

POSITION PAPER

CORRECTIONS NOT FOUND:

POST-PUBLICATION INTEGRITY IN
USABLE SECURITY AND PRIVACY
RESEARCH

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Errare Humanum Est.

Errors during the scientific endeavor are normal.

Analysis

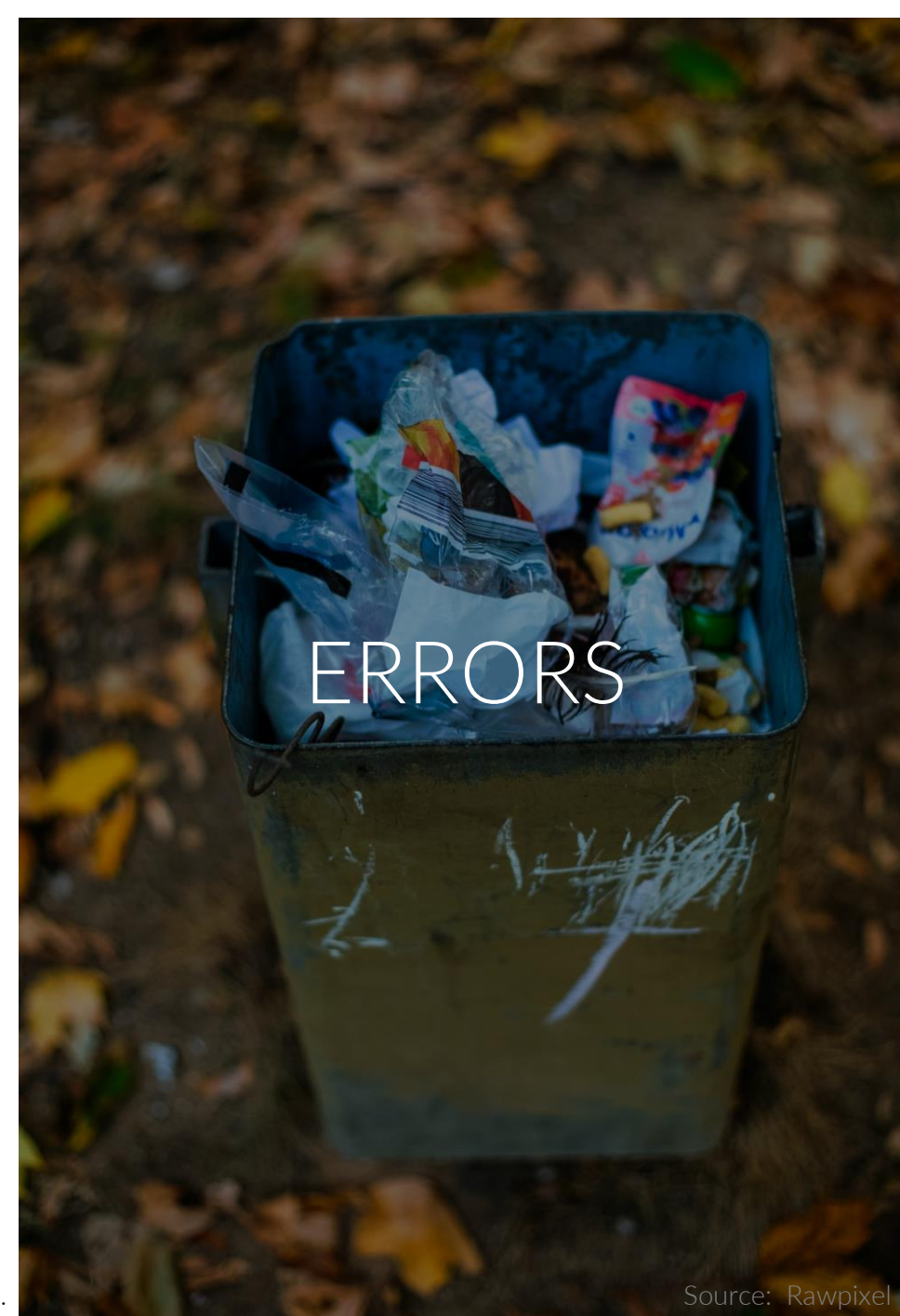
Data

Conclusions

Spelling mistakes

Meta-data inaccuracies

...



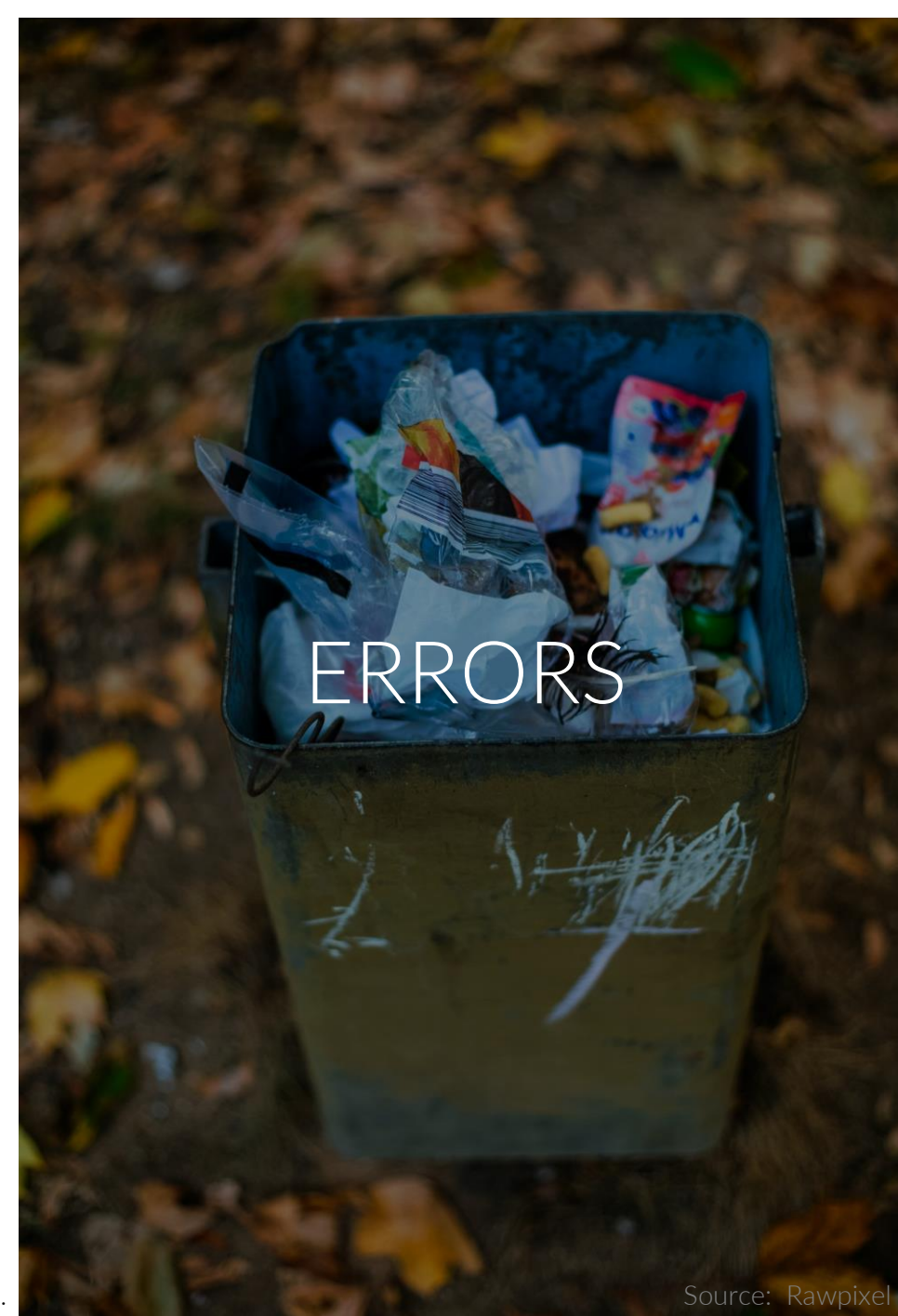
Why Should I Care?

Persisting errors = fake knowledge

Errors

- Distort findings
- Compromise replication efforts
- Undermine evidence synthesis
- Misdirect theory, practice, & policy

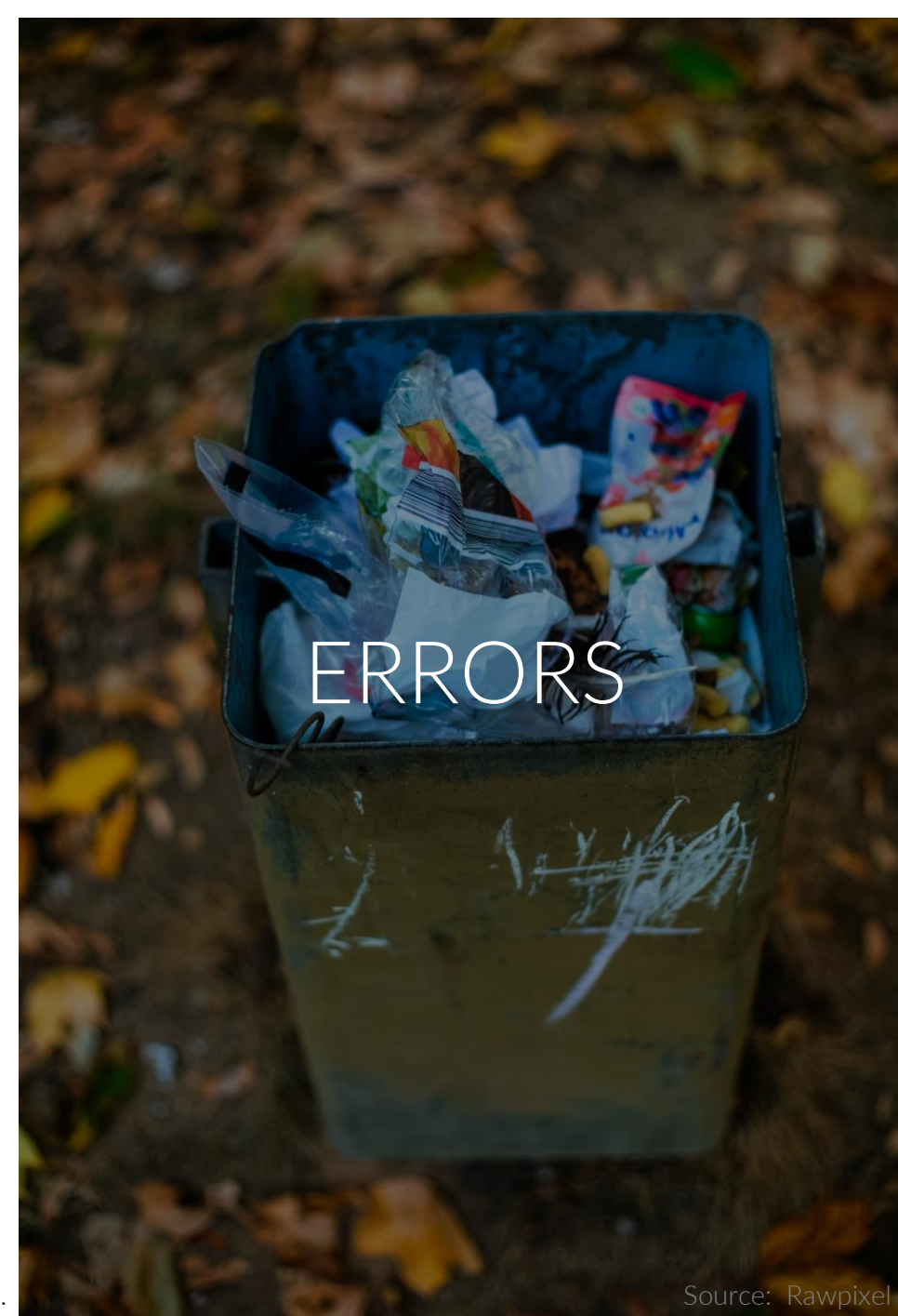
Everything downstream is broken (incl. ECR efforts).



Integrity of the Scientific Process.

Errors need corrections.

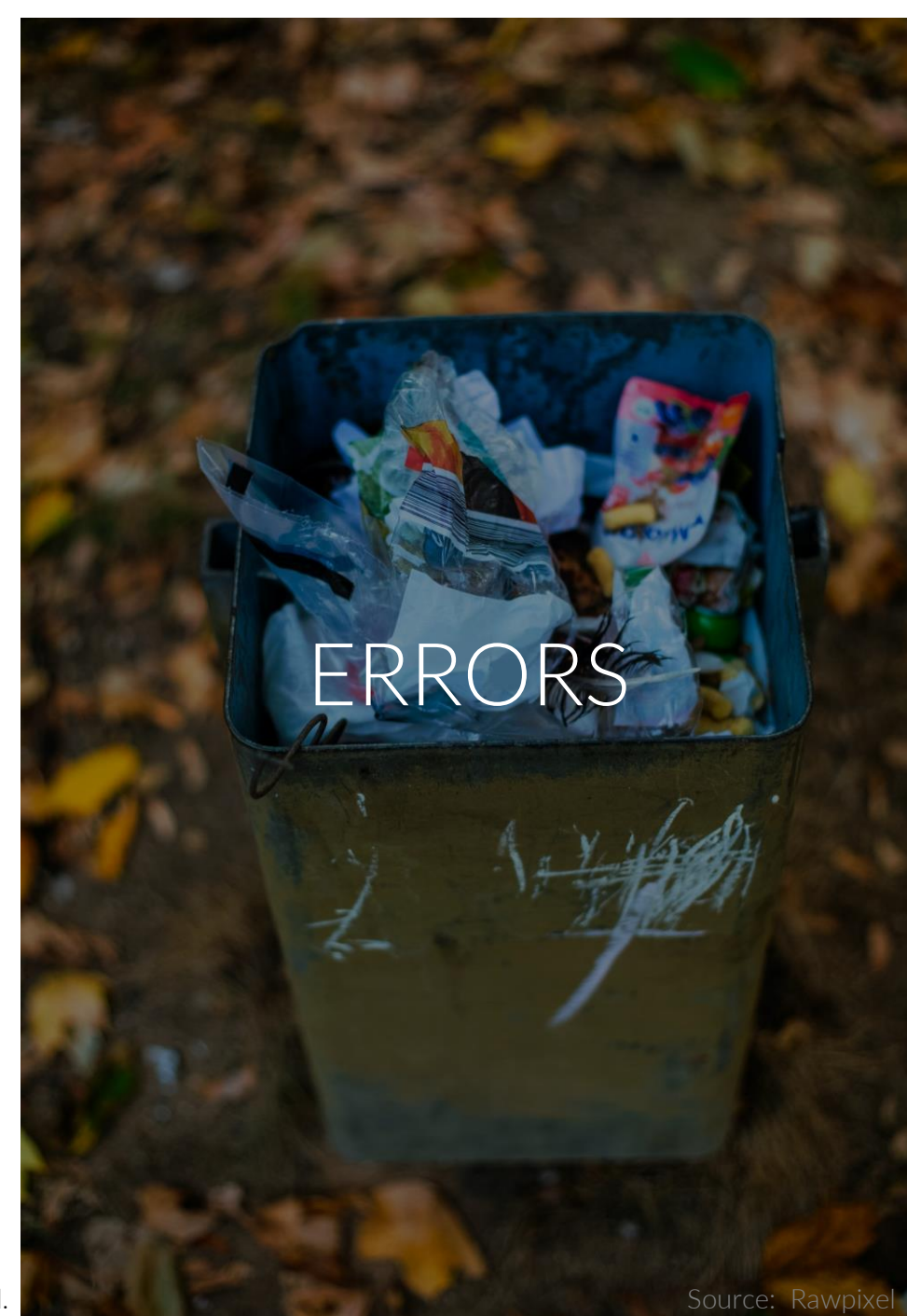
The serious pursuit of this goal is to be demonstrated.
In the absence of measures, the prevalence remains unknown.



Integrity of the Scientific Process.

Errors need

The seriousness of errors is demonstrated.
In the absence of evidence, the choice remains
unknown.



Post-Publication Practices.

IEEE PSPB Operations Manual – Chapter 8.

- Only addresses changes to the metadata
- Retractions reserved for seriously flawed analysis or erroneous data

ACM's Policy on Withdrawal, Correction, Retraction, & Removal.

5 Types of actions, e.g.:

- Corrections for production-related errors / when authors made mistakes
- Editorial when authors made mistakes / credible allegations
- Minor issues via corrected versions of record

A stack of books with the text "ORGANIZATIONAL POLICIES" overlaid in white. The books are arranged in a stack, with the spines visible. The colors of the spines range from dark blue to light green. The text is centered and written in a large, white, sans-serif font.

ORGANIZATIONAL
POLICIES

404: Stats not found.

IEEE S&P corrections/retractions – data cannot be shared
ACM CHI corrections/retractions – data cannot be shared



SILENT NUMBERS



Case Study.

8 Keywords (e.g., „erratum“, „editorial note“, „retraction“)

IEEE Xplore: article of S&P ($N=2,439$)

1 Editorial note:

- By authors: where to find updates on a topic
- Only within the PDF version

ACM: research articles of CHI ($N=11,500$ since 2008)

5 Corrections: corrected version of record

- Editorial notes described the changes as minor & dates
- Earlier version might remain accessible via SM

USENIX website: articles of 2020 and 2025 ($N=564$)

5 Errata slips on the main website

- List changes in detail
- Also listed on the sub-website page of the paper
- ACM digital library lacks any indication



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1 in USP
research

PRACTICE
EXAMPLES





The Role of Culture.

Shifting incentives for correctness over novelty
Avoiding penalizing corrections
ERROR as a bug bounty program

Structural Changes.

Change of policy (incl. researchers)
Conference organizers as point of contact
Living documents

RECOMMENDATIONS



SYSTEMATICALLY
COLLECT
OCCURRENCES

BUILD
ONLINE
DATABASE

INVOLVE
RETRACTION
WATCH

INTEGRATE
DATABASE WITH
RETRACTION
WATCH

Point of Use:

Database
Integration
WITH CROSSREF

Warning
POP-UP IN
ZOTERO

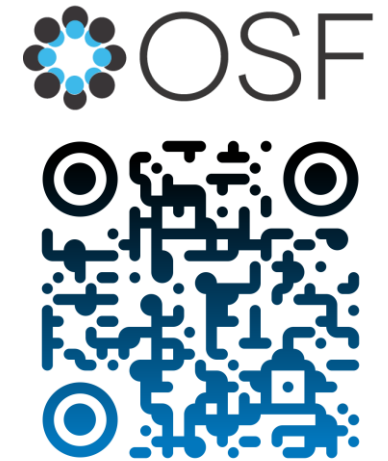
L^AT_EX
Integration



RECOMMENDATIONS

What incentive would encourage you to correct mistakes?





Reference.

Nele Borgert, Luisa Jansen, Lukas Jung, Theresa Halbritter, & Malte Elson. 2026. Position Paper: Corrections Not Found -- Post-Publication Integrity in Usable Security and Privacy Research. *SPW'26 MetaCRiSP*, Mai 21, 2026, CA, USA. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/3qrkb_v1

Other References.

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- [2] J. Tang, L. Bauer, & N. Christin, “Misuse, misreporting, misinterpretation of statistical methods in usable privacy and security papers,” in *Twenty-First Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS 2025)*, pp. 475-493, 2025.
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