

Research integrity: thick and thin

Dr Michael Vincent, University of Queensland

Dr Mark Hooper, Tricky Goose Training

Disclosure of interests

Michael Vincent works for the University of Queensland.

Mark Hooper is the Director of Tricky Goose Training, which is a sponsor of this conference.

Separately, Mark also works for the Queensland University of Technology and is a Council Member for COPE.

**Sometimes, when we codify or
incentivise research integrity, we
can be counterproductive.**

We agree codes of practice for research integrity are necessary and important

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We agree we need to change the incentive structure of academia to promote research integrity

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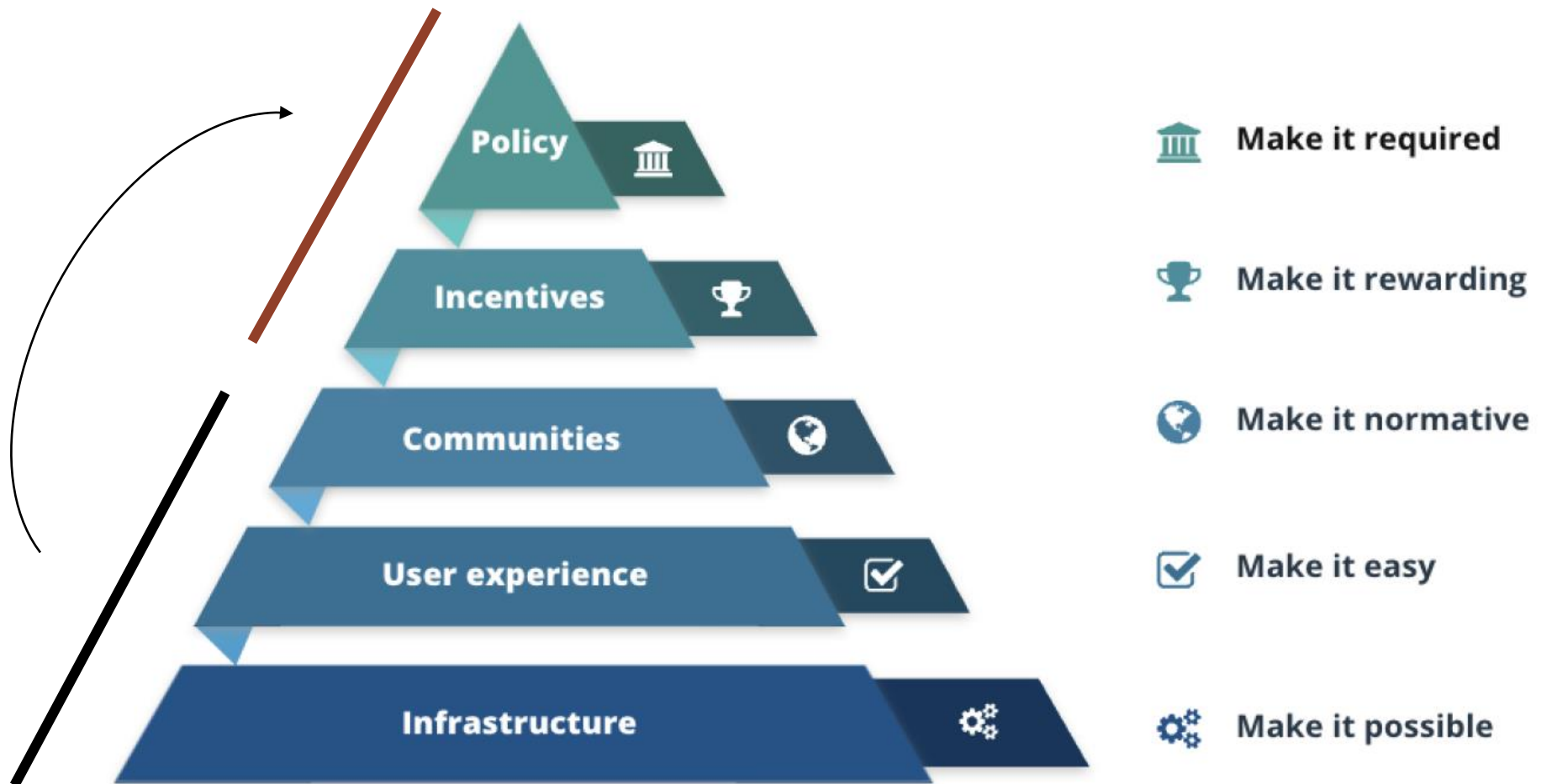
*Even so, we argue that
such efforts can sometimes
be counterproductive.*

Cultural change



Nosek, B. A., et al. (2017). Center for Open Science: Strategic Plan.

There are circumstances in which rules and incentives may be counterproductive to promoting good research conduct.



THICK AND THIN

A **thick ethos** is a case in which a person has internalised a complex schema of values, knowledge, heuristics, and skills. It is affirmed by, and part of, their character as a whole.

Thin values are simple values, often quantifiable, or easily assessable.

Examples of 'thin' values

- A simple, blanket, rule
- Monetary incentives
- Student grades

Codification

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integrity

The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity

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Australian Government
National Health and Medical Research Council
Australian Research Council

UNIVERSITIES AUSTRALIA

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH

Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research

2018

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH

World Health Organization
www.who.int/about/ethics

Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity

2018

Singapore Statement on Research Integrity

Preamble. The value and benefits of research are vitally dependent on the integrity of research. While there can be and are national and disciplinary differences in the way research is organized and conducted, there are also principles and professional responsibilities that are fundamental to the integrity of research wherever it is undertaken.

PRINCIPLES

- Honesty** in all aspects of research
- Accountability** in the conduct of research
- Professional courtesy and fairness** in working with others
- Good stewardship** of research on behalf of others

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Integrity:** Researchers should take responsibility for the trustworthiness of their research.
- Adherence to Regulations:** Researchers should be aware of and adhere to regulations and policies related to research.
- Research Methods:** Researchers should employ appropriate research methods, base conclusions on critical analysis of the evidence and report findings and interpretations fully and objectively.
- Research Records:** Researchers should keep clear, accurate records of all research in ways that will allow verification and replication of their work by others.
- Research Findings:** Researchers should share data and findings openly and promptly, as soon as they have had an opportunity to establish priority and ownership claims.
- Authorship:** Researchers should take responsibility for their contributions to all publications, funding applications, reports and other representations of their research. Lists of authors should include all those and only those who meet applicable authorship criteria.
- Publication Acknowledgement:** Researchers should acknowledge in publications the names and roles of those who made significant contributions to the research, including writers, funders, sponsors, and others, but do not meet authorship criteria.
- Peer Review:** Researchers should provide fair, prompt and rigorous evaluations and respect confidentiality when reviewing others' work.
- Conflict of Interest:** Researchers should disclose financial and other conflicts of interest that could compromise the trustworthiness of their work in research proposals, publications and public communications as well as in all review activities.
- Public Communication:** Researchers should limit professional comments to their recognized expertise when engaged in public discussions about the application and importance of research findings and clearly distinguish professional comments from opinions based on personal views.
- Reporting Irresponsible Research Practices:** Researchers should report to the appropriate authorities any suspected research misconduct, including fabrication, falsification or plagiarism, and other irresponsible research practices that undermine the trustworthiness of research, such as careless or irresponsibly listing authors, failing to report conflicting data, or the use of misleading analytical methods.
- Responding to Irresponsible Research Practices:** Research institutions, as well as journals, professional organizations and agencies that have commitments to research, should have procedures for responding to allegations of misconduct and other irresponsible research practices and for protecting those who report such behavior in good faith. When misconduct or other irresponsible research practice is confirmed, appropriate actions should be taken promptly, including correcting the research record.
- Research Environments:** Research institutions should create and sustain environments that encourage integrity through education, clear policies, and reasonable standards for advancement, while fostering work environments that support research integrity.
- Societal Considerations:** Researchers and research institutions should recognize that they have an ethical obligation to weigh societal benefits against risks inherent in their work.

The Singapore Statement on Research Integrity was developed as part of the 2nd World Conference on Research Integrity, 27-29 July 2016, in Singapore, as a global guide to the responsible conduct of research. It is not a regulatory instrument and does not represent the official position of any participating organization or government. For more information, please visit www.singaporestatement.sg

THE CONCORDAT TO SUPPORT RESEARCH INTEGRITY

THE HONG KONG PRINCIPLES FOR ASSESSING RESEARCHERS

FOSTERING RESEARCH INTEGRITY

What are the HKP?
The Hong Kong Principles (HKP) were developed as part of the 6th World Conference on Research Integrity. They were developed to reinforce the need to ensure that researchers are rewarded for specific behaviors that promote trustworthy research. The HKP have been developed with the idea that implementation of them could assist in how researchers are assessed for career advancement with a view to strengthen research integrity.

PRINCIPLE	IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES
1. Assess responsible research practices.	The NIH recommends Experimental Design Assistant (EDA) developed by NSORs. This 10-module on-line tool helps researchers prepare the design and analysis requested for grant applications.
2. Value complete reporting.	Wellcome Trust's Open Research (WOR) editorial policies require authors to use reporting guidelines for protocols (e.g., SPIRIT) and completed studies (e.g., ARRIVE). The Universidade Federal de Ciências da Saúde de Porto Alegre (UFCSA, Brazil, has a formal course on reporting guidelines that students can complete as formal credit towards their degree.
3. Reward the practice of open science.	The University of Cambridge has introduced 'data champions'. Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands, is implementing this as a career assessment criterion. The Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, implemented an Open Access policy in 2011. At NTU's faculty of medicine, random audits are conducted to ensure adherence.
4. Acknowledge a broad range of research activities.	The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research is in its third call for replication studies. PLOS Biology and eLife have meta-research sections in their respective journals.
5. Recognize essential other tasks such as peer reviewing and mentoring.	The University of Glasgow's academic promotion criteria rewards researchers for participation in peer review and other related activities (e.g., journal editorship).

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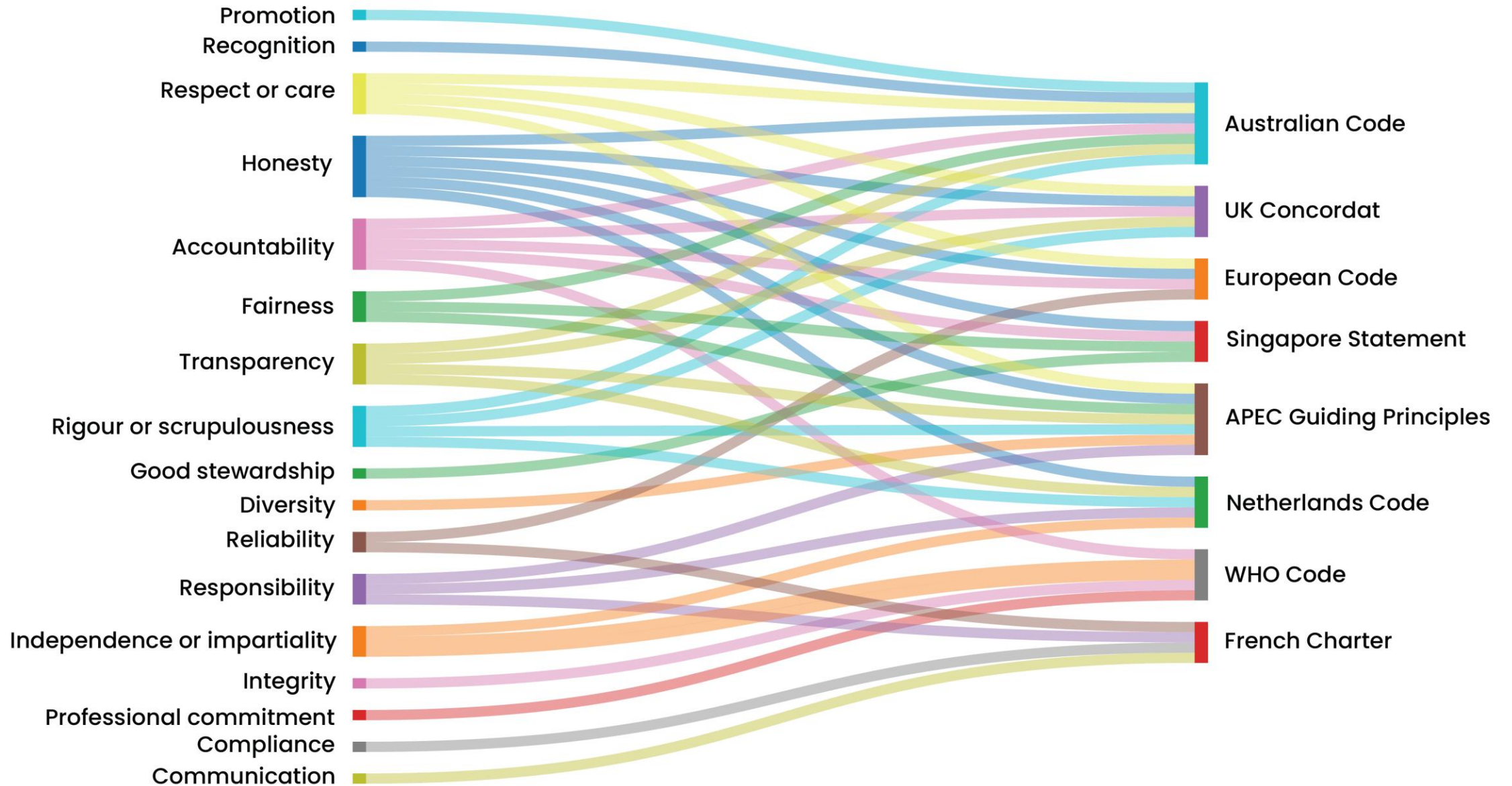
APEC Guiding Principles for Research Integrity

Human Resources Development Working Group

French charter for Research Integrity

January 2015 (ratifications as of 22 January 2019)

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Members of the ALLEA Permanent Working Group on Science and Ethics

Maura Hiney (Chair) – Royal Irish Academy, **Drafting Group**

László Fésüs – Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Göran Hermerén – Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities, **Drafting Group**

Lisa Maria Herzog – Global Young Academy, **Drafting Group**

Anne Ruth Mackor – Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences

Anne Sophie Meincke – Austrian Academy of Sciences

Bertil Emrah Oder – Bilim Akademisi (The Science Academy, Turkey)

Deborah Oughton – Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, **Drafting Group**

Roger Pfister – Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

Pere Puigdomènech – Royal Academy of Sciences and Arts of Barcelona, Institute for Catalan Studies (Spain)

Michael Quante – Union of German Academies of Sciences and Humanities

Nils-Eric Sahlin – Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities

Camilla Serck-Hanssen – Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters

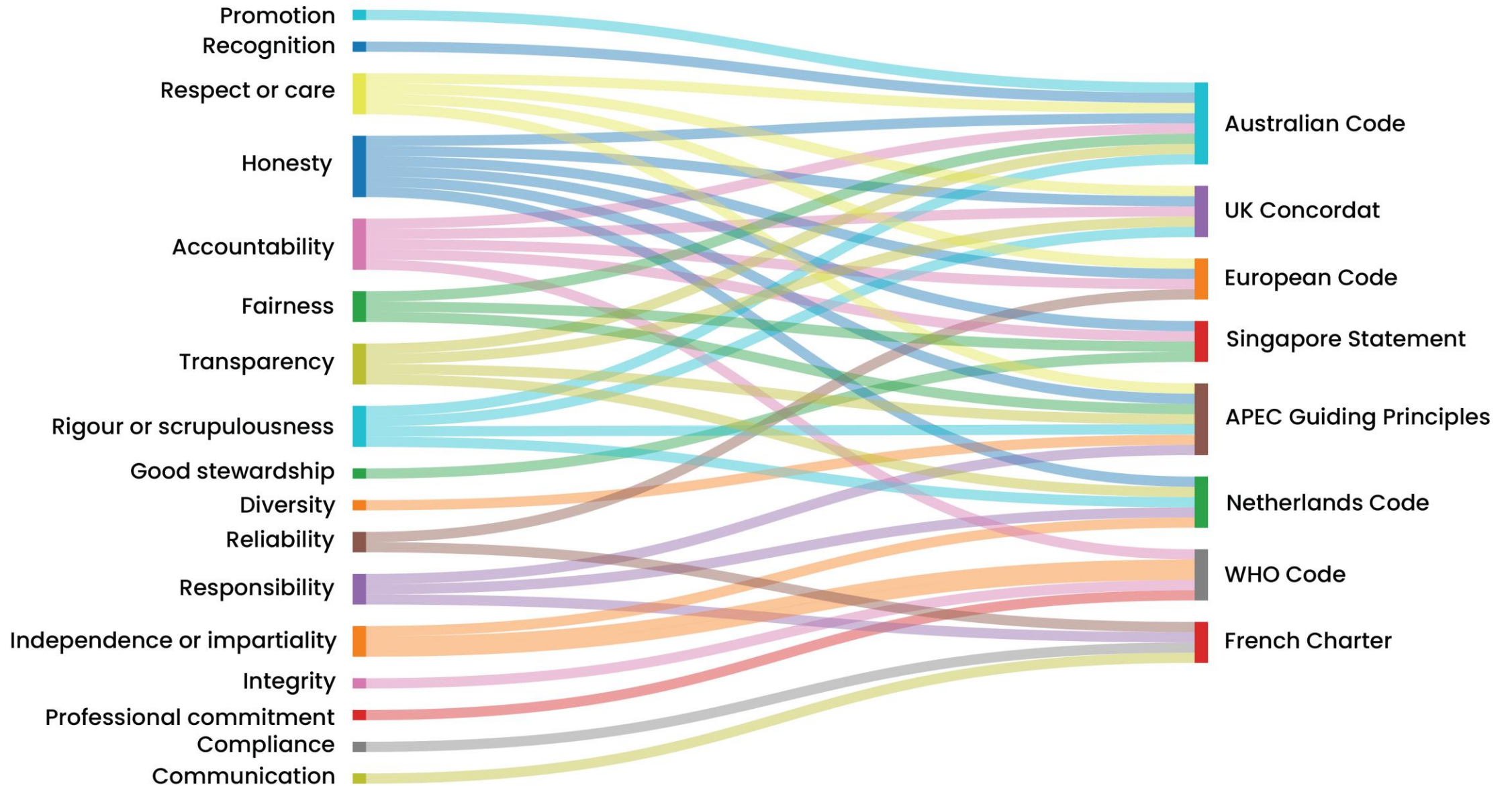
Raivo Uibo – Estonian Academy of Sciences

Els Van Damme – Royal Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts of Belgium, **Drafting Group**

Krista Varantola – Council of Finnish Academies, **Drafting Group (Chair)**

Support to the PWGSE and Drafting Group: Mathijs Vleugel (ALLEA Secretariat)

More information about the ALLEA Permanent Working Group on Science and Ethics can be found at <https://allea.org/research-integrity-and-research-ethics/>.



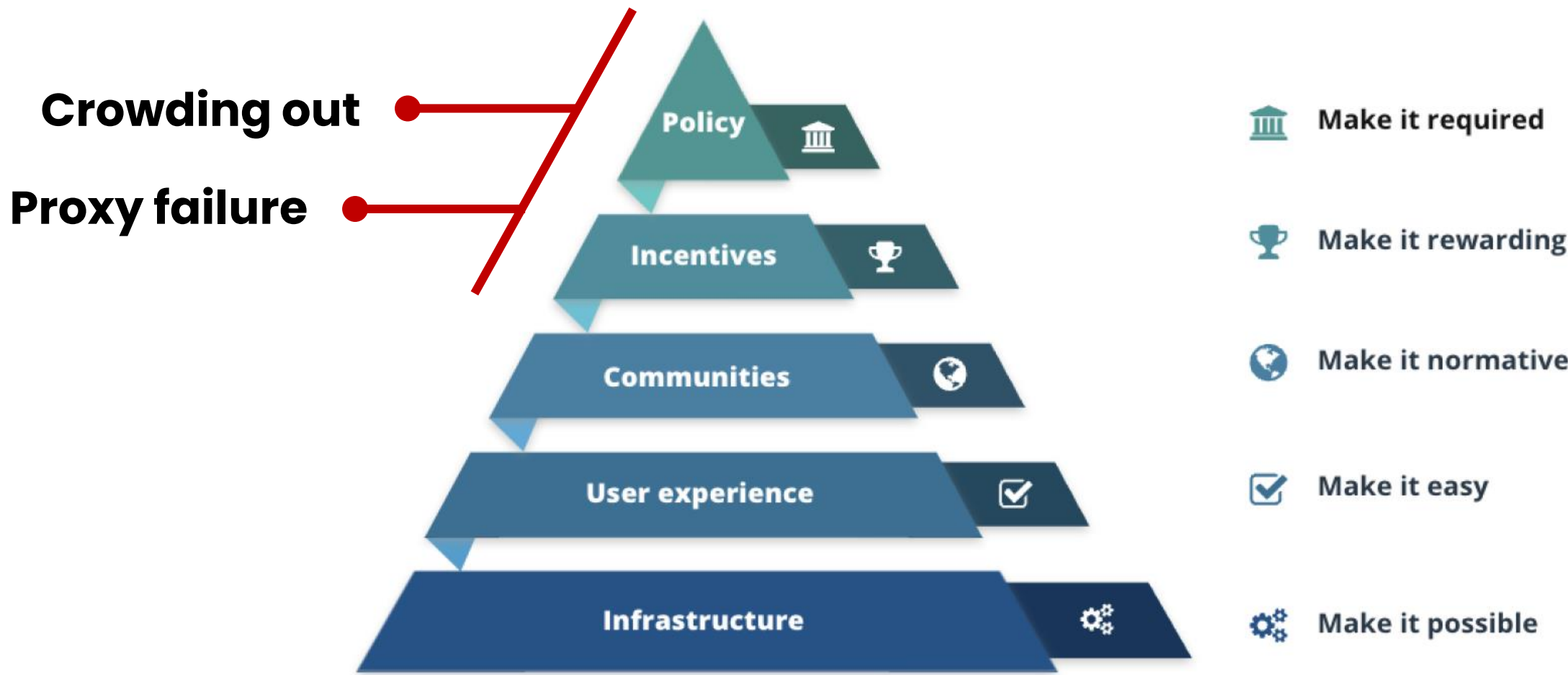


Mistaking the map
for the territory



Mistaking the map
for the territory

**Thin values,
crowding out, and
proxy failure**



Crowding out refers to the phenomenon of one value (a thin value) hiding or distracting us from the presence of other values.

“In Haifa, at six day care centers, a fine was imposed on parents who were late in picking up their children at the end of the day. It did not work. Parents responded to the fine by doubling the fraction of time they arrived late.”



- bribe
- prize
- compensation
- fruits of one's labour
- etc.

Which of these are at odds with integrity?

This is an exercise in 'framing effects'. Even within the realm of thin values, crowding out can be avoided.

We should consider which sorts of thin values are consistent with each other (and which are consistent with the development or learning of a thick ethos).

Proxy failure



Proxy failure

Give credit

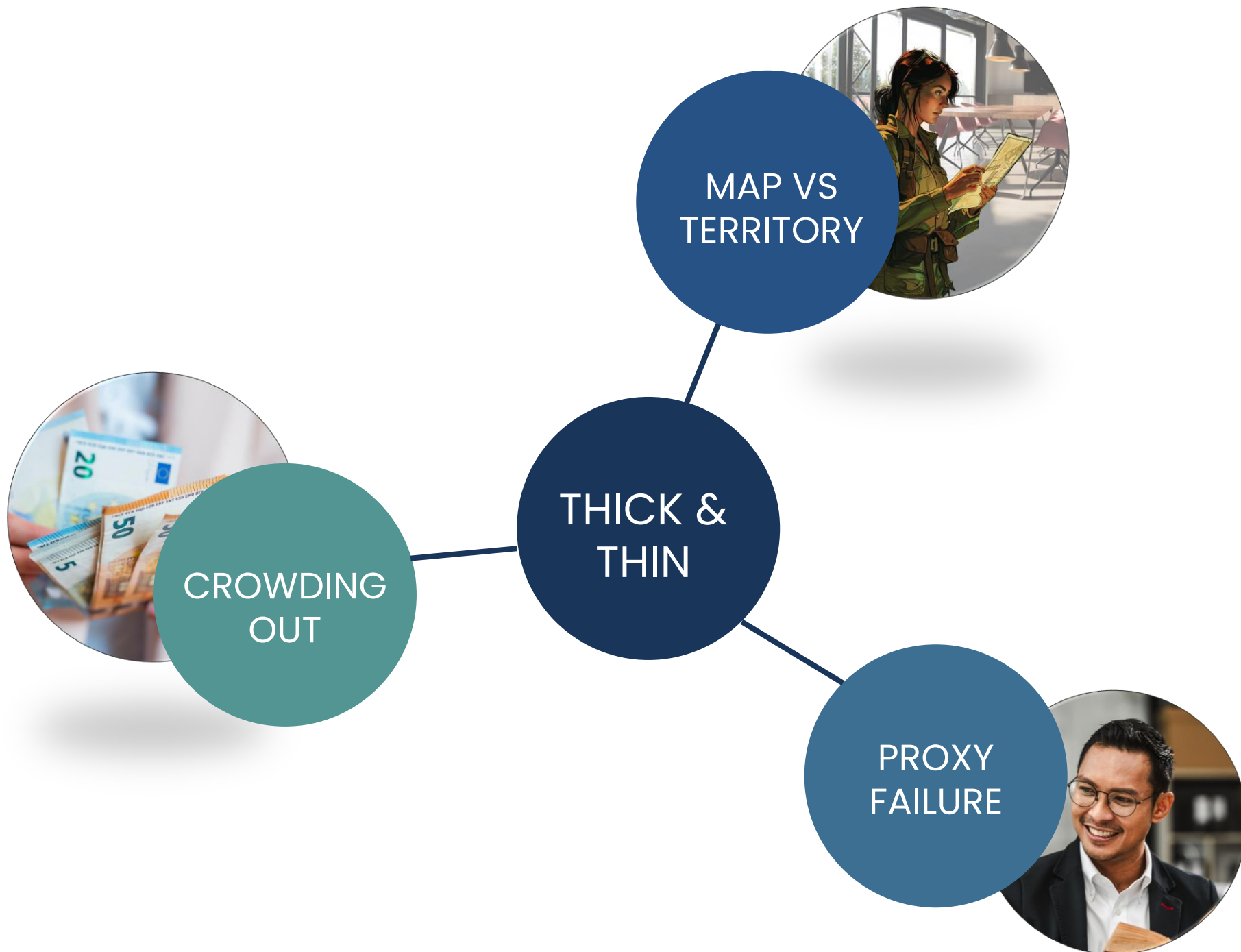
Ensure plagiarism (text-matching) is less than 10%

Be open

Include a data availability statement



“Data available on reasonable request”



"Every skill and every inquiry,
and similarly every action and
rational choice, is thought to
aim at some good; and so *the
good has been aptly
described as that at which
everything aims.*"

(Aristotle, opening line of the
Nicomachean Ethics)

