

BITSS

Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences

Annual Meeting – December 2013

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Research transparency in social science

- There has been a flurry of activity regarding research transparency across disciplines in recent years, driven by a growing recognition that many influential research findings are fragile (at best).
- The use of rigorous experimental research designs, including randomized control trials, alone may not be enough to ensure credible bodies of scientific evidence.
- The stakes are high since policy decisions based on social science research affect millions of people.

The BITSS network

- The Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences (BITSS) is a new interdisciplinary network that aims to facilitate discussion, build consensus and promote adoption of promising transparency practices across research fields.
- The December 2012 meeting in Berkeley drove home the point that there are many shared interests, goals and challenges facing scholars across the social sciences – and that we could have greater impact through collaboration.

BITSS: looking back at 2013

- Recent and ongoing activities:
 1. Forum on the CEGA Blog (3/2013) with contributions from 10 leading political scientists, economists, and international development experts.
 2. Current content on the new BITSS Blog (**bitss.org**)
 3. Sessions at major professional meetings (in political science, psychology, economics)
 4. *An inter-disciplinary journal statement by several participants in today's meeting ("Promoting Transparency in Social Science Research"), currently forthcoming in the journal *Science*.

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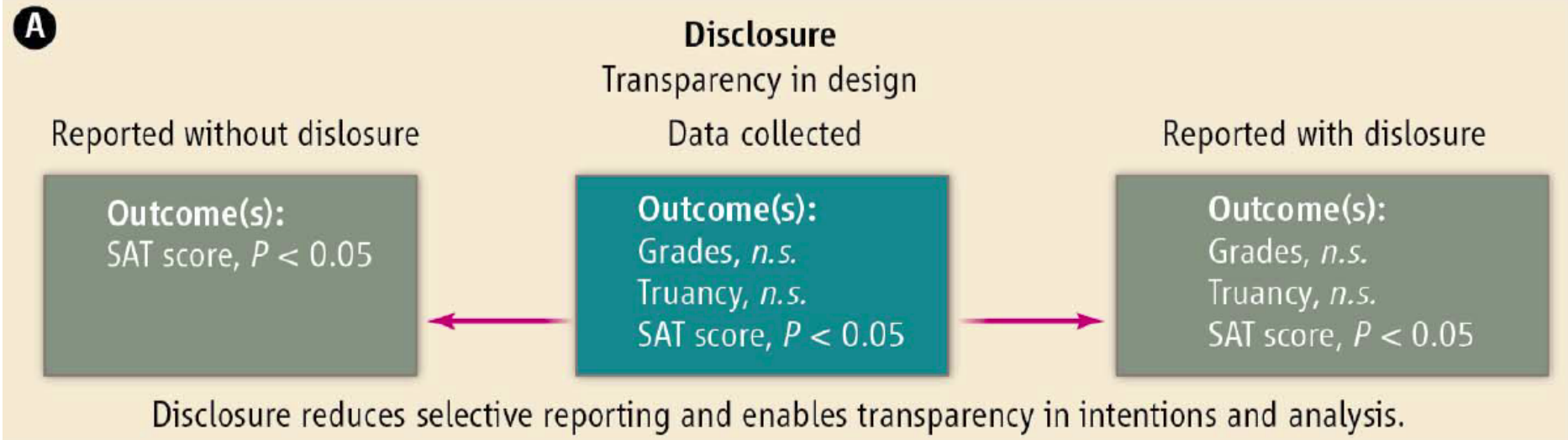


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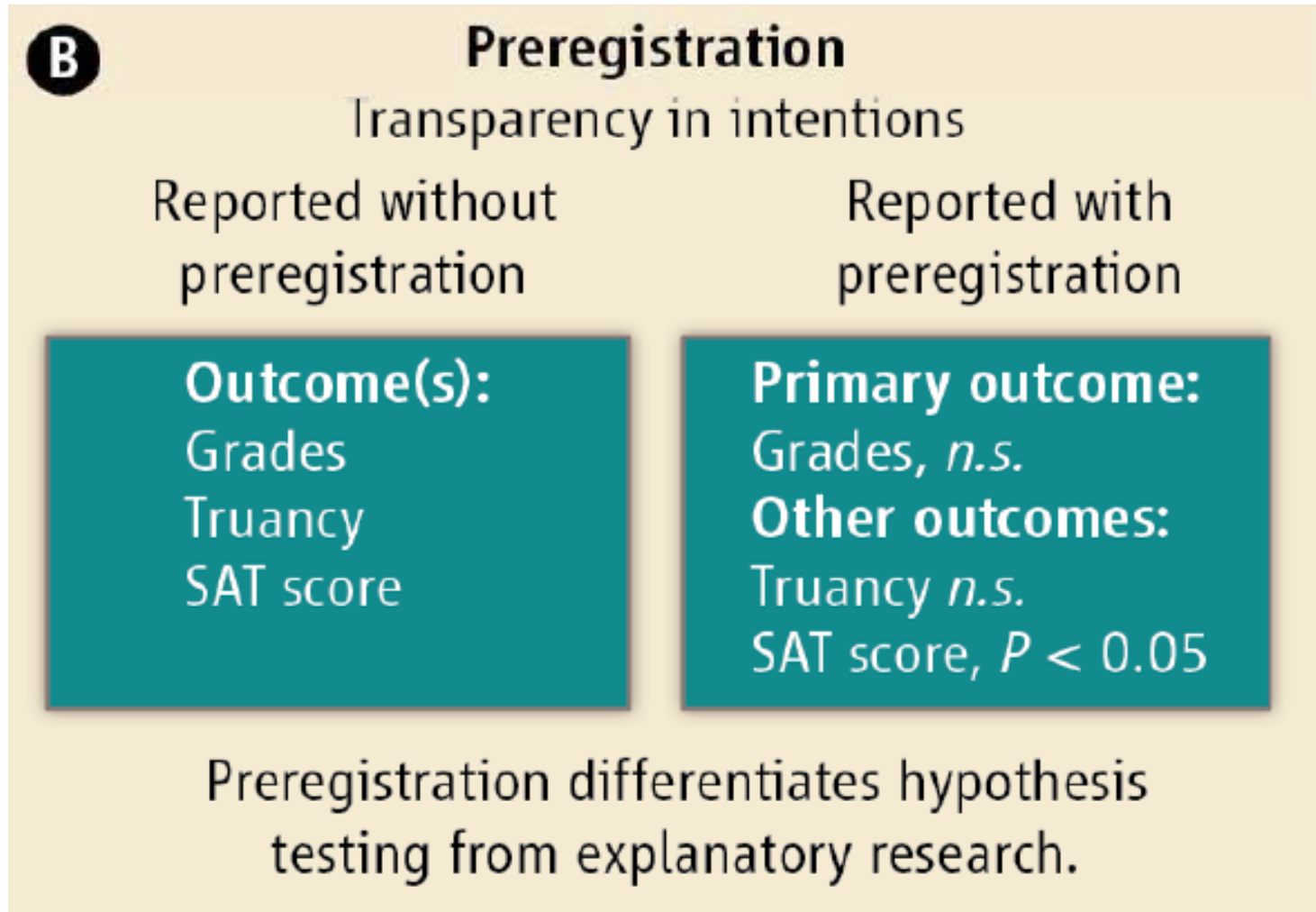


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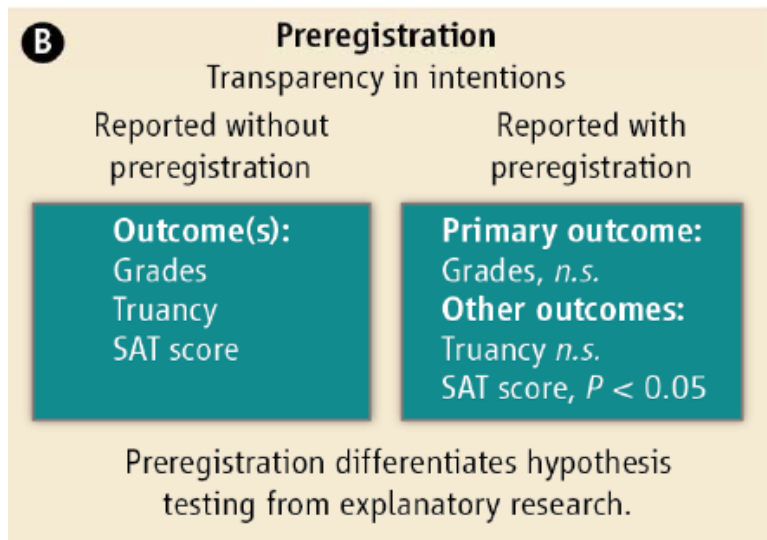
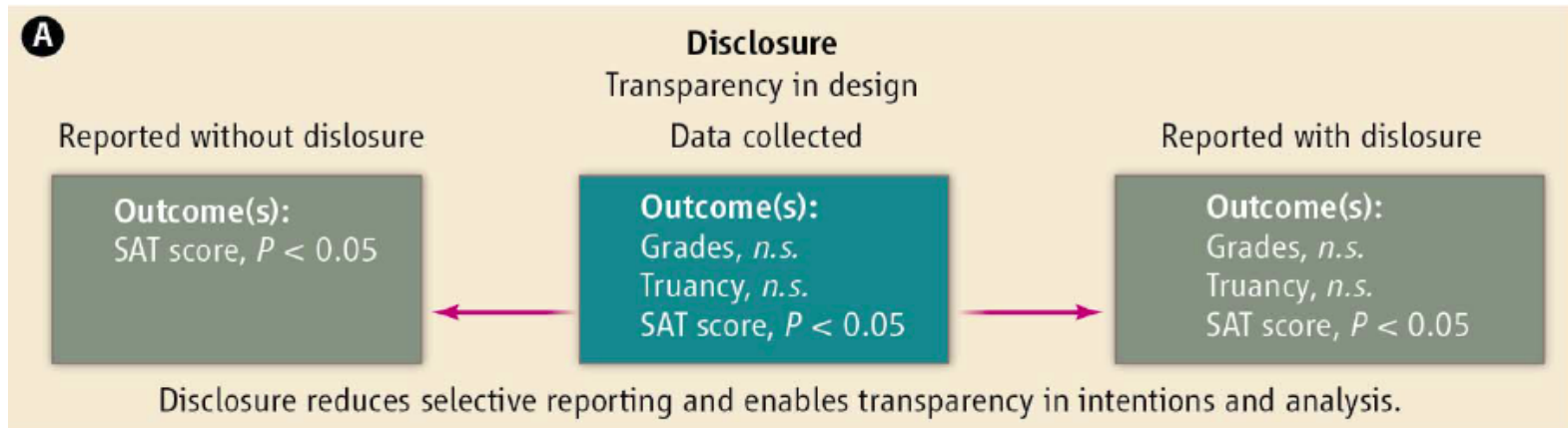
Open data and materials Transparency in analysis

Summer break	Grades	Truancy	SAT score
Short	2.95	2%	1020
Short	3.30	0%	1360
Long	2.32	4%	9.80 ?
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Research transparency: open questions

- In the article we discuss further areas of inquiry:
 1. How can social science practices improve on the study registration system in place for medical trials?
 2. How widely should transparency practices be applied?
 - I.e., to non-experimental, qualitative, or historical data? Even to theoretical and conceptual research?
 - In particular, how should registration and analysis plans be applied to the analysis of existing data?
 3. Will transparency practices stifle creativity and limit discoveries made through exploratory research?

BITSS: looking forward

- Plans for 2014 (so far):
 1. BITSS conferences and meetings in 2014.
 2. Sessions at professional meetings (AEA, APSA 2014)
 3. Small grants to reward or encourage data transparency practices, including data sharing and documentation
 4. *Training course on research transparency issues, practices and tools (for students, post-docs, and others) in Berkeley through ICPSR, summer 2014 [Guillaume]
 5. Further publications in disciplinary journals, edited volumes, popular media, or other fora [Kevin]

This meeting's agenda

- Yesterday:
 - Open Science Framework (OSF) presentation, training
- Today:
 - Disclosure and Pre-specification
 - Open Data and Protection of Research Subjects
 - Replication
 - Changing Behaviors, Norms and Institutions
 - Perspectives from Funders
 - Action-oriented Closing Session

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