Unjournal: Bounties for suggestions, setting the rules

- Drafted by David Reinstein, 21 Apr 2022
- *22 Apr 2022, 15:00 ET – pdf 'freezing' a version of these rules in a pdf HERE for credibility; subject to caveats below*

Unjournal is setting some bounties for suggested research to assess, people to be involved in the project, and potentially other things. These funds are coming from our LTFF grant (and perhaps other grants in the future).

Overall guidelines and procedures for bounties

Prizes will mainly be decided according to 'which suggestions were deemed the best' and 'which were used'. (We may also have prizes, in future, where prizes are divided among all those who 'voted' for the chosen entry.)

Other prizes will be chosen randomly among all potentially-useful submissions, or among those who send in a postal letter application. (The latter will ensure we comply with US sweepstakes law.)

The resolution of many of these will ultimately be decided by the subjective judgement of David Reinstein, or the Unjournal founding committee. However, we will try to make these as objectively and transparently decided as possible.

If a suggestion was already on our publicly shared list, we will use our discretion to consider how important the suggestion was in our decision. If two people make the same suggestion, the prize will go to the first person who suggested it. (If this is unclear, we will split the prize among all candidates).

We will give prizes as monetary payments (unless Amazon or other vouchers prove easier). We will administer these with the help of Rethink Priorities. Winners can also ask us pass on their prize as a donation to a charity of their choice, on their behalf, but we will not explicitly push this.

We will try to allow anonymous suggestions for all crowdsourcing, but unless a participant leaves an email, we cannot award prizes.

We will publicly acknowledge all winners and 'used suggestions', unless the submitter specifies that they prefer to remain anonymous.

After we have set and advertised a bounty, we will never reduce it, unless we made an obvious calculation or typographical error. We may increase it, announcing the increase, and this will also apply previous entries. This 'expansive eligibility' will also, in general, apply to people who made suggestions before the bounties were announced.

Bounty: suggesting work to assess (as pilot cases and in general)

See: The most pivotal empirical pieces of research ... you would like to see red-teamed/assessed? - EA Forum. That post describes what we are looking for, and how to submit entries. You can submit as many entries as you like.

The prizes are:

1. "Piloted suggestion prize": $250 x 1-3 ... prizes for each of the 1-3 suggested research projects that we choose as piloting/proof-of-concept examples

2. **"Participation prize": A $150-$300 prize** (see below)
Drawn randomly among

- All people (other than those winning prize 1), who submit suggestions, where these suggestions are in a format we can consider. They must link a piece of research or a project and giving at least 1 sentence justifying itts relevance.
- Anyone who sends a posted letter mentioning the "Unjournal prize" to

- Rethink Priorities, 530 Divisadero St. PMB #796, San Francisco, California 94117, USA

If we use two or more suggestions for piloting/proof-of-concept the Participation prize will be **$150.**
If we use only one of the suggestions for piloting/proof-of-concept the Participation prize will be **$250.**
If we do not use any of the suggestions for piloting/proof-of-concept the Participation prize will be **$300.**

3. (Potential) Additional prize qualification: We intend to have a general bounty for suggesting projects and papers that are assessed through the unjournal. We will decide this after/during the unjournal piloting process. Even if your suggestion is not chosen for the piloting example, if we later choose to have it assessed through the Unjournal, you will be eligible for any associated bounty.

Recognition and anonymity

We intend to publicly recognize all suggestions that we use _unless_ you say you want to remain anonymous. If you want to remain anonymous *even to us* (the unjournal organizers), you can submit the Airtable form without leaving any contact information, but then you will not be eligible for the bounty prize (as we cannot contact you.)

Timeline for bounty

We have announced this bounty on 22 April 2022. We intend to choose the pilot projects within one month. I will impose a 'final resolution' date of July 4, 2022, at the latest (but I hope to resolve this earlier).

As noted, the 'additional prize' bounties may carry forward after this date.

Aside: Anticipated/estimated chances of winning and benefit/cost to participants

We have a set number of prizes, and 'skill-based' prizes as well as a random draw. Thus the 'expected monetary benefit per hour' obviously depends on the number of entrants and on your ability.

Prize totals: I expect we will award at least $650 in prizes for the above, but explicitly this could range between $300 and $900. (This does not include the 'Additional prize qualification'.)

My best guesses and BOTEC[1]
How long will it take?

- If you already have an idea of what project or paper to suggest, this will take 2-5 minutes to do; It may take up to 12 minutes if you try to make a strong argument for it.
- If you use this as a motivation do 'do some research' it may take much longer; I consider that additional time as something you would do for your own benefit and perhaps pro-socially

How many people will submit how many entries? Cost/time?

- My 80% confidence interval is between 7 and 180 responses, and 5-100 *people responding*
- My midpoint prediction is that 30 people will submit qualifying responses.

Cost/time?

- With the expected prize draw of $650, this would be an average $20.50 earned per entrant
- If entry takes 15 minutes on average, the 'return' is about $80 per hour, plus the gain to the additional prize qualification

Promoting this on (todo):

EA:

[1] Caveat: this is not a very careful BOTEC and I might be making some inferential errors here.

- EA forum – X
- EA Facebook - X
- EA Reddit - X
- EA Slack groups - X
- EA Discord - X
- Effective Thesis

Relevant academic channels

Open science, replicability, other public interests