

## FI-MHPSDIL: Discussing dilemmas of academic integrity

In this assignment, we ask you to **discuss your personal dilemmas of integrity** in groups of four or five students. Each student brings in one dilemma. After you have discussed all dilemmas, please **choose one dilemma that you want to present at the discussion you will have with one of the teachers**. This can be a dilemma you have questions about, or one that is still ongoing and you need advice on, or one that your group fiercely disagreed about.

Please note that **we define a dilemma of integrity broadly** – not just plagiarism and data fabrication, but also disagreements with your supervisor on how to do your research, possible conflicts of interest due to external research funding, unfair treatment of students due to personal likes and dislikes of supervisors, dealing with what seem to be outliers in your research data, deciding on how nuanced your writing style should be, and so on and so forth. In our experience, all students have encountered one or more of such dilemmas, but in the unlikely case that you have nothing to talk about, please let us know so that we can find a solution.

We urge you to **treat everything you learn in the discussions as confidential**. Sometimes students have sensitive issues they want to share; it is helpful to them if they know that you won't share it with anyone else. This also applies to us as teachers, of course – we will treat all your dilemmas as confidential. Of course, if you have run into a situation you want us (in particular Bert in his role as integrity officer) to take action, we can, but we will only do this if you explicitly ask us to. Feel free to do so, also if you have dilemmas that you'd rather not discuss in your group.

To structure the discussion, we ask you to use a **five-step discussion format** (see below). It may seem a bit tedious to go through all the steps, but we have found it really helps students to figure out what exactly the dilemma is and how it may be solved. The five steps are:

- **Introduction:** One group member explains their dilemma
- **Clarification:** Other group members ask questions to clarify (e.g. 'what was agreed beforehand?'; 'what does this abbreviation mean'; 'what is common practice in your field?') – do not hesitate to ask questions, you will probably have a different master background than your group member, so it is likely she/he will use terms you do not understand.
- **Criteria acceptable solutions:** All groups members cooperate to list criteria for acceptable solutions (e.g. no delay in graduation; manipulated data should not be published ...)
- **Possible solutions:** All group members brainstorm on possible solutions – do not judge solutions yet!
- **Evaluate solutions:** All group members compare possible solutions with criteria listed in step 4 and decide which solution think is best.