

PHILOSOPHY

TOO MANY COMPLAINTS ABOUT eLIFE

31.10.2022 1 COMMENT

Following the [recent announcement of eLife](#) to overcome a accept/reject decision

We have found that these public preprint reviews and assessments are far more effective than binary accept or reject decisions ever could be at conveying the thinking of our reviewers and editors, and capturing the nuanced, multidimensional, and often ambiguous nature of peer review.

there are now [many complaints](#)

Destroying eLife's reputation for selectivity does not serve science. Changes that pretend scientists do not care about publishing in highly selective journals will end eLife's crucial role in science publishing, says long-time supporter Paul Bieniasz

While the announcement could have come in a more polite way – creating a second tier of an eLife archive – I believe this is a good decision. The rejection attitude is basically driven that “your inferior paper would harm my journal impact” while it just goes to another journal. Publication [is seldom stopped](#) so it produces workload at other journals and for other reviewers in particular when the initial reviews are not public.

The eLife decision therefore breaks a vicious circle.

27.11.2024

Unfortunately, eLife is now starting again to reject papers. From an email that I received this month

In this case the editorial team felt that the manuscript should be reviewed by a more specialized community. Where results are principally useful within a specialised community, then it is likely that this audience can evaluate the paper themselves, so the public reviews and assessments carry less value. We also think that in these cases more specialised journals are likely to be able to find more suitable technical reviewers than eLife. We wish you good luck in getting your work reviewed and published by another journal.

eLife is also been [delisted now](#), maybe it wasn't a good idea to fire [Michael Eisen](#).

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