

Professor Kaize Ding's Misconduct - Romantic Relationship w/ Advisee

Original Chinese version: https://northwesternmelon.github.io/Kaize_Ding/

Statement of Intent

TLDR: As someone who is fully aware of what's going on, I have gathered evidence on Professor Ding's abuse of power and misconduct. My goal is to present the facts and highlight the core issues—the responsible party's inappropriate conduct and the university's inaction—while ensuring the protection of the students involved.

(Below is a more detailed explanation of why I felt compelled to act. For factual information, jump **Basic Timeline** Section.)

As a current student in Northwestern University's Department of Statistics, I have closely observed the controversy surrounding Professor Ding's relationship with students. Although I have no personal connection to Professor Ding and am not the author of any social media posts related to this issue, I felt compelled to compile and publicly share reliable evidence due to the following:

- Relevant posts and comments on the Chinese social media platform RedNote were systematically reported and removed, causing significant loss of factual information
- Meanwhile, discussions continue to intensify, with recent posts (such as [the recent post from March 14](#)) receiving over 2000 likes and 1000 comments within two days
- However, In the comment sections, factual comments are frequently deleted and replaced with misleading statements—some attempting to normalize professor-student relationships, others engaging in doxxing and scrutinizing the student's appearance, and even some falsely portraying the situation as an act of revenge by another student, framing him as a victim to divert attention from the core issue.
- Many people in the comments are requesting a systematic PDF compilation, but since previous public information has disappeared, informed students had to spend significant time repeatedly clarifying facts, distracting them from their primary responsibilities

My intention in publishing this on GitHub is not to attract wider attention or fuel controversy and defame the department, but to provide credible information to those genuinely seeking the truth. Despite many references to Professor Ding's controversial past during his college and doctoral years in public discussions, this document strictly focuses on verified facts from within our department. Due to the department's evasive attitude, the unspoken alliances among professors, and the retaliation from Professor Ding, much of the information—though widely circulated among students and from credible sources—cannot be openly disclosed by those in a vulnerable position. For this reason, I have only referenced publicly or semi-publicly available information, while deliberately omitting other sensitive details.

I hope to achieve two main goals:

1. **Present the Truth:** Restore the sequence of events through objective information and stop the spread of rumors. As students, our main job is research, not repeatedly clarifying issues that we should not be responsible for online. I also hope this compilation allows people to directly reference verified facts without wasting further energy on this matter.
2. **To protect the students involved:** This situation involves a clear imbalance of power. My intention in sharing this information is not to make the student involved the center of attention but to ensure that Professor Ding is held accountable for his actions. With that in mind, I urge everyone to respect the privacy of those involved and *refrain from seeking out their personal information*.

How the school has handled this situation is deeply unsettling. Months have passed since the first report of his misconduct, yet no disciplinary action has been taken.

I hope that through open discussions, the university will address this situation with transparency and urgency, rather than allowing power to be abused as a weapon to obscure the truth and possibly leaving more students to be vulnerable to harm.

I hope that the department can rebuild the supportive and ethical academic environment that a university should uphold, ensuring a safe and fair space for all students.

I hope that students will no longer suffer from unnecessary drama like this, but can instead focus on their academic goals and self-improvement in an institution that truly prioritizes their wellbeing.

For relevant evidence, please reach out via email or submit an official report through NU reporting portal. Also feel free to share the files ([this version](#) | English-only)—no credit needed.

Basic Timeline

Sept 2023 - Oct 2024 Ding's Pattern of Favoritism and Inappropriate Conduct

During Professor Ding's initial tenure as an Assistant Professor (AP), a pattern of differential treatment towards students and a lack of clear boundaries became evident.

- Professor Ding joined the Statistics Department at Northwestern University in September 2023, many students initially would describe him as "(overly) friendly young new AP."
- **Controversial behavior:**
 - Frequently engaged in deep conversations exclusively with Chinese female students who were considered more attractive during social events and privately
 - Often Inquired about the romantic status of female students in his lab and details about their boyfriends
"To my knowledge, Dr. Ding frequently inquires about the relationship status of female students, including details such as whether they have a boyfriend, the duration of their relationships, and personal information about their partners, including demographics, education, and occupation." (source: An email from the female student's ex-boyfriend, sent to the entire department as a whistleblowing report)
 - For his lab admission, he imposed disproportionately strict requirements on male applicants (such as requiring published papers) while applying more lenient standards to female applicants. Additionally, he publicly referred to female students as "diversity hires."
 - In semi-public settings, he made inappropriate, sexually suggestive remarks to female students, severely overstepping the boundaries of a professor-student relationship. He jokingly suggested to students that they allow another professor to take advantage of them in exchange for academic favors.
 - He was repeatedly observed dining alone with female students, including undergraduates and master's students, and attending concerts with them. Given his relatively young age and recent graduation, many initially attributed this behavior to a lack of professional boundaries rather than intentional misconduct.

Oct 31 2024 Ding Pursues Direct Advisee Despite Knowing She Was in a Relationship

Professor Ding knowingly violated university regulations and entered into a romantic relationship with a his direct advisee (a PhD student in the department), despite being well aware that she had a boyfriend.

According to the whistleblowing email:

- Professor Ding **consistently blurred the boundaries** of the teacher-student relationship by eliciting sympathy from a female student through tactics such as "sharing his academic frustrations" and even "crying in front of her".
"Prior to our breakup, (Student Name) shared with me that Dr. Ding frequently discussed his former academic struggles and hardships in a way that sought sympathy. She even mentioned instances where he cried in front of her during these meetings, which struck me as unusual at the time and made me question their blurred boundary."
- **Despite being aware that the female student was in a romantic relationship**, he persistently invited her to drink, dine, and participate in private activities alone.
"even though he knew she was still in a relationship, Dr. Ding persistently invited (Student Name) to dine and drink with him and attend concerts together."
- The two officially **began a romantic relationship at the end of October**.
"The next day, October 31st, they mutually expressed their romantic feelings for each other."

Nov 2024 - Feb 2025 A Public Secret: The Superficial Investigation and Dismissal

The romantic relationship became public, yet the university's investigation was superficial. The whistleblowing case was closed after Professor Ding denied the allegations.

- **Public Evidence**
 - The two were frequently seen together on campus and around Chicago, sharing meals in the cafeteria, holding an umbrella together on snowy days, and spending late nights alone in his office. They were even spotted entering more private places.
 - Students in the department all know that Professor Ding's office originally had transparent glass windows facing the entrance. However, after multiple passersby witnessed him engaging in "abnormally close contact" with a female student inside, he suddenly covered the window completely with curtains. Yet, just days after being exposed on RedNote, a comment specifically pointed out the suspicious curtain situation—the curtains were opened again.
- **Controversy Over the University's Actions**
 - During this period, multiple faculty members and students (the exact number is unknown, but whistleblowers have been confirmed) **filed real-name reports to the Title IX office**. However, rather than conducting an independent investigation, the case was transferred to the Statistics Department for internal handling under the justification of "mutual consent." This decision directly contradicts Northwestern University's own policies, which explicitly state that even consensual relationships between faculty and their direct advisees constitute a violation.
 - The Department Chair of Statistics and Data Science only conducted **an informal questioning of Professor Ding**. After he denied the relationship, the investigation was **abruptly closed without further examination**.
 - As of March 2025 (and even today), the female student involved remains in Professor Ding's research group. According to the latest update on his personal page (most recently updated on March 11; source: GitHub commits),

despite multiple changes in lab membership, she remains listed as a group member. To date, neither the university nor the department has taken any substantive action to address this issue.

Feb 19th 2025 Social Media Censorship and Retaliation: Attempts to Silence the Truth

Insiders exposed this incident on Chinese social media, drawing public attention, but the posts were systematically reported and taken down. Professor Ding claimed during departmental meetings and private conversations swore that he was being slandered by students and that everything is just rumors.

- An informed individual compiled a **detailed timeline of misconduct** and posted it on the Chinese social media platform RedNote. However, the post was quickly reported and removed.



- (See the images below) An account suspected to be Professor Ding himself, "xxx6486B04D," quickly launched a counterattack in the comments section, attempting to reframe the incident as a mere "personal grudge." As the situation spiraled, the account even **dragged an entirely unrelated student into the controversy** in a blatant attempt to divert public attention—though the tactic ultimately failed. The harm inflicted on that student is unimaginable.
- Although the original post **never mentioned the female student's (his girlfriend's) name**, this account **deliberately exposed her identity** and falsely blamed the poster, attempting to shift public focus and suppress discussion of the actual incident. Furthermore, in response to the controversy over the teacher-student relationship, the account cited 'Nash marrying his student' as a defense, trying to downplay the issue and obscure the real problem. This deliberately ignores Northwestern University's clear prohibition against faculty engaging in relationships with their direct advisees.
- What's even more egregious is that **no one in the department knew who the poster was, yet he 'precisely targeted' a student for retaliation.** Despite having no confirmation of the poster's identity, he singled out a student for retribution. Before making any formal accusations, he even privately questioned witnesses, fishing for information to confirm the poster's identity—proving he had no idea who it actually was. His attack wasn't just about evading the issue; it was a deliberate act of intimidation, 'making an example' out of someone to silence others.

第1集: It's Never My Fault

Ding publicly exposed a student suspected of posting against him online.

小红薯 6486B04D

OP must be (Name) from the statistics department. Because their fake data paper was taken down by Professor D, she harbored resentment and dragged the teacher's student-teacher relationship scandal onto Rednote.

昨天 04:43 美国 回复

Polala

丁老师，这样发不太妥吧。

昨天 04:43

应该是同系实名站出来制止他的另一个学生
作者

小红薯 65212377

Losing control of public opinion isn't a reason to accuse someone else

昨天 05:27 美国 回复

momo

啊这，所以说这是自爆了D老师搞师生恋这
种师生关系？？？

昨天 05:36 美国 回复

小红薯 67BA0310

Damn, Professor Ding, didn't you notice that you're the only one who cares about who the OP is? I feel so bad for your students

昨天 08:20 美国 回复

鲜奶贝吉塔

Whoever is trying so hard to peek around to find Merlin is probably the Assassin (from game Avalon)

昨天 12:18 美国 回复

那不然呢

this is so Avalon

昨天 13:03 美国 回复

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Part 2: I'm Not Ding, But I Sure Sound Like Him

被认出来以后，这个区本来是丁教授本人
如果这不是丁教授本人的话也就说明他本人
帖的学生而造出来的谣言传播范围更加广泛，

小红薯 6486B04D

I'm not Ding, I just think this is unfair. Why can students post about professors and get everyone's support, while pointing out a student's academic dishonesty is considered accusations?

Polala

If you're not Ding, then I hope the school fully investigates whether he spread defamation regarding the student's privacy with bad intent. I'm not sure which is worse, Professor Ding.

好

Thinking more deeply, doesn't this mean that an advisor could just turn around and accuse their students of academic misconduct at any time?

好

This professor is terrifying, feels like they're playing students to death (slang in Chinese, don't take it literally).

好

Go find out who actually posted it instead of blaming innocent people here. You will have to bear the consequences for making such unfounded claims.

好

You've lost your conscience entirely.

好

1. I called it defamation because you are maliciously speculating about the identity of the poster and bringing up an unrelated student's private matters without any confirmation of who actually posted it. 2. If what you're saying is true, then who spread this information? Did Professor D casually disclose student information like this? In conclusion, whether or not you are Professor D, both you and Professor D's actions are very inappropriate.

好

第3集：学生哪配有隐私？

Part 3: Privacy? Ethics? Never Heard of Them

老生再读下场回向上的最后一个问题是他诽谤的，并表示丁老师没有问题，还是说这个问题从一开始就是他为了打击报复抓住的问题，大家想一想如果作为教授认为学生犯了任何错误都可以在网络上曝光其姓名，学生在这样的情况下还有任何反抗的余地吗？

小红薯 6486B04D

Reply to 小红薯 65212377: 学术造假难道

Can academic fraud be considered 'privacy'? Think about it, if a student cheats on an exam, do we need to keep it a secret for them too? Is the original post's content even true? With all the rumors spreading, is there any solid evidence proving the so-called 'teacher-student relationship'? Is there a photo or video of intimate behavior as proof? Just because two people frequently appear together in an office, does that automatically mean they are in a relationship? Jumping to conclusions from a single post is too much of a stretch.

6 小时前 美国 回复

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第4集：就算师生态又怎么了？

Part 4: Dating Students: As Professional

自己主动在网络上公开和自己恋爱的女学生的姓名。他还表示是贴主在网b和他恋爱的女学生，尝试转移矛头。博主全程并没有提及女生姓名。他甚至特意提到这个博主爆料是因为从他那里没捞到好处，马甲掉的外人看都得说句愚蠢，不知道怎么当上西北大学教授的。

小红薯 6486B04D: 我不是丁老师。

I'm not Professor Ding. In my opinion, 'academic misconduct' is the real scandal. Even if there was a teacher-student relationship, Nash also married his student. Regardless of who the OP is, this post doesn't seem to have the intent of genuinely helping the vulnerable. Even if the professor was in a relationship, that shouldn't mean (GF name) deserves to be publicly shamed and dragged online (he name dropped the GF while the OP didn't mention her name anywhere). Honestly, it seems more like the OP was frustrated over not getting favoritism from the professor and decided to stir things up out of resentment.

momo 回复 小红薯 6486B04D: 虽然我不能确定这几位具体谁是谁，但是发帖人从没 I may not know which name belongs to whom, but the OP never mentioned (GF Name), while you directly named both (GF Name) and (Student Name). They are students—legally, ethically, and under Title IX, they are considered vulnerable individuals caught in this public controversy. The debate over teacher-student relationships ultimately comes from the power imbalance—when an authority figure has to rely on their position to seek affection from young women in their early twenties. Yet, while pretending to defend Ding, you're the one spreading malicious gossip about these two students. You are the real villain here.

Nash's wife is not even his own student

momo 回复 小红薯 6486B04D: 丁老师急了 Professor Ding seems to be getting desperate—now Nash is being brought up to justify teacher-student relationships. What's next? Will you cite Srinivasa Ramanujan and his 10-year-old wife to defend child marriage? If you're Professor Ding, then at least act like a professor. If you're not, then it's hard to believe someone could be this twisted—willing to trample on other students just to defend him. Is he your almighty god or something?

(image source: a follow-up post summarizing comments from another user on 02/23)

The nature of these actions is not an attempt to defend himself, **but rather an attempt to intimidate anyone who might step forward** through spreading rumors, leaking personal information, and cyber harassment. **This is not merely a misconduct but yet another blatant abuse of power.**

Feb 28th 2025 The University Remains Silent; A Whistleblower Exposes the Truth

The University Still Takes No Action; Professor Ding Continues to Deny Allegations During Investigation; Because of the university's inaction, Ex-Boyfriend Publicly Blows the Whistle via an Email sent to the whole department, exposing the truth of power abuse, directly accusing the university of condoning actions that harm academic fairness. Under public pressure, the university reopened the investigation, but Professor Ding once again denied the allegations;

- **Despite being under investigation for serious misconduct, Professor Ding continued to hold positions of power.** He served on the Fall 2025 PhD admissions committee and represented the department in Zoom meetings with admitted students. (Update: On March 14, during the department's PhD Visit Day, he was actively engaging with admitted students, attempting to recruit them into his lab.)
- **(Although referenced throughout this document, the whistleblower email was actually sent on February 28.)** Frustrated by the university's inaction, the ex-boyfriend **sent a real-name whistleblowing email to all faculty and students in the department.** He outlined a detailed timeline, making it clear that his motivation was not personal revenge but rather a commitment to academic fairness.

"I can no longer remain silent while Dr. Ding fails to uphold even the most basic values expected of a professor and continues to compromise the integrity and fairness of the academic environment. I had previously chosen to stay out of this, believing the school would make the right decisions on handling his misconduct. Although I don't want to judge prematurely, I now fear that the department has allowed him to walk free despite all the harm he has caused."

"... which not only affect those directly involved but also foster distrust and disillusionment among students who see it unfold without consequences. Ignoring such behavior sends a dangerous message that power shields those who abuse it while students remain vulnerable and unheard."

To conclude this brief summary, this is no longer just about one professor's moral corruption and abuse of power—it's about a system that shelters those in power and fails those it should protect. We are not angry because we once believed academia

was free of darkness. **We are angry because we know what fairness and normalcy should look like.**

The outrage isn't just about Professor Ding's actions—it's about how the system enabled him, how it shielded him, and how it even allowed him to paint himself as the "victim". This is not just about exposing one person. It's about refusing to let **disillusionment** become the norm.

We cannot accept a reality where **students are disposable while professors remain untouchable**. If these words strike a chord with you—if you, too, fear that one day you or someone you care about might be next—then do not let this anger fade. **Do not let them silence us.**