# Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences: what do they need from COPE?

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# Looking back …

1997    COPE established by a group of **medical** journal editors

1999    Good Publication Practice Guidelines drafted by 8 leading **medical editors/physicians**

2004..    Code of Conduct for Editors established calling on editors "to take seriously their role as **guardians of biomedical science"**

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2015    COPE membership survey recommends more engagement with the Arts and Humanities sectors to make COPE services more relevant to their needs

# Perceptions of COPE

*"My impression is that it is far more relevant to a scientific journal than to ours"*

*"a central point of contact and advice for publisher-wide discussions and policy formulations as they apply to the ethics of scientific publishing"*

*"COPE is an organization for editors and publishers of medical journals to consider publication ethics, including providing guidelines and advice."*
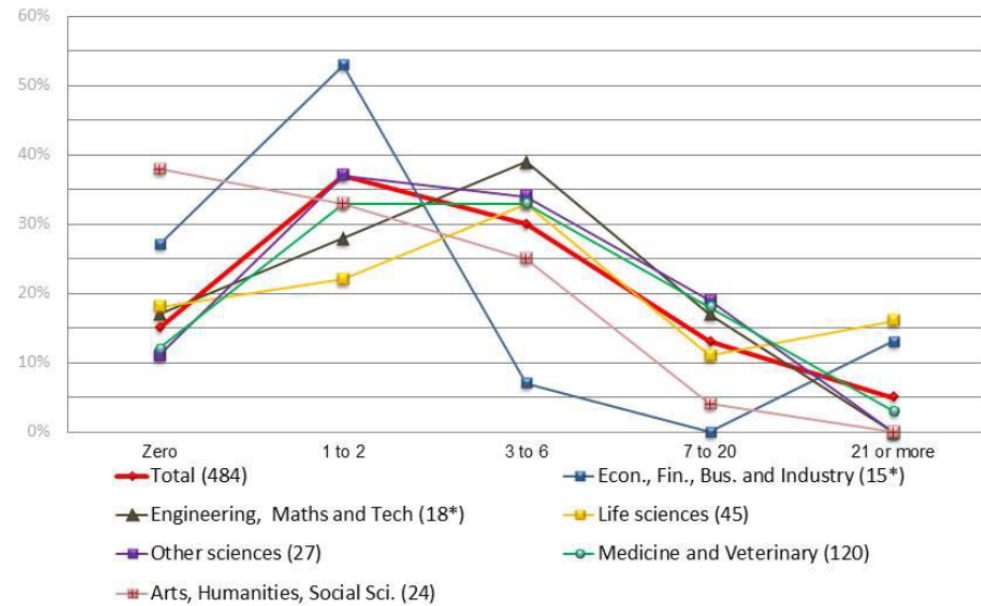
*"An organization dealing with ethical issues related to scientific publishing."*

Taylor & Francis Group
an informa business

# Prevalence of ethics cases in AHSS

## Volume of publication ethics cases seen annually



Base: All with an opinion ()
* Indicates caution: low base of less than 20 respondents

- Ethics cases are perceived as less prevalent in AHSS but those that are picked up are often more serious, needing legal advice, when they occur
  - Only 1/3 of the ethics cases logged at T&F over the past 12 months were AHSS, but 83% of the cases dealt with by the T&F legal counsel are AHSS
- On the Retraction Watch leaderboard, 5 of the top 20 are from non-STM subjects

# Similarities and differences

- **Authorship disputes**
  - Different definitions of authorship apply
- **Plagiarism**
  - Definitions are the same
- **Human subjects**
  - Same rules around ethics approval but different language needed
- **Libel and Defamation**
  - more focus on subjective analyses of other people's views and the world around us, rather than "raw laboratory data", so greater libel risks

# Looking forward

- Seminar/workshop late 2017 in USA to bring together experts to discuss the specific needs of AHSS editors and how COPE can support them, for example through providing:
  - Guidelines and training which support AHSS-specific problems and are written in the language that is clearly for the audience
  - More cases covering AHSS in forums and digest
  - Digest to cover more AHSS topics

- What else?