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On Freedom and Scientific Publications

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The United States has traditionally been a world leader in science. However, as you may be aware, The US president Trump has a long history of interfering with science (Goldman, et al., 2017; Webb et al., 2020; Webb & Kurtz, 2022) and in particular during his first term with climate science (Goldman et al., 2017, 2020). But in his current term Trump has moved more directly into interfering with science funding, research topics, data storage, publications (Wu, 2025) and has slashed indirect costs from grant funds (Bush et al., 2025) that are used by research institutes and universities to support scientific research (e.g., contract negotiation, cost of operation building, infrastructure etc.). Wu (2025) notes that the “administration has frozen research funds, halted health communications and publications, vanished decades of health and behaviour data from its websites, terminated federally funded studies, and prompted researchers to scrub extensive lists of terms from manuscripts and grant proposals (Wu, 2025, p 1).” More recently Trump has directly attacked Harvard and has threatened to withdraw their funding. These moves by Trump will gut the progress of science in the United States in many fields. Furthermore, Trump has nominated unqualified people to head the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Surgeon General.

Of particular note, the Trump administration is engaging in an unprecedented level interference in the scientific fields of biology, psychology, sociology, anthropology and public health science by banning the use of a number of terms from scientific publications including “‘gender’, ‘transgender’, ‘pregnant person’, ‘transsexual’ or ‘non-binary’” (Babor, 2025, p. 1); more over demanding that papers using these terms be recalled and edited. For a complete list of banned terms see Novak (2025). Notably, one can use the word “male”, but “female” will get the web site flagged for inspection. As stated by Babor (2025), the actions by the Trump administration are “unethical, illegal, and unscientific”. It is also a clear violation of the 1st amendment of the United States which guarantees freedom of the press.

For a more information on the situation, please read the full editorial by Babor, et al (2025), published in *Nordic Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* which outlines the current situation and calls for actions by scientist to deal with Trumps interference in science.

Against this backdrop we are releasing our 56th volume. This constitutes an average of just over two volumes released per year since the inception of JGI in 2000. There is no over arching theme to volume 56 uniting these papers together other than our continued struggle to support research in gambling studies as well as to educate and inform the world about gambling and gaming issues.

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