Kalina, as you mentioned trustiness and honesty are components of the ACM Code of Ethics (ACM, 2018), therefore even if it is challenging for Abi, he should abide to the code and do not withhold information. As pointed out by Sebastian, it is ethical to analyse data which leads to various conclusions, and a secondary analysis does not need to increase the level of errors if research is done rigorously. Weston et al. (2019) explain how secondary analysis can be used to improve analytic methods and obtain a more robust data analysis and conclusions. Their research also indicate that secondary research can be used to explore new theories or to confirm initial conclusions.

Furthermore, the consequences of dishonesty and publication misconduct, such as withholding, manipulating, or falsifying data can be very serious, including withdrawal of academic degree and legal actions for forgery (Boeckstyns et. al, 2020). There are cases where this has happened to dishonest authors. For example, in 2010, a successful neuroscientist and professor at the University of Copenhagen faced serious consequences for publishing forged rat experiments in her thesis: her publications were withdrawn from journals, she was obliged to resign from professorship and the University of Copenhagen withdrew her doctoral degree.

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