“Check me, replicate me” pledge: Promoting a science of collaborative replications, assessments, and corrections

I make mistakes. We’re human, we all do. In my short academic career I, time and time again, realized that it is impossible not to make mistakes. There is increasing evidence that we researchers – like any other humans - are limited by cognitive constraints and a wide array of biases and are facing increasing pressures and misaligned productivity incentives, most likely resulting in mistakes throughout the research process. How can we work to ensure a trustworthy reliable science minimizing errors and maximizing impact?

In recent years I have been working with students and an international team of early career researchers to try and assess the situation in social psychology with a focus on judgment and decision-making. Our team has been working on several initiatives:

1) we completed over a 100 replications and extensions of classic findings,
2) we conducted assessments and red-teams to examine our and others’ work,
3) we built collaborative guides, tools, and templates to help others in their open-science workflow aiming to maximize transparency and minimize errors.

Yet, replications and assessments face major challenges, with incentives aligned against replications and against identifying and publicizing mistakes. Published work is often perceived as personal and strongly linked with the authors who published it, leading to authors perceiving assessments and attempted replications of their work as a threat rather than as a service, a privilege, and an opportunity.

I will discuss several possible solutions and introduce my own pledge for “check and replicate me”, inviting others to check my research and replicate my work. I will call on other researchers to also promote and incentivize others’ assessment and replications of their research, aiming to make research corrections, replications, red teams, and research assessments mainstream.

Dr. Gilad Feldman
Assistant Professor
University of Hong Kong

This colloquium lecture takes place online!
Thursday, March 31, 2022; 3 pm