Title:
Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on Scientists’ Research

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Abstract:
The onset of COVID-19 has had an immediate impact on how scientists are able to use their time and resources to do research. However, there is a lack of data on how scientists are responding to this event and the heterogeneous disruptions to specific scientists (i.e., per their demographics) and to specific fields and types of research. Our goal is to gather timely data on how scientists have been, and expect to be, affected by the pandemic in order to inform scientific institutions’ responses to the pandemic.

Data Description:
The survey instrument asks scientists about their time allocations, their expectations about changes to their funding and publication flows, and their research direction (for instance, will they shift towards work related to COVID-19 and pandemics?). We also have components that solicit demographic characteristics (i.e., number and age of dependents), as well as features of scientists’ work (e.g. capital intensity). There are three versions of the survey--one for faculty/principal investigators, one for postdoctoral researchers, and one for graduate students. The postdoc and graduate student versions focus more on respondents’ perceptions about their ability to finish their studies or training, and their expectations about obtaining their preferred positions post-pandemic. Surveys have been distributed to the U.S. and European countries and data collection is underway.

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