

Peer Community In Neuroscience

Making Publishing Inclusive and Efficient Through Free
Preprint Peer-Review



@PCI_Neuro

<https://neuro.peercommunityin.org/>



PCI

A complex network diagram with numerous nodes of varying sizes and colors (light blue, grey, white) connected by thin lines, creating a dense web-like structure. The nodes are distributed across the entire slide, with a higher concentration in the center.

We're facing several problems
in journal publication

Inefficient system

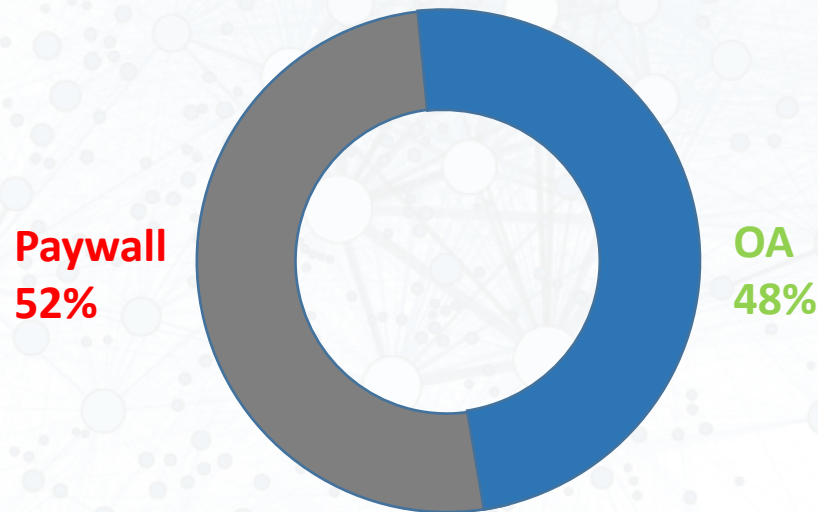
- submissions/rejections in cascade
- > 1-2 years to publish
- waste of evaluation
- inclusivity issue – an ‘inner circle’ has early access



Closed system

- Less than 50% of publications are open access.
- This is an inclusivity issue.

Worldwide in 2023



<https://www.stm-assoc.org/oa-dashboard-2024/>

Costly system



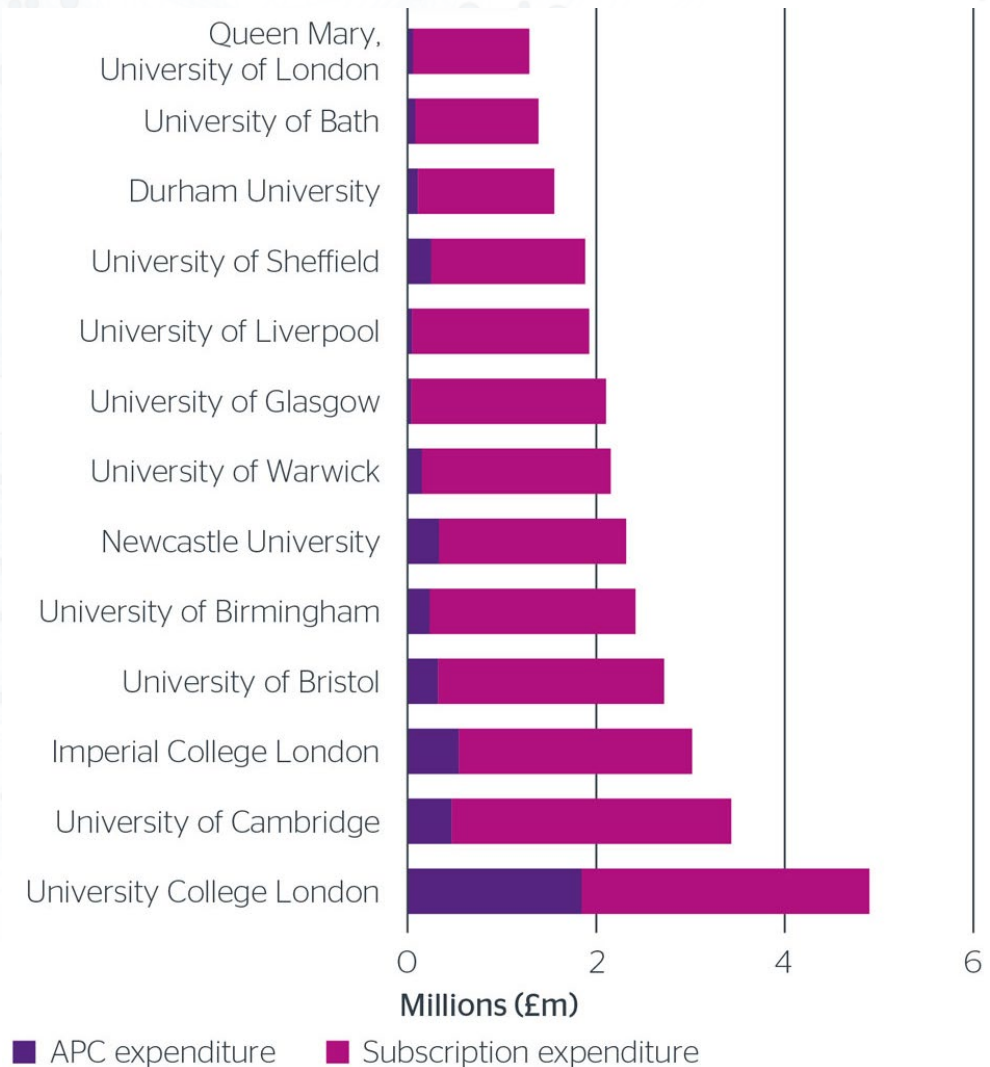
Europe: ~ €3 B/year

World: ~ €10 B/ year

But what are we paying for?

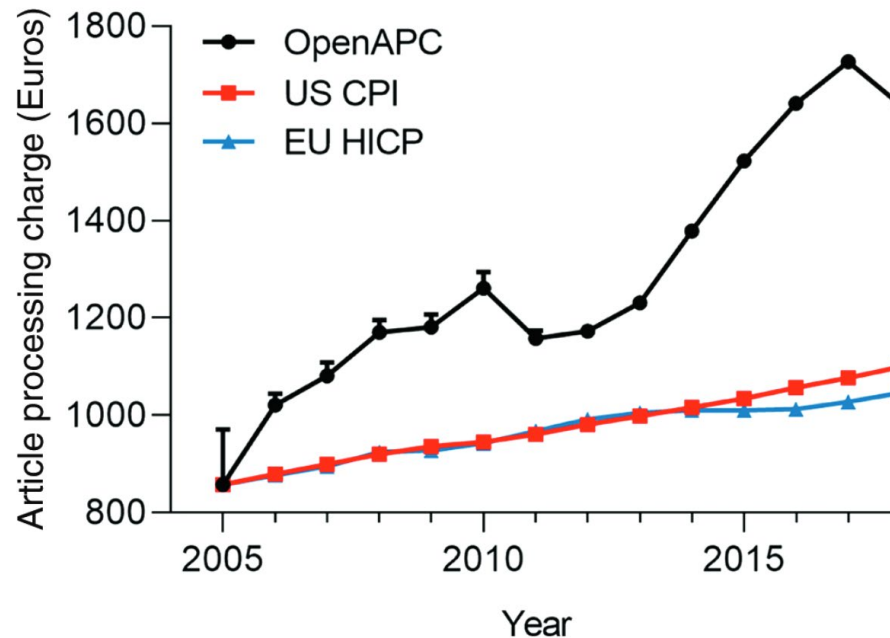
- We produce the data – often funded by public money
- We peer-review for free
- We edit – often for free

University expenditure



Jisc report (2016)

Increasing prices



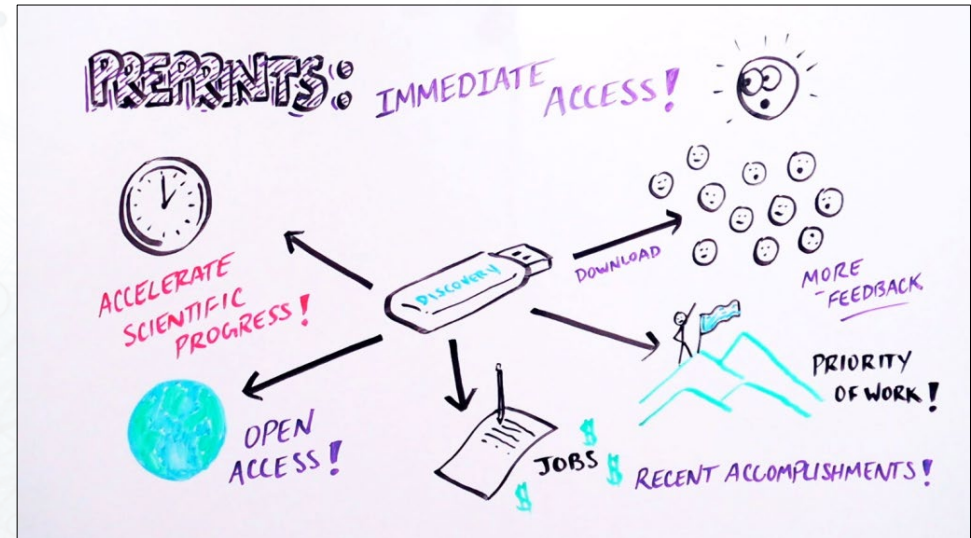
Article Processing Charges are insensitive to market competition.
(Shaun Khoo **2019** *Article Processing Charge Hyperinflation and Price Insensitivity*. *LIBER Quarterly* 29(1), 1-18.)

A complex network diagram with numerous nodes of varying sizes and colors (light blue, grey, and white) connected by thin, light blue lines. The nodes are distributed across the slide, with a higher density in the center and bottom right. The text "Preprints: part of the solution" is centered in a blue font, with a horizontal line underneath it.

Preprints: part of the solution

Preprints are good...

- Low cost (arXiv: 800 000 \$/year, 120,000 art/year = **~ 7 \$ /art**)
- Free for authors and readers
- Available immediately
- Versioned
- Proof of anteriority



But not peer-reviewed.

The aim of Peer Community In

Communities of researchers evaluating (through peer review) and **recommending preprints** in their field.



etc ...

PCI Ecology

PCI Evolutionary Biology

PCI Neuroscience

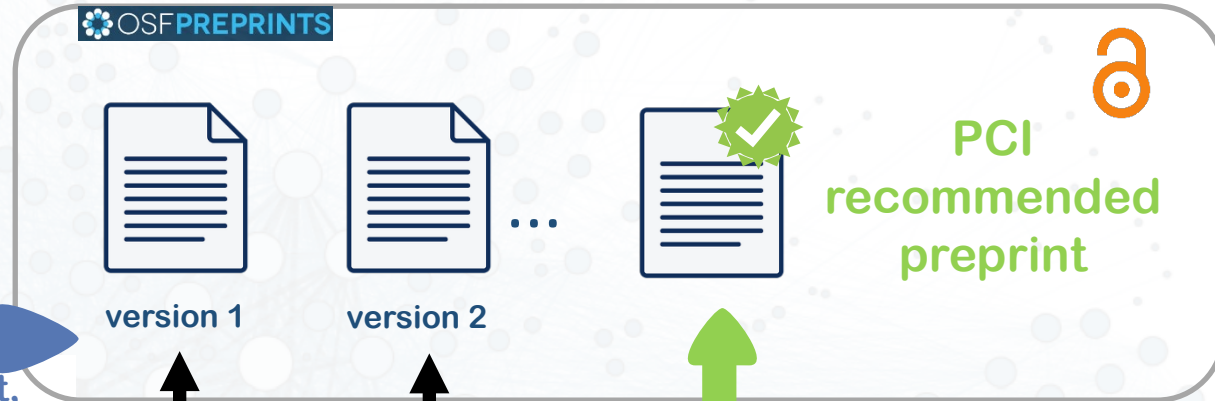
etc..

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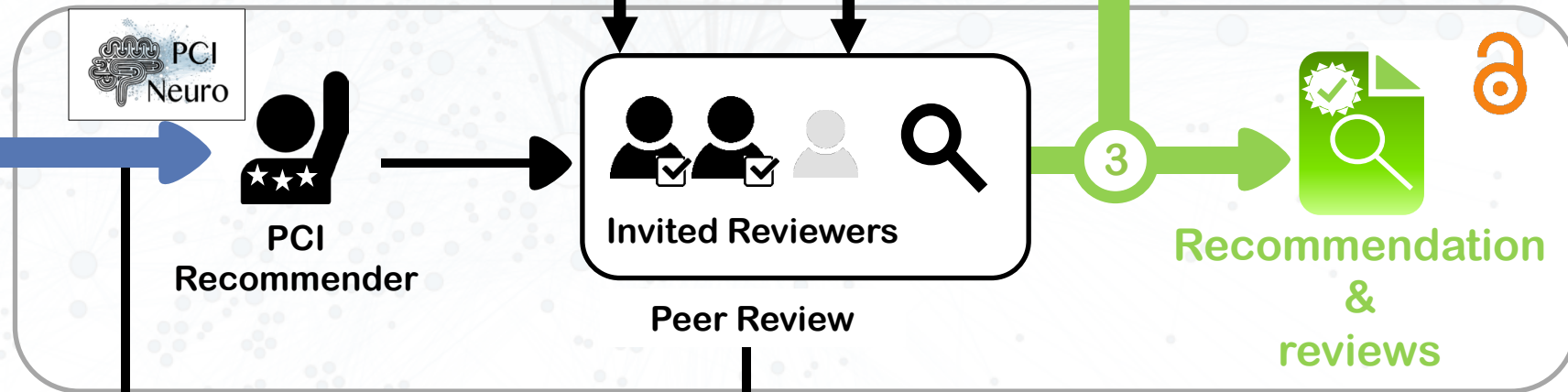
Repository



PREPRINT server



PCI website



Not considered

Rejected

PCI

author deposits their manuscript,
data and code

author submits
the DOI/URL

Recommendation
&
reviews

PCI-recommended preprint

Recommendation text



Peer Community In Neuroscience

RESEARCH ARTICLE

- Open Access
- Open Data
- Open Code
- Open Peer-Review

Functional correlates of immediate early gene expression in mouse visual cortex

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Mahringer, D., Zmarz, P., Okuno, H., Bito, H. and Keller, G.B. (2020) Functional correlates of immediate early gene expression in mouse visual cortex. *bioRxiv*, 2020.11.12.379909, ver. 4 peer-reviewed and recommended by Peer community in Neuroscience. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.11.12.379909>

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Recommender

Julia Harris, Sepideh Keshavarzi

Reviewers

Balázs Hangya and two anonymous reviewers

This version of the article has been peer-reviewed and recommended by

Peer Community in Neuroscience

<https://doi.org/10.24072/pci.neuro.100005>

ABSTRACT

During visual development, response properties of layer 2/3 neurons in visual cortex are shaped by experience. Both visual and visuomotor experience are necessary to coordinate the integration of bottom-up visual input and top-down motor-related input. Whether visual and visuomotor experience engage different plasticity mechanisms, possibly associated with the two separate input pathways, is still unclear. To begin addressing this, we measured the expression level of three different immediate early genes (IEG) (c-fos, egr1 or Arc) and neuronal activity in layer 2/3 neurons of visual cortex before and after a mouse's first visual exposure in life, and subsequent visuomotor learning. We found that expression levels of all three IEGs correlated positively with neuronal activity, but that first visual and first visuomotor exposure resulted in differential changes in IEG expression patterns. In addition, IEG expression levels differed depending on whether neurons exhibited primarily visually driven or motor-related activity. Neurons with strong motor-related activity preferentially expressed EGR1, while neurons that developed strong visually driven activity preferentially expressed Arc. Our findings are consistent with the interpretation that bottom-up visual input and top-down motor-related input are associated with different IEG expression patterns and hence possibly also with different plasticity pathways.

Keywords: Visual cortex, predictive processing, immediate early genes.

Share Tweet

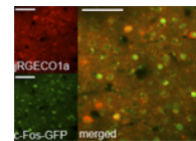
Printable page

Bringing together immediate early genes and sensorimotor response properties in V1

Julia Jade Harris and Sepideh Keshavarzi based on reviews by Balázs Hangya and 2 anonymous reviewers



A recommendation of:



Functional correlates of immediate early gene expression in mouse visual cortex

David Mahringer, Pawel Zmarz, Hiroyuki Okuno, Haruhiko Bito, Georg B. Keller

(2020), *bioRxiv*, 2020.11.12.379909, ver. 4 peer-reviewed and recommended by Peer Community in Neuroscience <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.11.12.379909>

READ PREPRINT IN PREPRINT SERVER



Data used for results

Codes used in this study

Scripts used to obtain or analyze results

Abstract

Submitted: 14 December 2021, Recommended: 27 June 2022

Recommendation

The primary visual cortex (V1) does not just process vision: it also integrates self-generated motion signals (Niell, Stryker 2010; Keller et al. 2012; Saleem et al. 2013; Velez-Fort et al. 2018; Meyer et al. 2018), enabling us to match our actions to the world we see. We know that the development of visuomotor representation in V1 depends on experience (Attinger et al. 2017; Widmer et al. 2022), but how exactly does each neuron acquire the right balance of visual and motor input? And how do some neurons become more responsive to visual or motor signals? Mahringer et al. (Mahringer et al. 2022) suspected that the answers may lie in experience-specific plasticity mechanisms.



Open Access



Open Peer-Review



Open Data



Open Code

PCI

PCI-recommended
preprint



What happens to PCI-recommended preprints?

PCI-recommended
preprint



OR



OR



Peer Community Journal

Direct publication in diamond open access

PCI-friendly journals



Neurons, Behavior, Data
analysis, and Theory

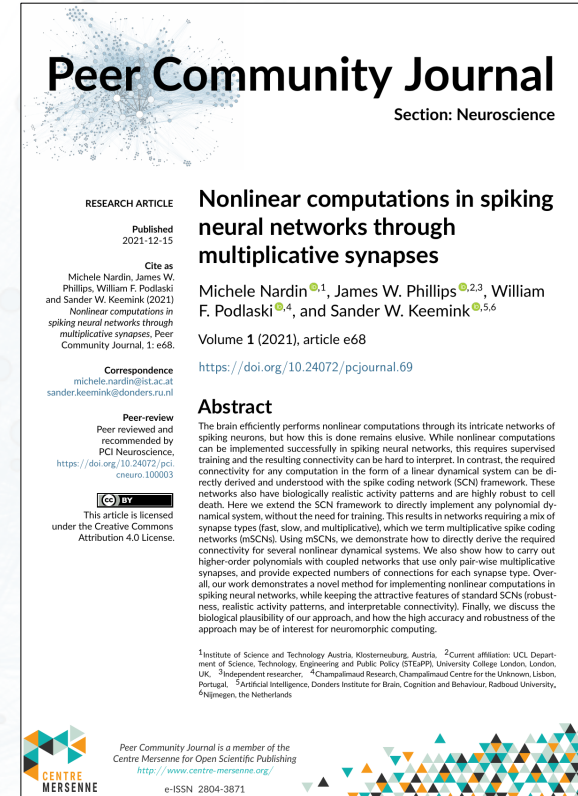
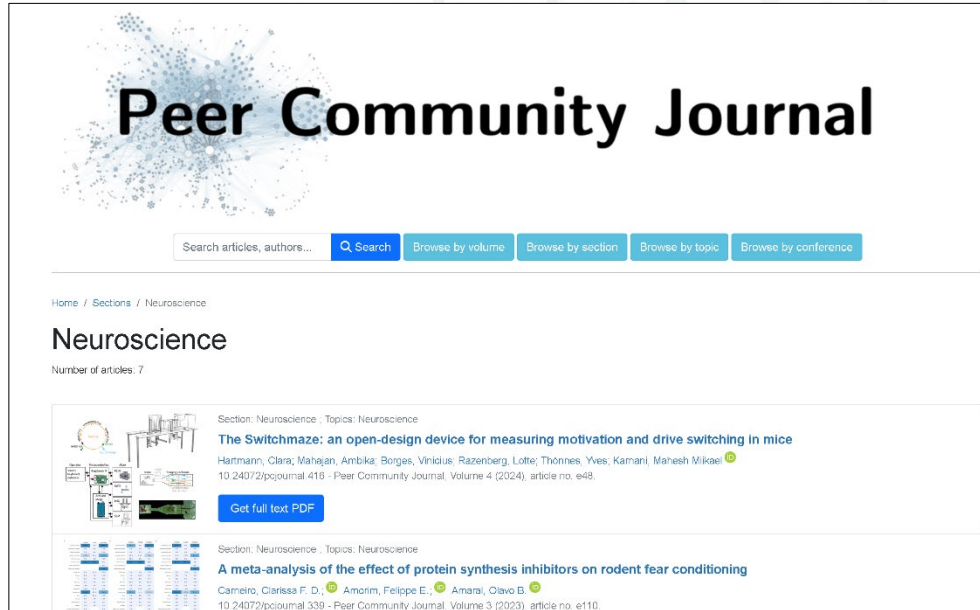





PLOS BIOLOGY

Other journals

PCI

Peer Community Journal



- Launched in 2021
- Accepts **as is** all articles recommended by a PCI
- **Free for readers and authors**
- >300 articles published
- Indexed in  DOAJ  Google Scholar  Dimensions

Scopus[®]

Clarivate

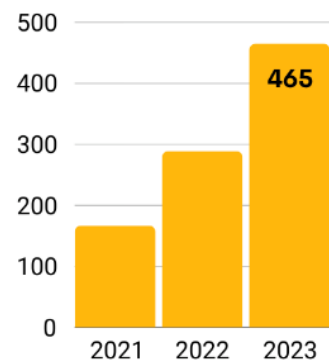
Web of Science[™]

PCI

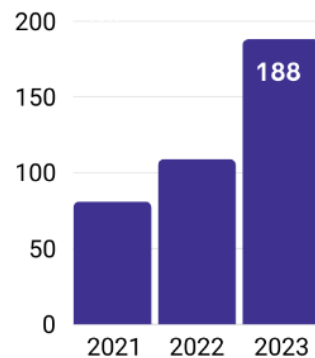
PCI in figures



Submissions to the PCIs




Recommendations




 **PCI**
Evol Biol

 **PCI**
Ecology

 **PCI**
Genomics

 **PCI**
Network Sci

 **PCI**
RR

A complex network diagram with numerous nodes of varying sizes (small dots, medium circles, and large white circles) connected by thin, light blue lines. The nodes are distributed across the slide, with a higher density in the center and bottom right.

How to participate?

Sign and share the #PCIManifesto

<https://peercommunityin.org/pci-manifesto/>



“ I commit to submitting, within 15 months following the signing of this manifesto, at least one of my best articles to a PCI for peer review...

...I will be bound by this promise only if at least 500 other researchers make the same commitment.

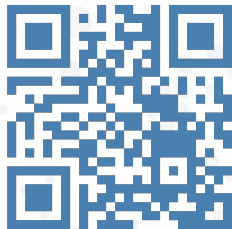
”

1184 colleagues have signed so far

- **Submit your articles to a PCI**
- **Join us as reviewers and recommenders**
- **Create new PCIs**
- **More generally participate in real open science
(Diamond OA, society/university journals, ...)**



Thanks!



<https://peercommunityin.org>

<https://peercommunityjournal.org>

