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Comment on gc-2021-39

Rolf Hut

Community comment on "GC Insights: Rainbow colour maps remain widely used in the geosciences" by Richard M. Westaway, Geosci. Commun. Discuss.,
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I applaud dr. Westaway for investigating this important issue specifically for the geosciences. This is an important study to be brought to the attention of the editorial teams and support staff of our journals.

I do, however, not agree with dr. Westaway's point that the responsibility is "with editors and reviewers to identify and correct colour issues as part of the review process" (line 101 of the preprint). Editors and especially reviewers are already over-asked to provide unpaid labour for the amount of papers that need review and should, in my honest opinion, focus on the scientific merit of the work. Current review processes tend to focus (again, imho) too much on the points and comma's of a manuscript and less on the rigor of the science presented. Checks like the correct use of colour maps should be part of the paper validation step by the support staff of the publisher and could even be included in automated checks. This is, I think, partly what APCs are supposed to be for.

Looking forward to dr. Westaway's reaction and thoughts on this.

dr. ir. Rolf Hut