

Annual Report 2019 – **DRAFT**



Luxembourg Agency for Research Integrity, a.s.b.l.
6, avenue des Hauts-Fourneaux
L-4362 Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg
www.LARI.lu ph +352 621 553 884
secretarygeneral@LARI.lu

Annual Report 2019

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Secretary General Letter

LARI was extremely active in 2019 across all four service lines: Coaching, Consultation, Education, and Investigation. It seems the Luxembourg research community is fully aware of LARI and its scope of offerings—LARI worked diligently to achieve this awareness with numerous meet-and-greet sessions, conference presentations, publications, seminars and workshops, and an active social media presence. 2020 looks to be another active year and we are at the ready to assist Luxembourg researchers!



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Katrina A. Bramstedt, PhD'.

Katrina A. Bramstedt, PhD
LARI Secretary General
31 Dec 2019

Mission & Vision

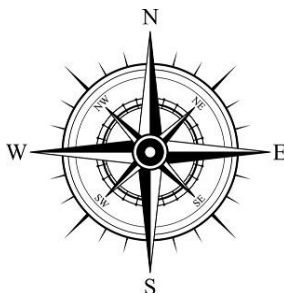
Established in 2016, the Luxembourg Agency for Research Integrity (LARI) is the national agency promoting and investigating research integrity in Luxembourg. LARI is a non-profit organization, and a joint venture between the Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR), the University of Luxembourg (UL), the Luxembourg Institute of Health (LIH), the Luxembourg Institute for Socio-Economic Research (LISER), and the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST). As such, LARI intersects with a variety of research disciplines including medicine, behavioral and social sciences, physical sciences and mathematics, engineering and materials sciences, law, and computing.

The **mission** of LARI is twofold:

- To promote responsible conduct of research;
- To ensure an independent inquiry and investigation in cases of alleged scientific misconduct.

How does LARI accomplish its mission? The LARI team uses an innovative approach that blends education and creative sessions, coaching, and consultation to foster research integrity as a value that is built into research (proactive).

LARI's **vision** is to be Luxembourg's go-to organization for questions about research ethics*, research integrity, and allegations of research misconduct. (*Note, LARI is not a research ethics committee; however, we are very concerned about concepts in research ethics because such are foundational to research integrity.)





Coaching Report

In 2019, LARI provided 11 Coaches across 4 of 5 member institutions* (Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR), University of Luxembourg (UL), the Luxembourg Institute of Health (LIH), and the Luxembourg Institute for Socio-Economic Research (LISER).

Coaches are never a replacement for the designated research supervisor; however, they are an adjunct, in-house support for answers to questions about research integrity. In 2019, the Coaches created a motto for their services to help researchers understand their function: “Coaches are trusting facilitators available to guide you on the path to research integrity.”

For more information about the LARI Coach service, go to:

<https://lari.lu/lari-services/lari-peer-coaching/>

*The Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST) opted not to participate in 2019. [Coaching is a voluntary program].

Consultation Report

Since 2018, LARI has provided a **research ethics consultation service** (<https://lari.lu/lari-services/resethics-consultation/>) staffed by the Secretary General. The consultations are provided free of charge to staff and students of the LARI member institutions and the **24 requests in 2019** covered a wide range of topics as shown in the summary below:

Source UL: 16; LISER: 3; Other 2; FNR 1; LIST 1; LIH 1

Staff requestor: 17 **Student requestor: 7**

Research ethics/integrity: 19

Organizational ethics: 5

Topic Law/Policy: 4; Research Ethics Committee Review: 4; Study Design: 3; Professionalism: 2; Authorship: 2; Publishing: 2; Animal Welfare 2; Conflict of Interest 2; Privacy: 1; Consent: 1; Harm 1

Feedback on the research ethics consultation service has been overwhelmingly positive. Below is a sampling of anonymized comments:

"Many thanks for your consult report. Your analysis is relevant to the current XXXX situation."

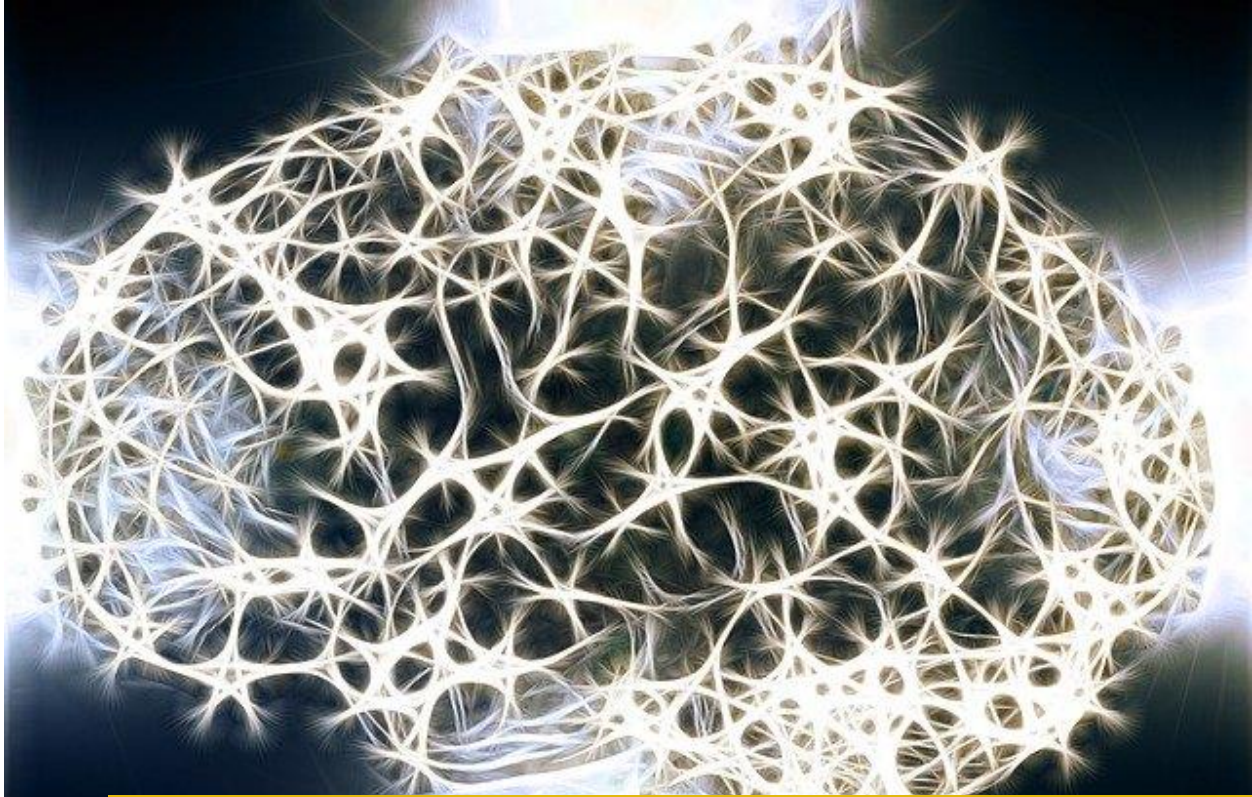
"Thanks for the discussion this morning and thanks a lot for this document [consult report]. There are some very rich resources and references. I have shared them with the team project. I have also uploaded the guidelines..."

"Thanks much for the [consult] report- very useful at this stage"

"Thanks so much....This is really great to know (actually I wish I had reached out to you earlier regarding another dispute!). This is a wonderful basis upon which to move forward – thanks for providing the links and information as back-up to strengthen my arguments."

"Thank you very much for your swift and very helpful advice, I really appreciate it very much"

"You are wonderful. Thank you so much for your quick help and a detailed report to understand the complexity of authorship problem."



TEACHING REPORT

In 2019 LARI provided **71 hours of research ethics/integrity teaching** to members' staff and students via seminars and workshops. Since 2018, LARI has provided these sessions to **250+** learners and received anonymous QA feedback from **89** respondents. In general, course feedback is very positive:

79.8% rate LARI courses Excellent or Very Good

74.2% rate course content as Extremely or Very Useful

73.0% state the course increased their interest in the topic

79.8% reported the course enhanced their observation skills

79.8% rated the creative teaching style as Extremely or Very Enjoyable

LARI uses a variety of creative tools such as art, art history, e-polling, videos, and group case discussions to teach concepts in research ethics and research integrity. Details are on our website, <https://lari.lu/lari-services/researcher-training/>.



Investigations Report

In 2019, LARI's Commission for Research Integrity (CRI) received six cases of alleged misconduct for their investigation. The CRI is an independent committee which analyzes cases, often with the help of external experts, and renders Opinions on the validity of the allegation, as well as suggests corrective action. For details on the investigative process, see our website: <https://lari.lu/lari-services/investigations-cri-rules-of-procedure/>

Below is an anonymized summary of the 2019 cases (and the result of the case received in 2018):

Case Number	Decision	Turn-Around-Time*
2018-008	Authorship problems confirmed. No fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism.	141 days
2019-021	Data misconduct not confirmed; COI confirmed; confidentiality breach detected.	168 days
2019-027	Investigation in progress	—
2019-028	Plagiarism not verified	118 days
2019-034	Investigation in progress	—
2019-039	Case screening in progress	—
2019-040	Case screening in progress	—

*Elapsed time from case receipt till case closure, excluding weekends and holidays. Case closure is the date the Opinion and closing letters are sent to all case stakeholders.

COI = conflict of interest

Conferences

By attending and presenting at conferences, LARI increases its network strength, and gains and spreads knowledge. In 2019, LARI attended 13 conferences around the world. LARI made presentations* at 8 of these conferences, summarized below:



MLE on Research Integrity: second country visit – dialogue & communication and incentives

- 📅 11 March 2019 to 12 March 2019
- 📄 DG Research and Innovation - Unit A4



*Some of these presentations are available online open-access:

Greece - <https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/policy-support-facility/mle-research-integrity>

Hong Kong - https://wcrif.org/images/2019/PDF/Abstract_book.pdf

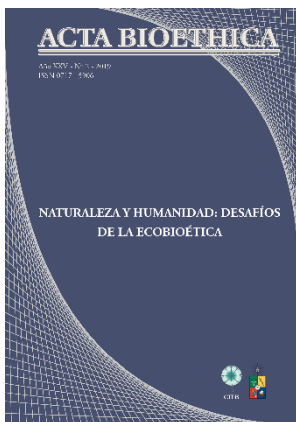
Luxembourg - <https://www.bcc.lu/news/power-cash-and-conscience-listen-to-our-panellists/>

Publications

LARI is not content to simply read the works of others. In 2019, LARI authored 3 publications as noted below:



Bramstedt KA, Xu J. A 10-year follow up of publishing ethics in China: what is new and what is unchanged. *Res Integr Peer Rev.* 2019; 4: 17.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6717980/>



Bramstedt KA. Partnering Ethics and Chemistry in Secondary and University STEM Education via an Innovatively Designed Periodic Table of Chemical Elements. In Press, *Acta Bioethica*



Bull S, Dale W, Bramstedt KA, George Jr TA. Social Media Effective Tool to Recruit Youth for Research Studies. *Med Ethics Adv* 2019;35(12):136-137.



Additionally, LARI's Secretary General peer-reviewed 20 manuscripts and 1 grant application [Marsden Fund Council, NZ] for the research community.

WWW and Social Media Analytics

LARI uses the Internet for blending learning activities, as well as a tool for networking and generally informing others about issues in research ethics and research integrity (e.g., sharing conference and grant announcements, international public record cases, journal citations).



LARI launched its website (www.LARI.lu) and social media channels in September 2018. Our viewers grew steadily in 2019 and LARI's reach extends far beyond Luxembourg! Overall, the LARI website was viewed by over 2000 visitors from 91 countries in 2019 (up from 34 countries in 2018).

Country	Views
 United States	2,709
 Luxembourg	2,333
 Germany	203
 France	115
 Italy	106

In September 2018 LARI launched Twitter and LinkedIn accounts, followed by a YouTube channel in early 2019.



219 Followers



71 Followers



1076 Views

PEOPLE

Besides the Secretary General, LARI's 2019 personnel included 11 LARI Coaches and 5 CRI members, as well as the LARI Board.

Coach	Institution	Specialty
Tonie van Dam	Univ of Lux	Geophysics, space & earth sciences, climate change, gender equality, education; English, French, Spanish.
Nicolo [Nico] Maccaferri	Univ of Lux	Physics, nanoscience, nano-optics; English, Italian, Spanish.
Ghislain Sillaume	Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History/Univ of Lux	Information architecture, multimedia design, digital technology and the practice of history, human-computer interaction; English, French.
Maria Lorena Cordero Maldonado	LCSB/Univ of Lux	Zebrafish, transcriptomics, drug discovery, biology, animal welfare; English, Spanish.
Nathalie Feltes	LCSB/Univ of Lux	Quality systems mgmt., microbiology, vaccine production, aseptic techniques, bioengineering; English, French, (German, Luxembourgish).
Asaël Ruby	FNR	Law, research funding & grants; English, German, French, Luxembourgish.
Laurent Prévotat	LIH	Quality systems management, laboratory supervision, phytopathogens, molecular biology; English, French.
Francesco Fallucchi	LISER	Behavioral economics, business economics, industrial organization; English, Italian.
Chloé Lellinger	LISER	Data protection, law; English, French.
Francisco Santana Ferra	LISER	Quality & process management, project management, political science, intl relations; English, French, Portuguese.
Catalina Lomos	LISER	Childhood, family & education policies, qual & quant analysis, large-scale assessment, statistics, SPSS; English; Romanian.

LARI Commission for Research Integrity (CRI)

- Torkild Vinther [Chair, CRI] – Former Director of the National Commission for the Investigation of Research Misconduct, Norway
- Mylène Deschenes [Vice-Chair, CRI] – Directrice des affaires éthiques et juridiques au Fonds de recherche du Québec, Canada
- Bernice Elger – Head of the Institute for Biomedical Ethics, University of Basel; Professor at the Unit of Medical Law and Humanitarian Medicine, University Center of Legal Medicine, Department of Health and Community Medicine, University of Geneva, Switzerland.
- Daniele Fanelli – Fellow in Quantitative Methodology, Department of Methodology, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK
- Vedran Katavić – Associate Professor of Human Anatomy, University of Zagreb, School of Medicine, Croatia; Ethics expert at the European Commission, Belgium.

LARI Board

Dr Marc Schiltz, Secretary General & Exec Head of the FNR

Prof Aline Muller, CEO of LISER

Dr Thomas Kallstenius, CEO of LIST

Dr Ulf Nehrbass, CEO of LIH

Prof Jens Kreisel, Vice-Rector for Research, University of Luxembourg





LOOKING AHEAD



Since mid-2018, the workload of the LARI Secretary General has been enormous, and with Board approval, LARI will expand its staff with the addition of a Research Integrity Officer (RIO). The RIO will assist LARI and the SG with administrative tasks, as well as lend support to the Coaching and Investigation service lines.



Whistleblower protection law will be changing in Luxembourg (and across the EU) in the near future. Luxembourg has chosen to apply new whistleblower protection to “all national law” (<https://tinyurl.com/ra35kqj>) thus there might be an increase in investigation requests for LARI as people in Luxembourg feel more comfortable with reporting allegations of misconduct. LARI will continue to support whistleblowers through an independent investigation process and a robust privacy policy.

FINANCIALS

This report is available for download on
<https://lari.lu/best-practice-useful-links/annual-reports/>

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For further information, please visit our website
www.LARI.lu or send an e-mail to
secretarygeneral@lari.lu

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Luxembourg Agency for Research Integrity,
a.s.b.l.
6, avenue des Hauts-Fourneaux
L-4362 Esch-sur-Alzette
Luxembourg

