Investigating Social Workers' Attitudes and Experiences with Open Peer Review

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Introduction

While "Peer Reviewed" articles are viewed as the gold standard in the scholarly community, the peer review process is still imperfect. Inaccuracies have been able to surpass the review process, and bias is known to be a factor in the editorial process. In recent years "open peer review" has been suggested as a combatant to many of these problems. "Open peer review" is an umbrella term for a variety of mechanics that "open up" the peer review process, such as revealing the identities of the editors or revealing their edits. Open peer review is a suggestion we can make to the current peer review system, it however, has not been well tested, especially in the field of social work we're examining.

Purpose

The purpose of the study is to assess the perceptions and attitudes of scholars in the field to open peer review, as well as assessing deficiencies of current system of peer review.

Method

The primary method of data collection is a survey administered to faculty of the top 25 social work schools in the United States. The survey consists of a set of screener questions that will terminate it if the respondent does not meet our guidelines, questions about their personal satisfaction, or dissatisfaction with peer review, and questions about the open peer review process, and whether they believe it to be beneficial.

Preliminary Data

Peer review where review reports are published alongside the relevant article, will make peer review

Survey Specifics

The survey uses a non-random sample of social workers from the top 25 schools of social work in the U.S. It was administered electronically by Qualtrics software. We use differential and inferential statistics. Inferential analysis were conducted in JASP. The data set includes: Number of participants at the time of writing, sample size, preliminary statistics.
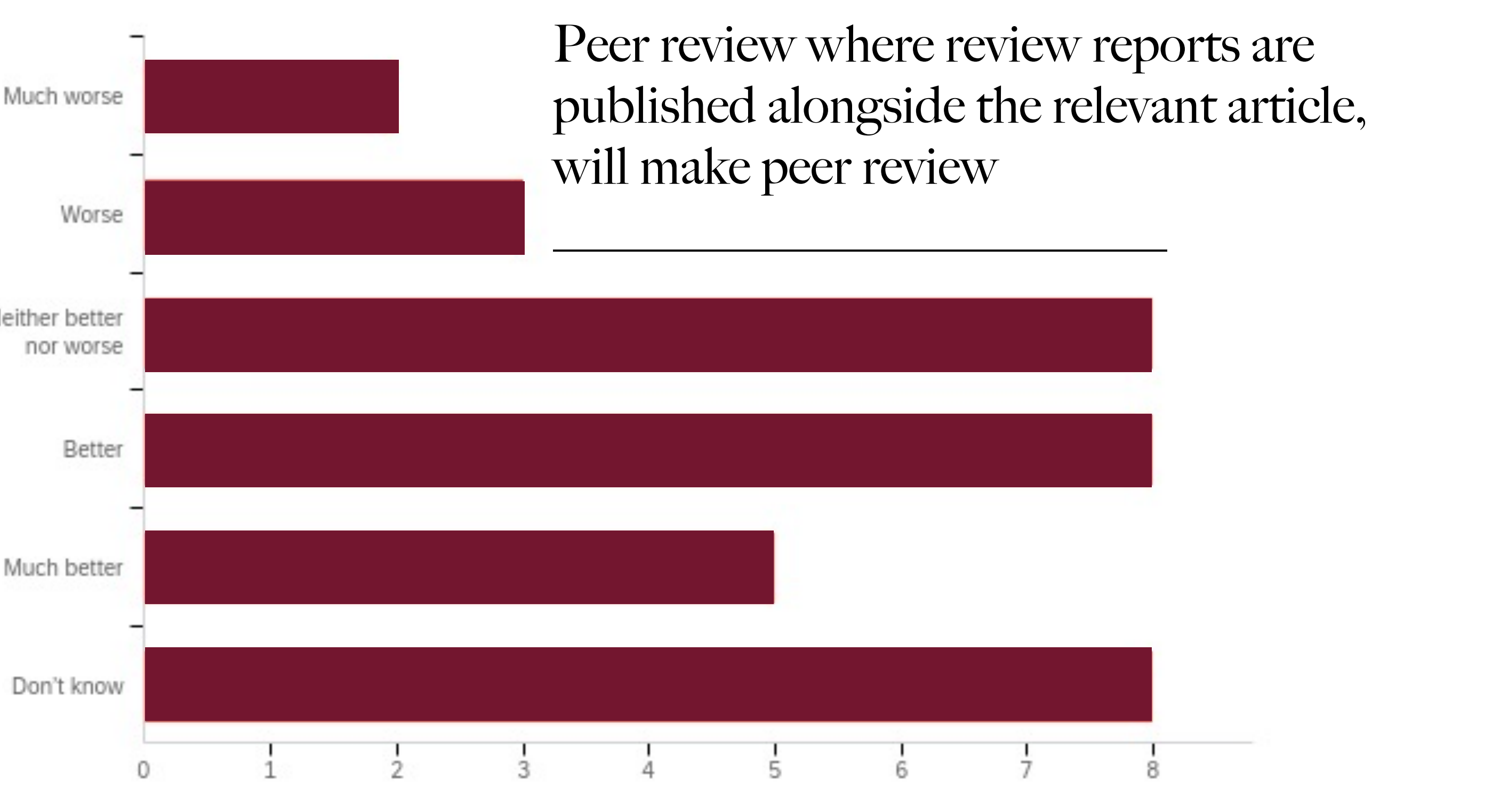
Discussion

Data collection and analysis are ongoing, we hypothesize that traditional peer review is viewed with a lot of variability, and we assume that the sample is not overly familiar with open peer review and that certain types of open peer review are perceived more favorably than other. For example, publishing edits related to the peer review process may receive a favorable reaction, while publishing the editors' actual identities may be met with hesitation.

Conclusion

The survey is still being distributed however; from the current data it appears three main opinions are shared about open peer review. The first that traditional peer review is already good enough and further attempts to improve it will only worsen it. The second that Open Identities is too risky and will worsen peer review however, some form of open peer review would be a positive alteration. And lastly, that implementing all forms of open peer review will result in a positive change.

References

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