ALMA proposal review process

Double anonymous, distributed peer review

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EUROPEAN ARC
ALMA Regional Centre

Glossary

- **Peer review**: process of reviewing by experts in the same field (i.e. *peers*)
- **Single-anonymous peer review**: reviewers' identities are not known to the authors
- **Dual-anonymous review**: reviewers' and authors' identities are NOT known to each other
- **Distributed peer review**: the pool of applicants is also the reviewer pool

ALMA proposal review process

- For proposals requesting <50 h on the 12-m Array or <150 h on the 7-m Array in standalone mode are reviewed using the **distributed peer review** system
- The proposal team **designates** one member of the proposal team to participate in the review process.
- Large Programs, i.e.>50 h on the 12-m Array or >150 h on the 7-m Array in standalone mode, are reviewed by the **APRC**, a panel of experts selected from the international astronomical community.
- External Science Assessors provide reviews on Large Programs, that are considered by the APRC.
- All proposals are reviewed in a dual anonymous fashion
- All proposals need to be prepared in accordance with the **dual-anonymous** guidelines
- ALMA hosts informative webinars

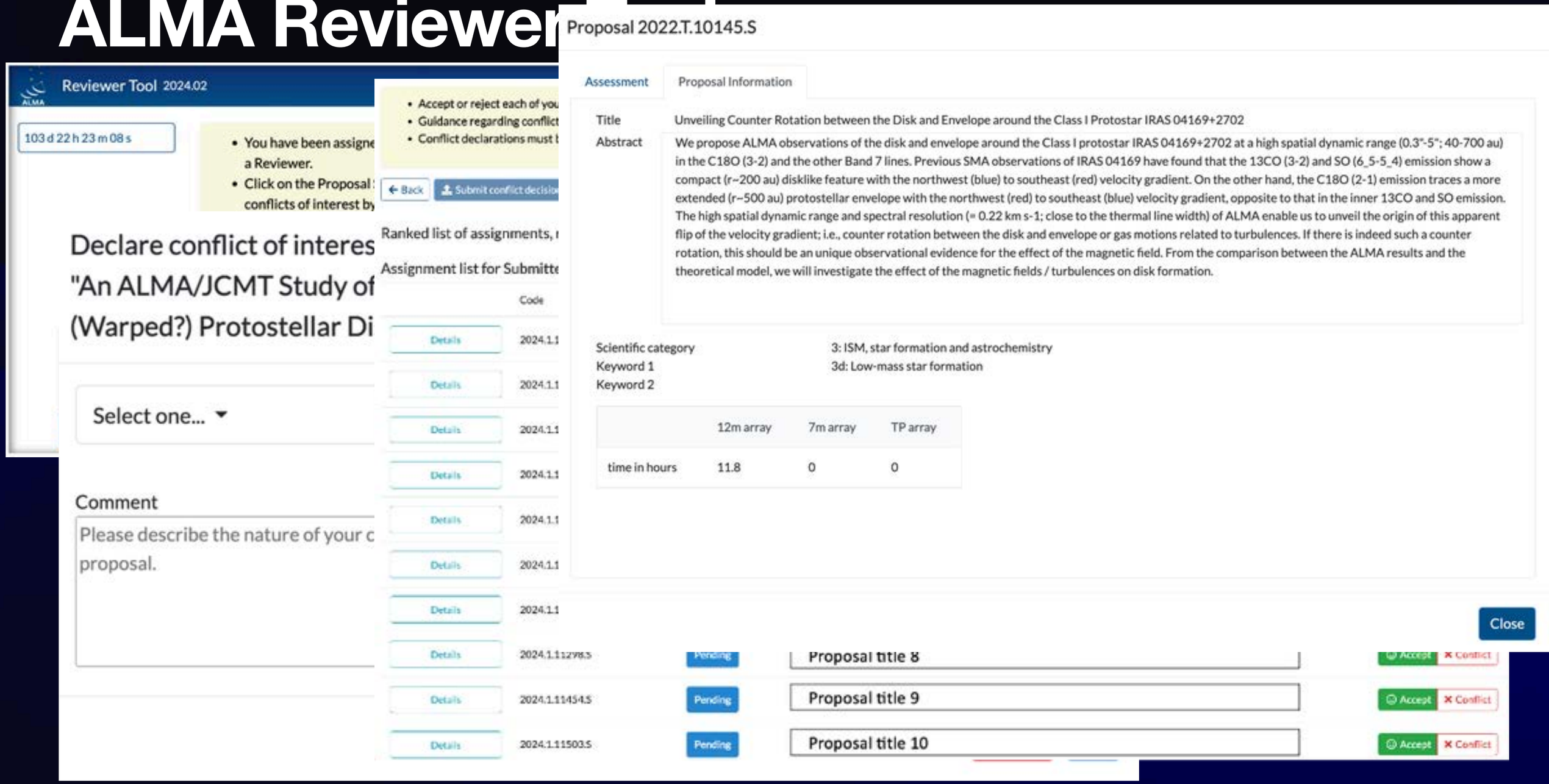
https://almascience.eso.org/proposing/alma-proposal-review

ALMA proposal review process

Document	Description
Dual-anonymous Guidelines	Provides guidelines for PIs on how to write their proposals in a dual-anonymous fashion
Distributed Peer Review	Detailed description of the distributed peer review process
Guidelines for Reviewers	Guidelines for reviewing proposals and writing comments to the PIs
How to use the Reviewer Tool	Reviewer Tool manual for the distributed peer review process
Frequently asked questions	Contains answers to numerous questions about the dual-anonymous format and distributed peer review

https://almascience.eso.org/proposing/alma-proposal-review

ALMA Reviewer



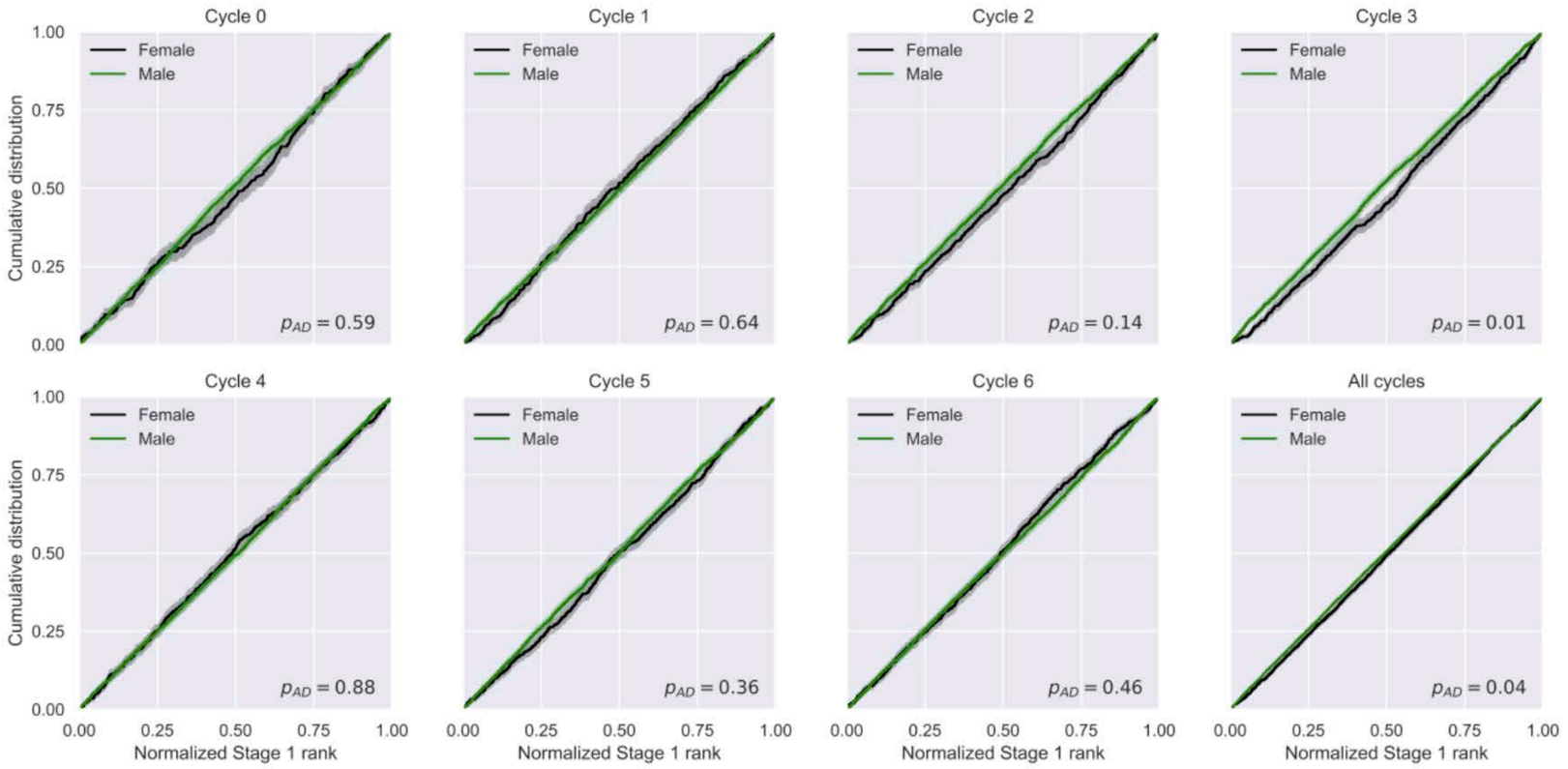
Dual-anonymous review

- Aim: a **less biased** review process (conscious and unconscious biases)
  - Gender, prestige/seniority, competing teams/projects, regional, personal, …

Dual-anonymous review

- Aim: a **less bia**
  - Gender, pres
    personal, …
- Biases at ALM

- Carpenter (2020): review of ALMA (2011-2018).

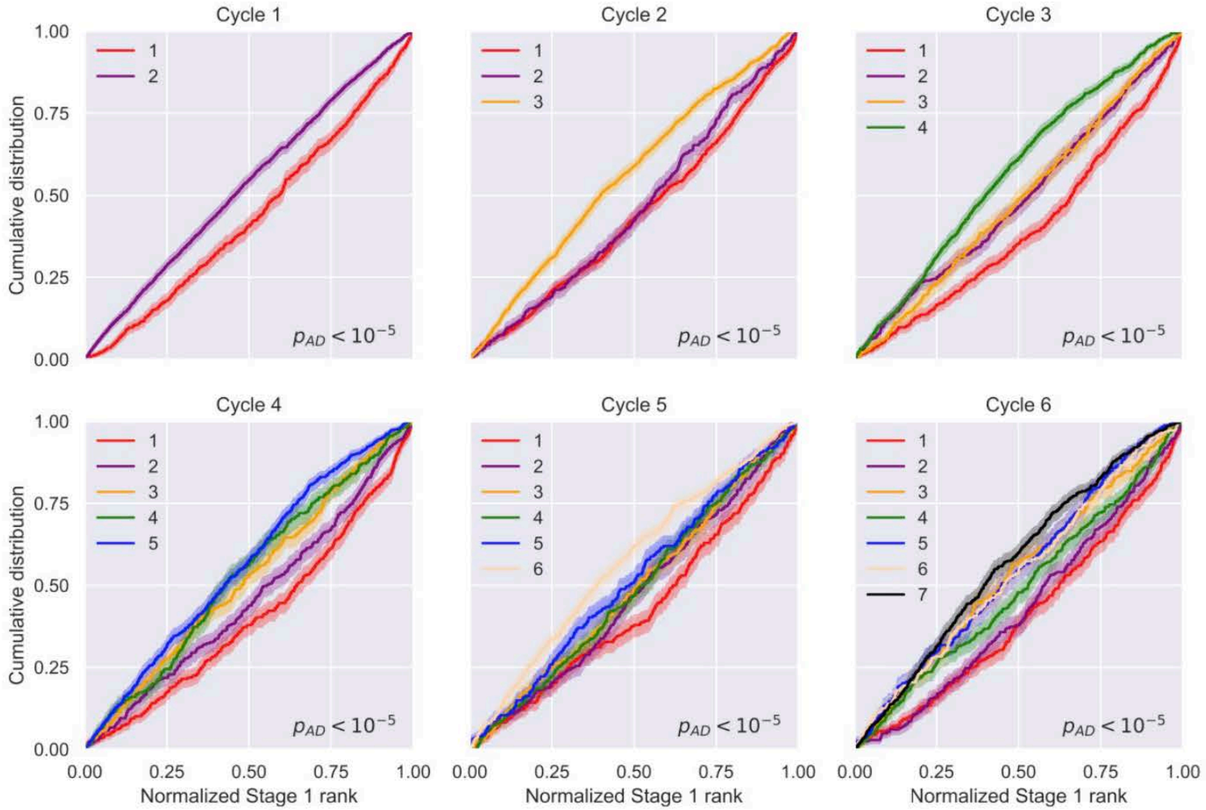


- Significant gender bias in Cycle 3.
- Cycle 3's bias was informed to reviewers before Cycle 4.

Dual-anonymous review

- Aim: a **less bias**
  - Gender, prest
    personal, …
- Biases at ALM

- Clear bias with PI's experience: real quality difference or prestige bias?

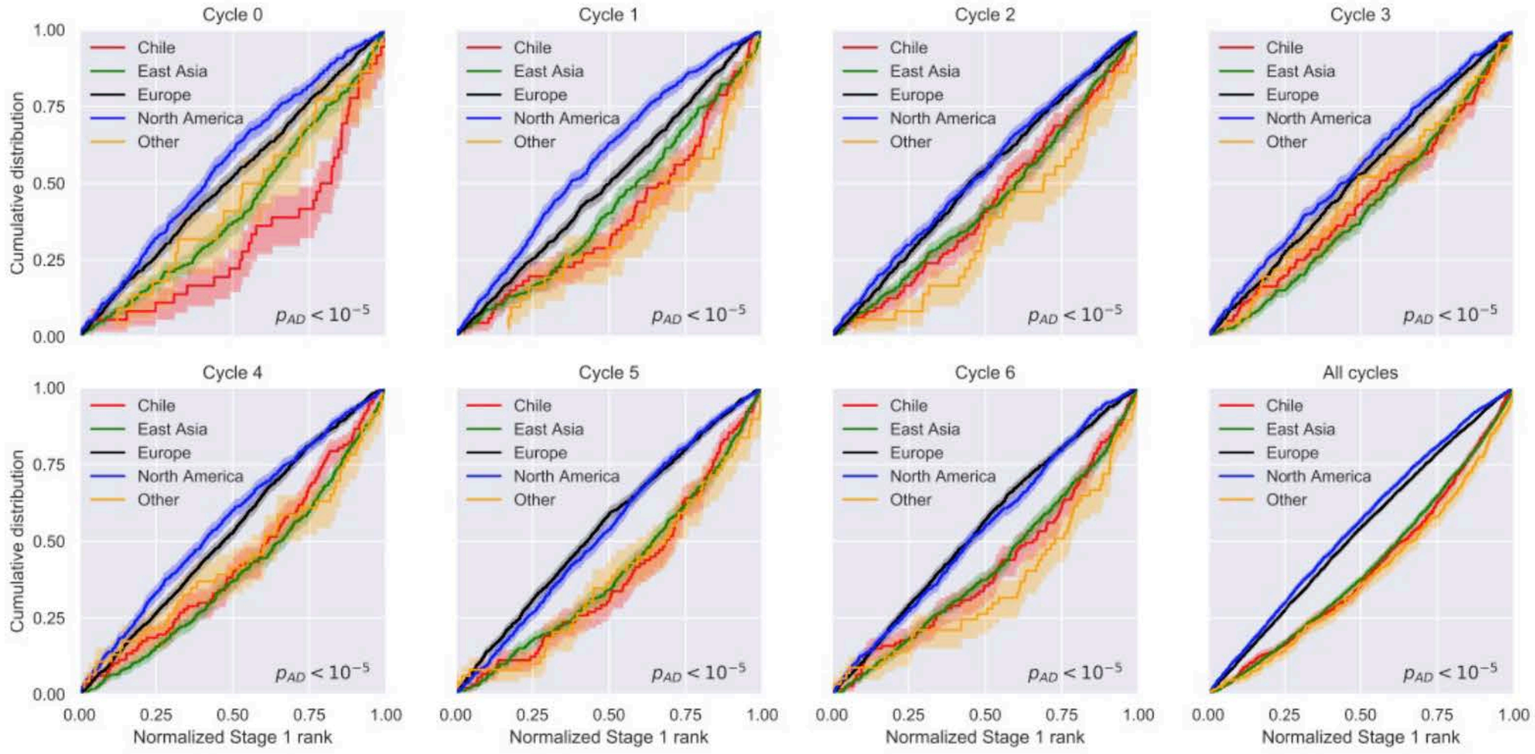


Carpenter (2020)

Dual-anonymous review

- Aim: a **less biased** review process (conscious and unconscious biases)
  - Gend
    perso
- Biases

- Clear regional bias: True regional bias? Language/communication stvle bias?



Carpenter (2020)

Dual-anonymous review

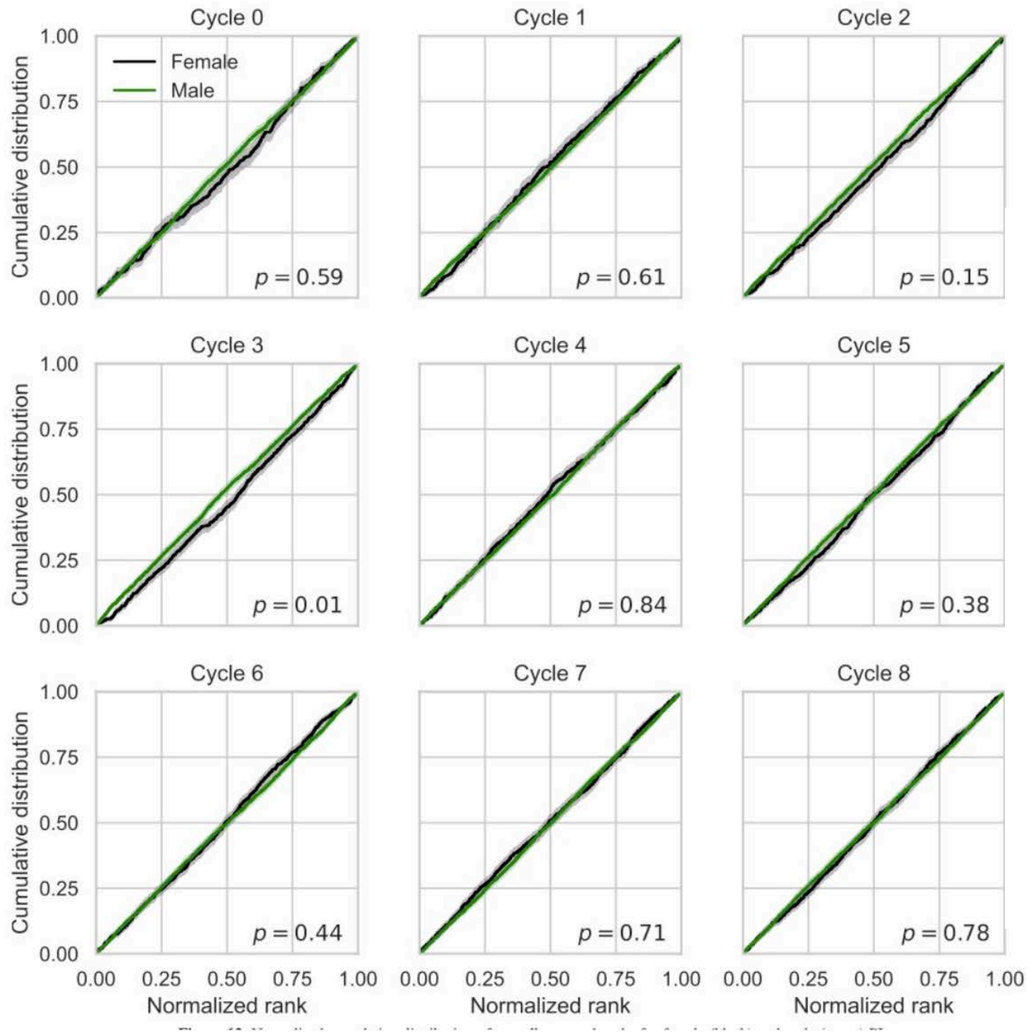
- Aim: a **less biased** review process (conscious and unconscious biases)
  - Gender, prestige/seniority, competing teams/projects, regional, personal, …
- Biases at ALMA
- Observed at other major facilities, too

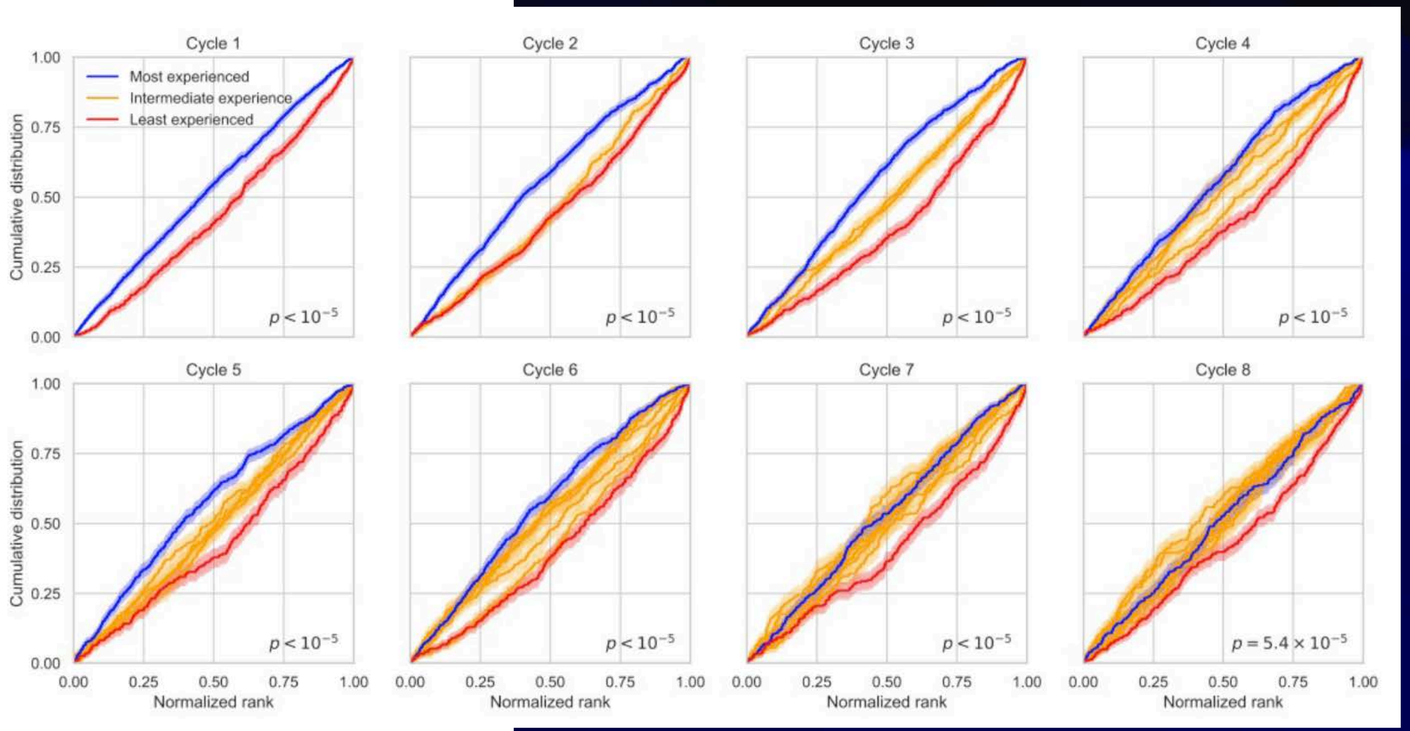
Dual-anonymous review

- Aim: a **less biased** review process (conscious and unconscious biases)
  - Gender, prestige/seniority no longer there
  - Regional still there

Dual-anonymous review

and unconscious biases)





Carpenter et al. (2022)

Dual-anonymous guidelines to **authors**

- Proposals have to be as **anonymous** as possible
- Focus on the **science**
- If complete anonymity is not possible try **ambiguity**
- In case of doubt, **contact your ARC/ARC node**
- Proposals not compliant with dual-anonymous guidelines can be **rejected**

https://almascience.eso.org/proposing/alma-proposal-review/dual-anonymous

Dual-anonymous guidelines to **reviewers**

- Make your evaluation based on **scientific merit**
- **Do not try to guess** the identity of the authors
- Even if you have a clear idea of the identity, continue the review **unless the proposal violates the dual-anonymity rules**
- **Expertise** of the team should not be evaluate
- If as a reviewer you think the rules have been violated, **contact the observatory**

https://almascience.eso.org/proposing/alma-proposal-review/guidelines-for-reviewers

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Good luck!

Even the best need some luck 😅