or color, or land of origin, it is utterly contrary to American ideals of democracy.", [HST Presidential Library](#).
- J. F. Kennedy: "Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country.", "Mankind must put an end to war before war puts an end to mankind.", "If we cannot now end our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity.", [JFK Presidential Library](#).

Democracy can be best served by people talking to people, scholars talking to scholars, and especially, by politicians talking to politicians with exemplary civility, courtesy, tolerance, and respect as role model examples for all citizenry. Instead of making accusations and fomenting fear, hatred, and division, politicians should be asking questions and promoting understanding, trust, and collaboration to solve problems for a better world for all of us. This communication and interaction style of asking questions to solve problems with a collaborative rather than divisive approach has been discussed in recent books on leadership ([Maxwell 2016](#); [Stanier 2016](#); [Wise and Littlefield 2017](#); [Gordon and Leavell 2021](#); [L. Ashley-Timms and D. Ashley-Timms 2022](#); [Marquardt and Tiede 2023](#); [Gaddis 2024](#)). At Guardians 2025, we will continue to pose and discuss questions seeking answers in support of democracy and collaboration to solve problems and to promote truth in science and integrity in research.

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