



George Howard <george@cosmicsummit.com>

Fw: Request for Formal Inquiry RE: Methodological Failures and Data Manipulation

Marc Young <marc.young@flinders.edu.au>

To: George Howard <george@cosmicsummit.com>, George Howard <georgehoward@cosmicsummit.com>

From: Marc Young <marc.young@flinders.edu.au>
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2024 3:15 PM
To: Holden Thorp <hthorp@aaas.org>; Philip Yeagle <Philip.Yeagle@aaas.org>
Cc: Laura Remis <lremis@aaas.org>
Subject: Re: Request for Formal Inquiry RE: Methodological Failures and Data Manipulation

Can you please also confirm that the link for the dropbox with the document cache was accessible and the documents were part of the investigation?

Here is a working link: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/9lyoxcezhhs6jskyknx77/Sun-et-al-Document-Cache.rar?rlkey=9eltfxqwkcgjdaa0kqburs43u&st=dwe98&>

Marc

From: Marc Young <marc.young@flinders.edu.au>
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2024 3:03 PM
To: Holden Thorp <hthorp@aaas.org>; Philip Yeagle <Philip.Yeagle@aaas.org>
Cc: Laura Remis <lremis@aaas.org>
Subject: Re: Request for Formal Inquiry RE: Methodological Failures and Data Manipulation

Hi Holden

Thank you for clarifying, even though I thoroughly disagree, that makes more sense now.

However, you mentioned that the matter was reviewed by an 'objective' and 'qualified' reviewer.

The latter is of no consequence, even a blind chimpanzee could immediately tell that this study's conclusions are unsupported, and should be retracted, which gives me

If you can assure me that the 'expert' you tasked with reviewing this does not appear in the list of scientists I have attached, I will happily accept the result of your inquiry.

The list contains almost all of the scientists who have published criticisms of the YDIH in peer reviewed journals, and can therefore not be considered 'objective', as they

If the reviewer appears on that list, I urge you to send it back out to someone who isn't on that list for re-review.

I promise you that without that assurance, I will not let this issue lie, and a little more effort on your part now will save you a lot of time (and face) in the long run.

If you've ever had to put up with complaints from people like Mark Boslough, you will know what I mean.

After all, this is about scientific integrity, and the top editors of AAAS journal's can't be seen as endorsing this sort of malfeasance.

Please do the right thing.

Marc

From: Holden Thorp <hthorp@aaas.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 21, 2024 11:42 PM
To: Marc Young <marc.young@flinders.edu.au>; Philip Yeagle <Philip.Yeagle@aaas.org>
Cc: Laura Remis <lremis@aaas.org>
Subject: Re: Request for Formal Inquiry RE: Methodological Failures and Data Manipulation

Dr. Young,

Thanks for your note. The journal cannot make a finding of misconduct. Only the institution can do that in accordance with ORI guidelines. We can decide on our own to take we have sufficient grounds to take action at this point. I realize you disagree with that, but we are satisfied that the matter was reviewed by an objective and qualified reviewer.

Holden Thorp
Editor-in-Chief, *Science* Family of Journals

1200 New York Ave NW

Washington, DC 20005

Cell: 202-288-6896

hthorp@aaas.org

Guidance on submitting editorials to Science: <https://www.science.org/content/blog-post/what-science-looks-editorial-submissions>

From: Marc Young <marc.young@flinders.edu.au>

Date: Friday, September 20, 2024 at 1:01 PM

To: Philip Yeagle <Philip.Yeagle@aaas.org>

Cc: Holden Thorp <hthorp@aaas.org>, Laura Remis <lremis@aaas.org>

Subject: Re: Request for Formal Inquiry RE: Methodological Failures and Data Manipulation

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hi Philip

The first author, a graduate student at the time, is no longer at U of Houston, and neither is their supervisor, Alan Brandon.

According to your policy, does this mean nothing can be done, despite the fact that you have the power to retract the article, and fraudulent science will be

I have already launched the appropriate investigations at Baylor and TAMU but those academics were only coauthors, and the work was not performed at

I need not remind you that this has been a high profile case, and will only get more and more coverage, I am sure science advances does not want to be sc

Kind regards,

Marc Young

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From: Philip Yeagle <Philip.Yeagle@aaas.org>

Sent: Friday, September 20, 2024 11:46:37 PM

To: Marc Young <marc.young@flinders.edu.au>

Cc: Holden Thorp <hthorp@aaas.org>; Laura Remis <lremis@aaas.org>

Subject: Fwd: Request for Formal Inquiry RE: Methodological Failures and Data Manipulation

CAUTION: Only open links and attachments you're expecting.

Marc Young

Dear Mr. Young,

We acknowledge receipt of your concerns about the paper published in *Science Advances* entitled: "Volcanic origin for Younger Dryas geochemical anomalies ca. 12,900

These issues need to be assessed by the appropriate office for scientific integrity of the institution at which the work was performed. The Journal cannot help you in that

Sincerely,

Philip Yeagle

Philip Yeagle, Ph.D.

AAAS Fellow

Senior Deputy Editor & Scientific Integrity Officer, *Science Advances*

<http://www.science.org/journal/sciadv>

From: Marc Young <marc.young@flinders.edu.au>

Date: Thursday, September 5, 2024 at 8:23 AM

To: Laura Remis <lremis@aaas.org>, Holden Thorp <hthorp@aaas.org>

Subject: Request for Formal Inquiry RE: Methodological Failures and Data Manipulation

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Greetings Laura and Holden!

I am a PhD candidate at Flinders University in South Australia, and a member of an international research organisation called the Comet Research G

Our group are the main proponents of the Younger Dryas Impact Hypothesis (YDIH), and have published more than 100 papers since 2007 presentir

[This paper](#) published in *Science Advances* in 2020 has been found to contain severe methodological deficiencies and data manipulation.

A whistle-blower who was originally a coauthor on the paper (who withdrew their name after submission) has reached out to myself and other colleg

withdrew their authorship. I have a copy of the form they submitted to *Science Advances* to have their name removed.

While the issue itself requires a great deal of contextual understanding around the YDIH itself, I will attempt to summarise.

The conclusions of the paper are based on correctly interpreting the location of a thin layer that contains a number of geochemical proxies associated with their section.

However, their interpretation, which again, the entire paper rests upon, was only made possible because they omitted a key data point, the sample di

It is well established in the literature (at least 8 replications worldwide including by independent groups) that the Younger Dryas onset is marked by a significant spike in Iridium, another platinum group metal. Importantly, the authors demonstrate their awareness of this fact within the paper.

The original data provided by the whistle-blower shows that the 153 cm sample the authors omitted from the final manuscript contains by far the largest spike in their study is 153 cm, rather than 151 cm.

Thus, it certainly looks like the authors made the decision to omit this crucial data point in order to be able to make the claim that the Younger Dryas is not supported.

I have attached a detailed write-up explaining the issue, and I am happy to provide any and all information I can to help in the investigation of this unf

I trust that you will take this very seriously, as misconduct like this from a number of prolific researchers is as serious as it gets.

Unlike most other claims of data manipulation, arising from post-hoc analysis of the paper's contents alone, this claim is backed up with the original data. The conclusions were deleted from the manuscript.

I and my colleagues are requesting a full retraction of the article.

Kind regards,

Marc D. Young

BArch, BSc (Hons 1st Class)

PhD Candidate, Geoarchaeology: Paleoenvironment & Geochronology of the Coongie Lakes

Research Professional, College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, Flinders University

Researcher: [Comet Research Group](#)



