AS Replication Award 2027

1. Why a Replication Award?

Reliable science depends on replications, which test the robustness and generalizability of research findings and thereby contribute to the further development of theories. This requires transparent and well-documented research—ideally with open access to data and analysis files—as well as researchers who conduct such replications. Replications are gaining increasing importance in research; for instance, institutions such as the German Research Foundation (DFG) explicitly recognize them as a component of good scientific practice. Nevertheless, they still receive relatively little attention in actual research practice (in terms of publications and citations).

The AS Replication Award aims to promote and reward replicative research. Every two years, up to two papers are recognized for making a significant contribution to the verification of research findings by replicating key elements of another study.

What is meant by „Replication“?

Replications are defined as any works that conform to one of the following formats:

(1) **Thoughtful Reproduction:** An existing study is examined by replicating its data preparation and analysis processes and checking for potential errors.[1] Furthermore, the robustness of the results is assessed with regard to purely methodological aspects—such as alternative approaches to data preparation, different methods of weighting and imputation, or varying operationalizations of variables (e.g., linear versus categorical).

(2) **Reanalysis:** This approach follows the same procedure as (1) but extends the analyses by incorporating modified and well-justified changes to the core model used for identifying causal effects—for instance, by adding different control variables, removing colliders, or addressing potential “overcontrol bias.”

(3) **Replication with new data:** Here the analysis is repeated with new data, which can be particularly useful in experiments with small numbers of cases in order to check the robustness of results.

(4) **Adversarial Collaboration**: This approach corresponds to one of the formats (1) through (3), with the distinct feature that the original authors and the replicators work together. In the case of well-documented studies with well-prepared analysis files, the role of the original authors may essentially be limited to commenting on the replication team’s findings within a joint publication—for instance, by addressing whether potential modifications to the analyses are considered appropriate, and if so (or if not), explaining why. They can also reach an agreement on which modifications to the analyses or data preparation steps are acceptable and which are not. Original authors can take a proactive role in seeking out a second team interested in replicating their study.[2]

[1] Options include "push-button" reproductions, which utilize the analysis files (e.g., Stata code) from the original paper, as well as "recreation reproductions," which are conducted without the original authors' analysis files.
[2] Simply sharing replication materials without them being used for an actual replication does not, however, merit an award. As we wish to recognize constructive collaboration, we assume the involvement of parties working directly together, without a third party. Should "arbiters" nonetheless be involved, the prize shall be divided

At the time of submission, the replications must already be published—either in a journal, as part of a doctoral dissertation or habilitation thesis, or as a preprint in a recognized repository (such as SocArXiv, SSOAR, or RePEc). Furthermore, they must address a topic or methodology of sociological relevance. In addition to work published in sociology journals, contributions to interdisciplinary journals (such as PNAS or PLOS ONE) are also eligible, provided they cover topics of sociological relevance. The replication does not need to be authored by an AS member; however, it must be nominated by an AS member (see Eligibility to nominate).

2. Evaluation criteria: What qualifies as a particularly good replication study?

- **Strength of the methodological and theoretical reasoning:** The replication study provides a convincing explanation as to why these specific modifications or tests are methodologically and/or theoretically appropriate.

- The **importance of replication** for the advancement of knowledge in sociology and/or for sociology's influence on policy and the public sphere: Replication studies are particularly relevant when they examine research findings with a high scientific impact (measured by citations, as well as media attention, relevance to evidence-based policy, or inclusion in textbooks), introduce corrections within extensively researched fields, and/or make a general methodological contribution to the question of what should be examined and how (for instance, by incorporating innovative visualizations or creative robustness tests).

- **Transparency** regarding methodology, code, and replication documentation. In the context of adversarial collaborations, the transparency and well-documented materials provided by the original authors are also worthy of recognition.

- **Pre-registration** of the replication, if applicable.[3]

- **Adherence to research ethics**, for instance with regard to a constructive and respectful approach toward original authors and their data, as well as other materials.

3. Eligibility to nominate: Who may propose works, and by what procedure?

All AS members are eligible to submit nominations; self-nominations are also welcome. An informal email, with the nominated work attached, is sufficient.

Submissions may be made until **January 31, 2027**, for any work that meets the specified replication formats and criteria and has been published since **January 1, 2024**. Please send an email to: **replikationspreis@akademie-soziologie.de**.

4. Prize Money and Award Ceremony

The prize money is 1,500 euros; in the case of "adversarial collaborations," it is 1,500 euros (750 euros for each team: the original authors and the replicators). The prize will be awarded at the AS Conference, held in Mannheim from June 23–25, 2027. Recipients will have the opportunity to briefly present their work during the event. They will be notified of the award no later than two months before the conference.

5. Jury

The selection committee consists of three individuals, at least two of whom are members of the AS.

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appropriately among the recipients.

[3] This step is particularly sensible if the pre-registration took place before the replicators had access to the data.