

Trusted Identity in Academic Publishing

The Researcher Identity Verification Framework

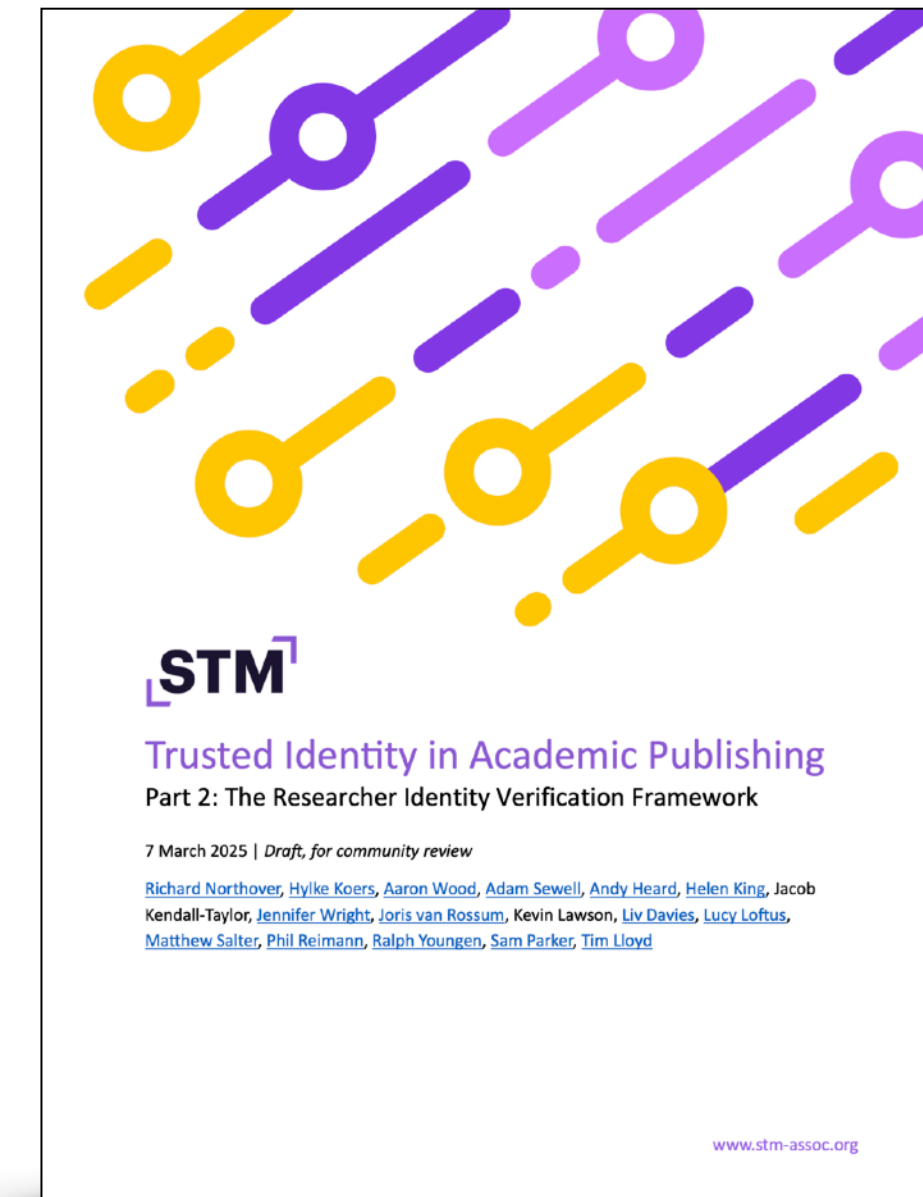
Richard Northover





This is a quick summary of lots of ideas...

...the full story is in the reports



These are ideas for discussion...

...it's up to publishers and editorial systems to independently decide if/how they want to implement the recommendations

What's the problem?



Research Fraud is on the rise

Damaging trust, wasting resources



Fraud involves identity manipulation

Fake accounts, impersonation, identity theft



Manipulation is easy

Lack of verification leaves the door open



Verification is hard

Risk of excluding legitimate users

What are the main points?



One size doesn't fit all

Journals are different, researchers are different



Trust is about evidence and accountability

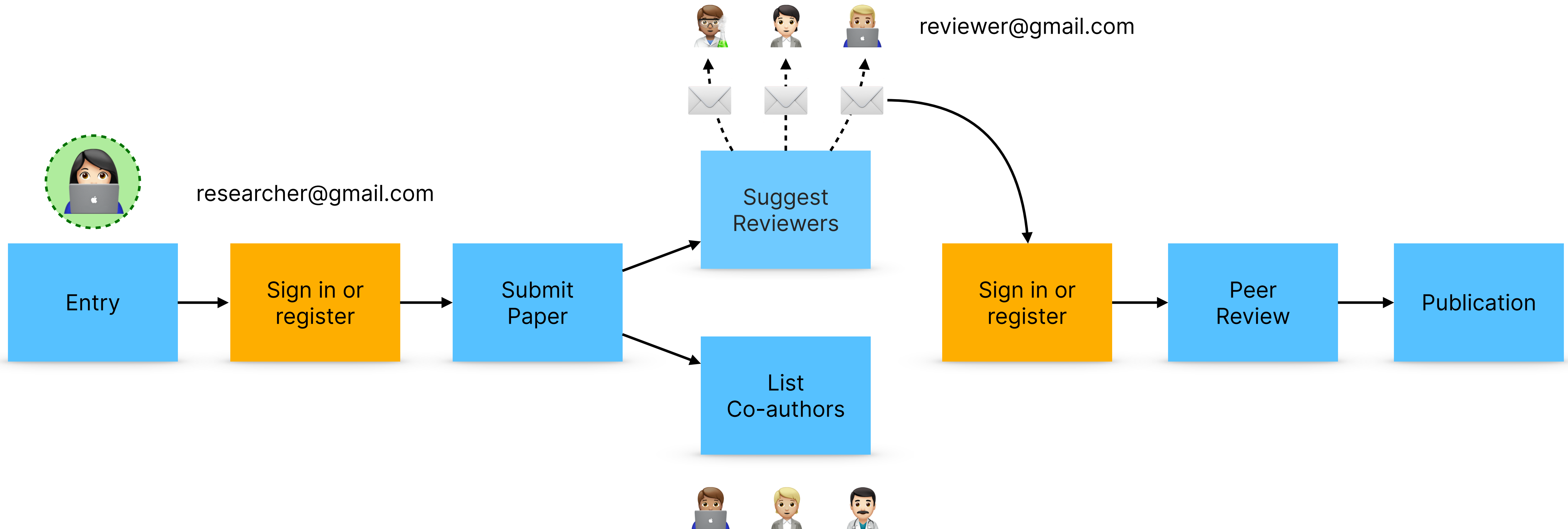
Verification is about closing these gaps



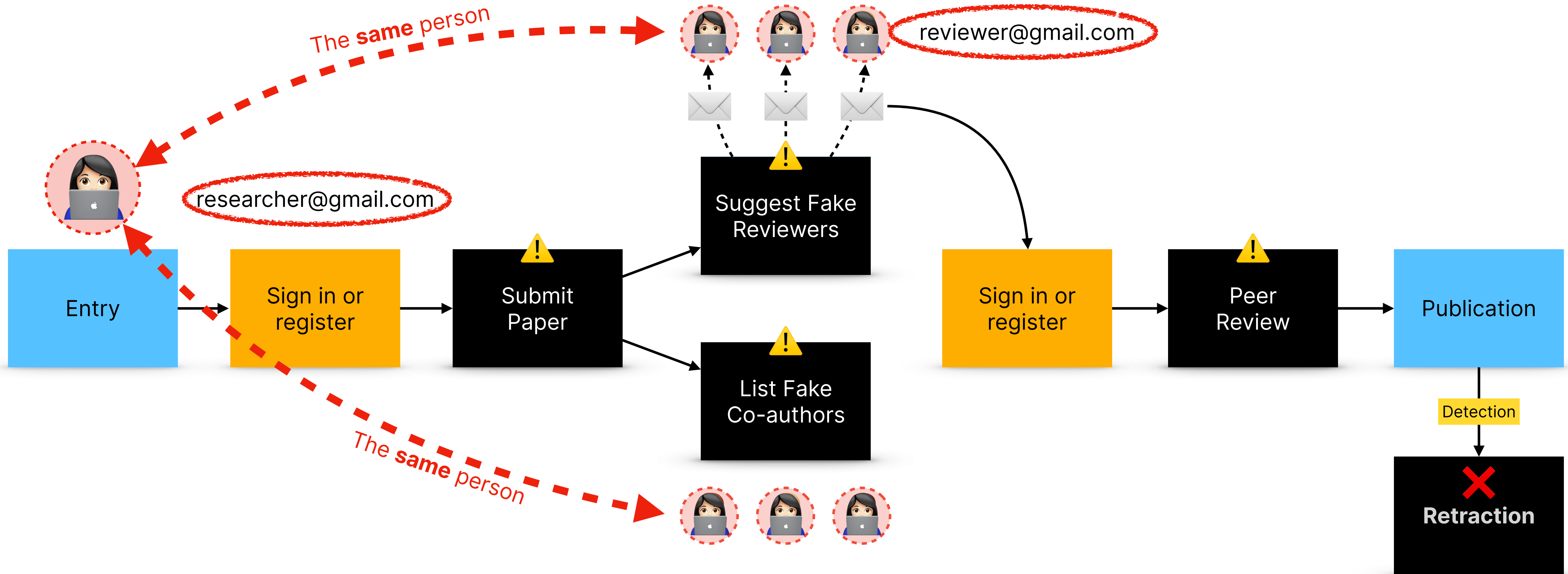
This is a work in progress

Questions remain, and we're working on them

The editorial process



...can be subverted





What can be done?

Principles



Inclusivity

Don't exclude legitimate researchers



Proportionality

No more effort than is necessary for the context



Privacy

Minimise data collection, process it transparently



Feasibility

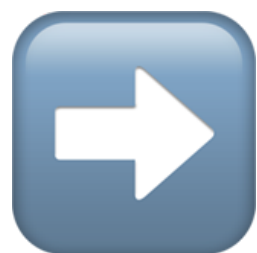
Simple, consistent, scaleable, self-service workflows

What is trust based on?



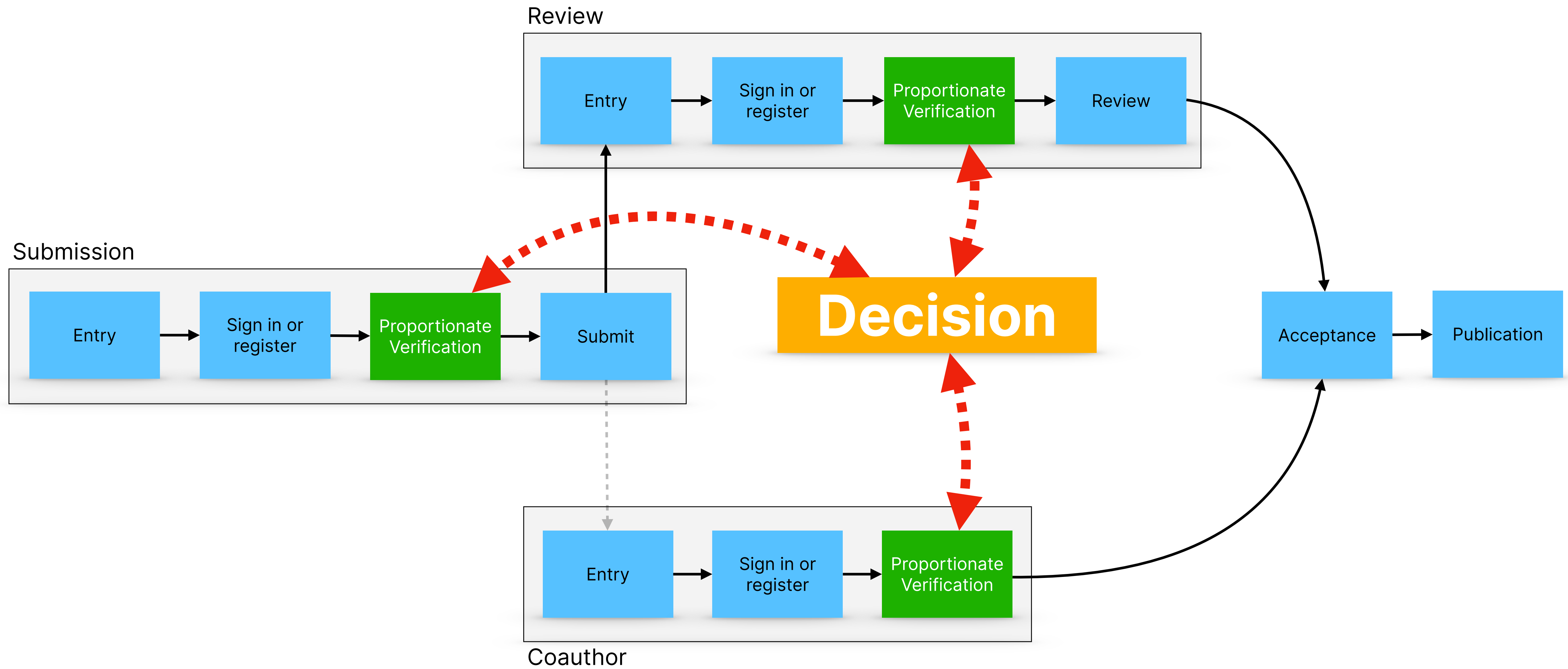
Information that **only trustworthy people** can provide

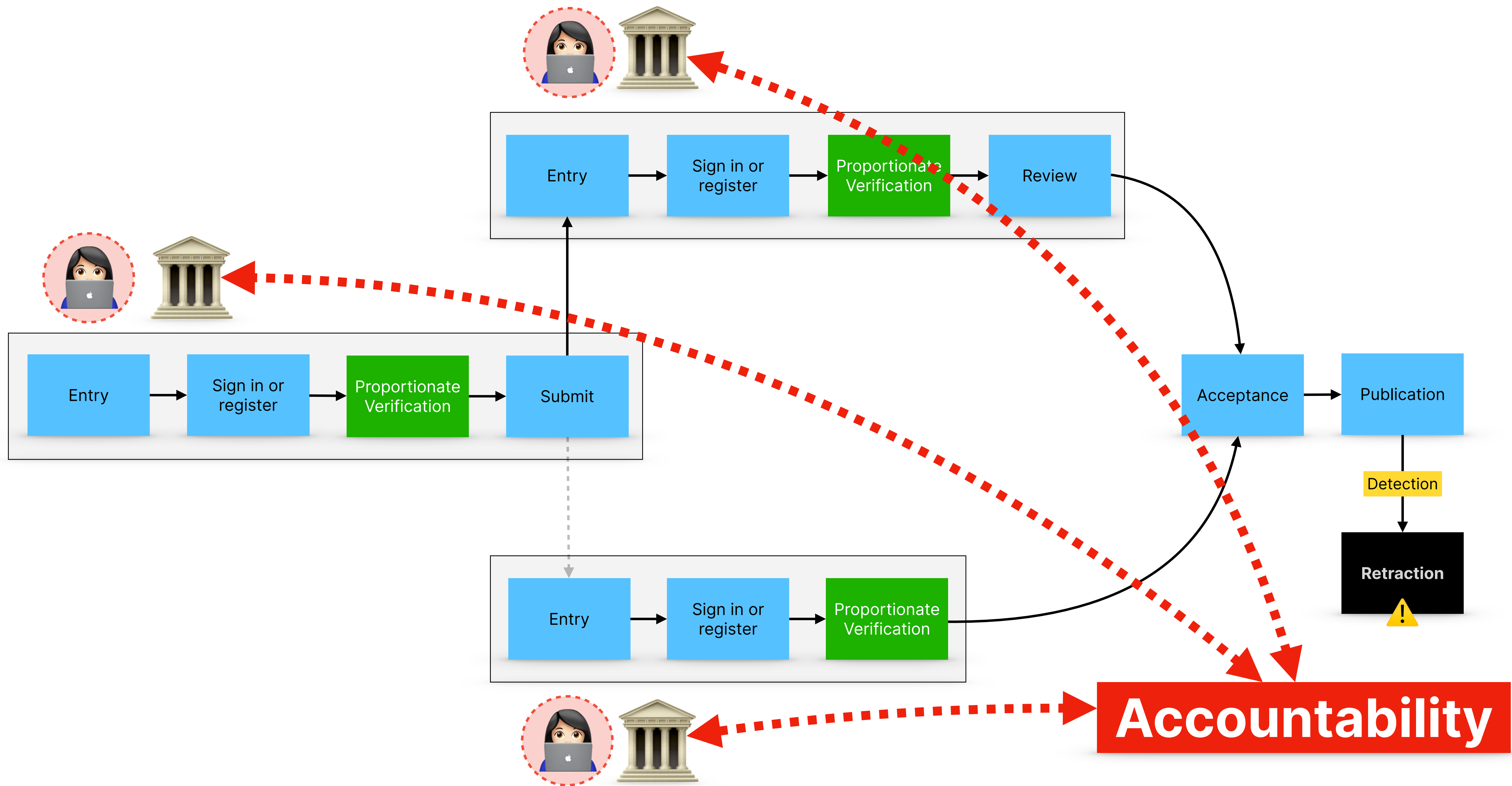
Information that's hard to **fake** or is backed by **other** trusted things



A route to **accountability** if rules are broken

Individual accountability, or via **other trusted organisations**





The Researcher Identity Verification Framework



Risk assessment

...because not all situations are the same



A range of verification methods

...because not everyone has access to all ways to verify themselves



Calibration of decisions

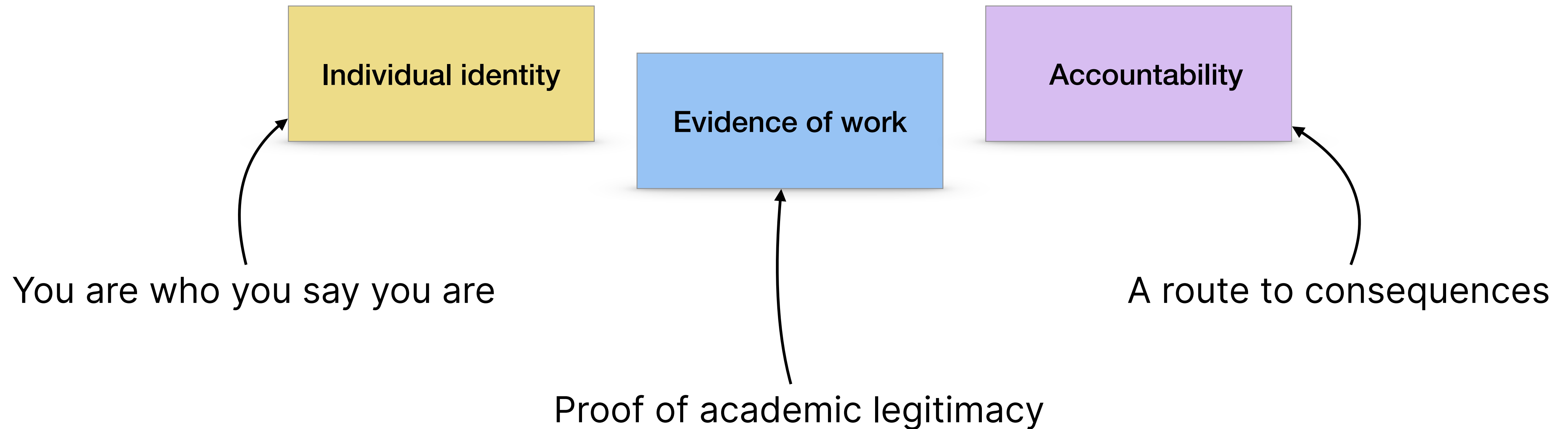
...because interpreting information is not easy






















Feedback loops

...because this is about adding information to the system as well

A range of verification methods



	Individual identity	Evidence of work	Accountability
<div></div> <div>Generic Email person123@gmail.com etc.</div>			
<div></div> <div>Federated Identity Signing in at your institution...</div>			
<div></div> <div>Institutional Email Confirming institutional email address...</div>			
<div></div> <div>ORCID + Trust Markers Claims verified by trusted authorities...</div>			
<div></div> <div>Official Document Verification Services that allow passport checks...</div>			
<div></div> <div>Direct Contact Arrange a phone or video call...</div>			

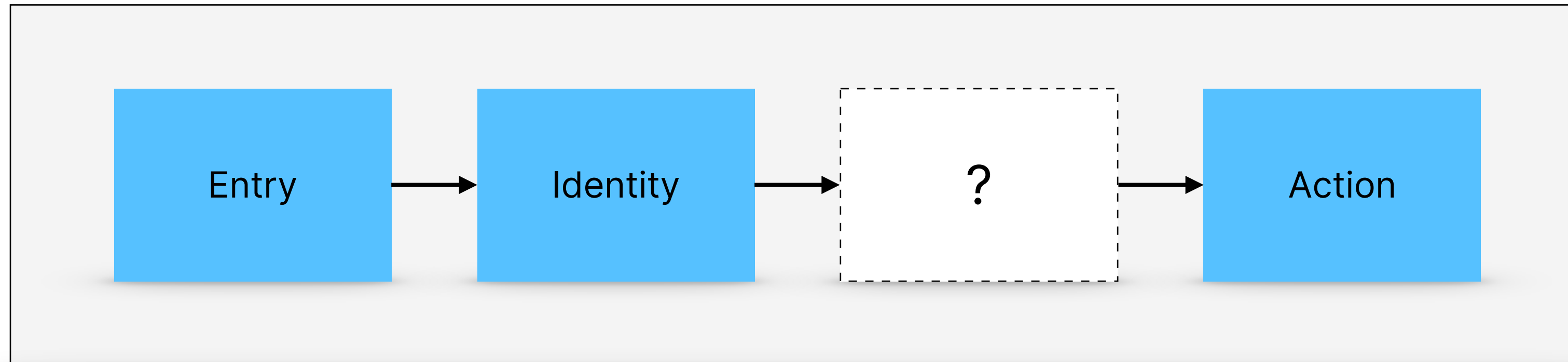
	Individual identity	Evidence of work	Accountability
<div></div> <div>Generic Email person123@gmail.com etc.</div>			
<div></div> <div>Federated Identity Signing in at your institution...</div>			
<div></div> <div>Institutional Email Confirming institutional email address...</div>			
<div></div> <div>ORCID + Trust Markers Claims verified by trusted authorities...</div>			
<div></div> <div>Official Document Verification Services that allow passport checks...</div>			
<div></div> <div>Direct Contact Arrange a phone or video call...</div>			

Two of the several

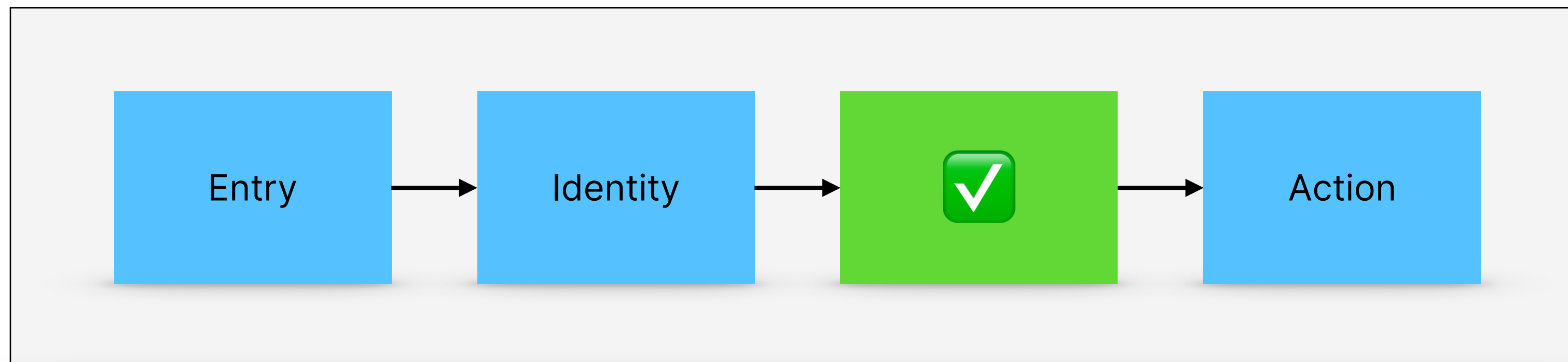


Recommendations...


1. Introduce verification




person@gmail.com **alone** is *not enough*


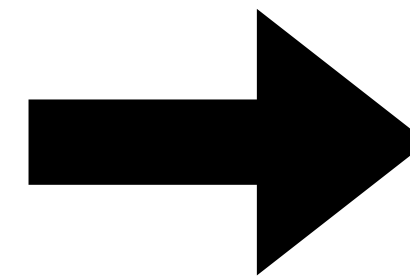


2. Use and contribute ORCID trust markers



The title of a paper	
Journal XYZ 2024 Journal article DOI: 12.34.56.78/xyz CONTRIBUTORS: Person McPerson	Show more detail
Source:  Person McPerson	

Self-claimed



The title of a paper	
Journal XYZ 2024 Journal article DOI: 12.34.56.78/xyz CONTRIBUTORS: Person McPerson	Show more detail
Source:  Organisation PQR	

"Trust Marker"

Follow the "chain of accountability"
...**which** organisation says this is true?



Future work...

In summary...



Academic fraud can involve **identity manipulation**



Proportionate verification could help defend against it



It's **not one-size-fits-all**: different situations, different researchers



Ask for information that **only** honest researchers can provide



Establish routes to **accountability**, directly or via associated organisations

Thank you 😊