

## Reviewing Natural Language Processing Research

Kevin Bretonnel Cohen, Karën Fort, Margot Mieskes, Aurélie Névéol

► **To cite this version:**

Kevin Bretonnel Cohen, Karën Fort, Margot Mieskes, Aurélie Névéol. Reviewing Natural Language Processing Research. Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), Jul 2020, Seattle, United States. pp.16 - 18, 10.18653/v1/P17 . hal-02943568

**HAL Id: hal-02943568**

**<https://hal.inria.fr/hal-02943568>**

Submitted on 21 Sep 2020

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

# Reviewing Natural Language Processing Research

**Kevin B. Cohen**

Computational Bioscience Program  
University of Colorado, USA

kevin.cohen@gmail.com

**Margot Mieskes**

University of Applied Sciences, Darmstadt  
Germany

margot.mieskes@h-da.de

**Karën Fort**

Sorbonne Université, EA STIH, Paris  
LORIA, Nancy  
France

karen.fort@sorbonne-universite.fr

**Aurélie Névéal**

LIMSI, CNRS  
Université Paris-Saclay  
France

neveol@limsi.fr

This tutorial will cover the goals, processes, and evaluation of reviewing research in natural language processing. As has been pointed out for years by leading figures in our community (Webber, 2007), researchers in the ACL community face a heavy—and growing—reviewing burden. Simultaneously, notable “false negatives”—rejection by our conferences of work that was later shown to be tremendously important after acceptance by *other* conferences (Church, 2005)—have raised awareness of the fact that our reviewing practices leave something to be desired... and we do not often talk about “false positives” with respect to conference papers, but conversations in the hallways at \*ACL meetings suggest that we have a publication bias towards papers that report high performance, with perhaps not much else of interest in them (Manning, 2015).

It need not be this way. Reviewing is a learnable skill (Basford, 1990; Paice, 2001; Benos et al., 2003; Koike et al., 2009; Shukla, 2010; Tandon, 2014; Spyns and Vidal, 2015; Stahel and Moore, 2016; Kohlen, 2017; McFadden et al., 2017; Hill, 2018).

**Type:** Introductory

**Prerequisites:** Proficiency in English

## Reading List

- Kenneth Church. 2005. [Last words: Reviewing the reviewers](#). *Computational Linguistics*, 31(4):575–578
- Button K. S., Bal L., Clark A., and Shipley T. 2016. [Preventing the ends from justifying the means: withholding results to address publication bias in peer-review](#). *BMC Psychol.*, 4(1)
- Leif Engqvist and Joachim Frommen. 2008. [Double-blind peer review and gender publication bias](#). *Animal Behaviour*, 76:e1–e2

- Michael J. Mahoney. 1977. [Publication prejudices: An experimental study of confirmatory bias in the peer review system](#). *Cognitive Therapy and Research*, 1(2):161–175
- Mark Steedman. 2008. [Last words: On becoming a discipline](#). *Computational Linguistics*, 34(1):137–144
- Bonnie Webber. 2007. [Breaking news: Changing attitudes and practices](#). *Computational Linguistics*, 33(4):607–611

## 0.1 Presenters (in alphabetical order)

**Kevin Bretonnel Cohen** has written, overseen, and received hundreds of reviews.

**Karën Fort** is an associate professor at Sorbonne Université. Besides being a reviewer for most major NLP conferences, she has been editor in chief for a *Traitement automatique des langues* journal special issue on ethics and acted as Area Chair for ACL in 2017 and 2018 (as senior AC). She co-authored the report on the EMNLP reviewer survey (Névéal et al., 2017).

**Margot Mieskes** is a professor at the Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences. She has written and received reviews for numerous conferences and journals. She is a member of the ACL Professional Conduct Committee and an active member of the Widening NLP efforts. She co-authored the report on EMNLP reviewer survey (Névéal et al., 2017).

## References

- P Basford. 1990. How to... review an article. *Nursing times*, 86(40):61–61.
- Dale J Benos, Kevin L Kirk, and John E Hall. 2003. How to review a paper. *Advances in physiology education*, 27(2):47–52.

- Kenneth Church. 2005. [Last words: Reviewing the reviewers](#). *Computational Linguistics*, 31(4):575–578.
- Leif Engqvist and Joachim Frommen. 2008. [Double-blind peer review and gender publication bias](#). *Animal Behaviour*, 76:e1–e2.
- Michael D Hill. 2018. How to review a clinical research paper. *Stroke*, 49(5):e204–e206.
- Thomas Kohnen. 2017. How to write a good peer review. *Journal of Cataract & Refractive Surgery*, 43(10):1243–1244.
- Kaoru Koike, Luca Ansaloni, Fausto Catena, and Ernest E Moore. 2009. WJES: how to review a clinical paper. *World Journal of Emergency Surgery*, 4(1):8.
- Michael J. Mahoney. 1977. [Publication prejudices: An experimental study of confirmatory bias in the peer review system](#). *Cognitive Therapy and Research*, 1(2):161–175.
- Christopher D Manning. 2015. Computational linguistics and deep learning. *Computational Linguistics*, 41(4):701–707.
- David McFadden, Scott LeMaire, Michael Sarr, and Kevin Behrns. 2017. How to review a paper: Suggestions from the editors of surgery and the journal of surgical research. *Surgery*, 162(1):1–6.
- Aurélie Névéol, Karën Fort, and Rebecca Hwa. 2017. [Report on EMNLP Reviewer Survey](#). Technical report, Association for Computational Linguistics.
- Elisabeth Paice. 2001. How to write a peer review. *Hospital Medicine*, 62(3):172–175.
- Button K. S., Bal L., Clark A., and Shipley T. 2016. [Preventing the ends from justifying the means: withholding results to address publication bias in peer-review](#). *BMC Psychol.*, 4(1).
- Satish K Shukla. 2010. How to review an article. *Indian Journal of Surgery*, 72(2):93–96.
- Peter Spyns and María-Esther Vidal. 2015. *Scientific Peer Reviewing: Practical Hints and Best Practices*. Springer.
- Philip F Stahel and Ernest E Moore. 2016. How to review a surgical paper: a guide for junior referees. *BMC medicine*, 14(1):29.
- Mark Steedman. 2008. [Last words: On becoming a discipline](#). *Computational Linguistics*, 34(1):137–144.
- Rajiv Tandon. 2014. How to review a scientific paper. *Asian journal of psychiatry*, 11:124–127.
- Bonnie Webber. 2007. [Breaking news: Changing attitudes and practices](#). *Computational Linguistics*, 33(4):607–611.