

RESEARCH INTEGRITY IN A COMPLEX WORLD

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This talk will look from multiple angles at the relation between complexity and research integrity. Research on research misconduct and questionable research practices (QRPs), and interventions to prevent and correct them, still tend to operate under a “unitarian” model of science, according to which the same fundamental causes and solutions apply everywhere. Differences between disciplines, fields and countries, whilst acknowledged in principle, still seem to play a marginal role in how we think about research integrity. I will overview evidence and theory from recent research that

suggests that this “unitarian” approach, whilst not entirely incorrect, can be misleading and counterproductive. The way we define, measure and study QRP and misconduct in a particular research field may depend in a fundamental way on the complexity of the subject matter of and the methodology that characterises that field. Interventions to prevent and correct research malpractice may need to be radically different depending on the country and the institution in which the research is conducted.