SC: Research Integrity Under Pressure

PART I — FORESIGHT SNAPSHOT | SC: Research Integrity Under Pressure | Fixed Time-Stamped Synthesis

SC: Research Integrity Under Pressure

Card Type	Societal Challenge
Series	Immersive Futures Guild — Vision 2035
Layer	1 — Atomic Foresight Object
Status	Active
Confidence	Medium
Workshop	Circle of Scholars — January 2026
Facilitator	Circle of Scholars Workshop Team
Tags	research-integrity | evidence | methodology | layer1 | sc
Tally.so Form	https://tally.so/r/ilrn-if-sc-ri-2026

The combination of commercial incentive, rapid technology cycles, and publication pressure creates conditions in which research quality in immersive learning is under significant and documented strain. Underpowered studies, outcome measure inconsistency, publication bias toward positive findings, and vendor-funded research all contribute to an evidence base that is thinner and more contested than is typically acknowledged in introductory claims. The iLRN Knowledge Tree is, in part, a direct infrastructure response to this challenge.

Key Drivers / Contributing Conditions:

- Vendor-academic entanglement and conflict of interest normalization
- Publication bias and replication crisis in educational technology research
- Outcome measure fragmentation preventing cumulative synthesis
- Pressure to demonstrate impact on short institutional timescales

Educational and Design Implications:

- Pre-registration norms and conflict of interest disclosure standards
- Investment in replication studies and null-result publication
- Knowledge Tree methodology as corrective infrastructure for the field

Tensions Carried Forward to Part II:

- How should practitioners use evidence when the evidence base is known to be unreliable?
- What level of methodological scrutiny is appropriate before making design recommendations?

Linked Scenarios / Strands: See cross-links above

Ways of Knowing: Tree · Garden · Lantern

PART II — COMMUNITY EVIDENCE & DIALOGUE TRACK | SC: Research Integrity Under Pressure | H2 2026 — Living

T	COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION FORM — SC: Research Integrity Under Pressure Submit case examples, methodological challenges, cultural perspectives, and proposed evidence criteria via: https://tally.so/r/ilrn-if-sc-ri-2026

Part II — Scope and Instructions
This section collects community responses, case examples, and challenges to the Part I foresight snapshot above.
It opens July 1, 2026 and undergoes synthesis review in September 2026, November 2026, and January 2027.
Contributions are submitted via the Tally.so form above and appear in the registers below after editorial review.
The Part I text is not modified in response to Part II contributions; it is versioned at the Annual Handoff review.
Contribution categories: Case Example | Methodological Challenge | Cultural/Community Perspective | Proposed Evidence Criterion
Ways of Knowing accepted: Tree (evidence) | Garden (practice) | Lantern (futures)

Tensions Open for Community Response:

- How should practitioners use evidence when the evidence base is known to be unreliable?

- What level of methodological scrutiny is appropriate before making design recommendations?

Contributor / Date	Category	Way of Knowing	Contribution Summary
[Awaiting contributions — form opens July 1, 2026]			

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