

A Public Confession of Academic Fraud & A Demand for Systemic Reform - artiom.kovnatsky@gmail.com

Dear colleagues,

As a mathematician–scientist at heart and a **taxpayer** who **helps fund** our academic institutions, and an **ex-academic** who knows the system **from the inside**, I am writing today to **demand a fundamental reform of the academic system**. The foundation of this demand is a crisis of integrity, for which I will now provide evidence, starting with myself.

My name is [Dr. Artiom Kovnatsky](#) ([Link to my Google Scholar Profile](#)). I am a co-author on publications that contain fraudulent data. Specifically:

1. ["Functional Correspondence by Matrix Completion" \(CVPR 2015\)](#): This paper, presented at one of the world's top AI conferences, is almost entirely fabricated and its results are not reproducible.
2. ["Coupled quasi-harmonic bases" \(EG 2013\)](#): This paper includes a false citation to an algorithm to create the illusion of automation, where, in fact, the work was done manually (MSER Algorithm).

My only justification at the time was that I tried to minimize the scale of falsehoods to the extent my courage allowed. This is also why I categorically refused to include the CVPR paper in my doctoral dissertation ([<https://sonar.ch/global/documents/318738>]).

But the story of the dissertation itself is yet another example of the systemic problem. My original text was rejected by my advisor at a point in time when independent reworking was no longer possible. Instead, he personally rewrote significant parts of the text. Thus, although all research and results in the dissertation are mine, the final written form was not authored by me.

This situation extended to all my publications. I admit: I am not a “writer.” My strength lies in finding the essence and ideas, not in “packaging” them. This approach did not satisfy the *publish or perish* system—and consequently, my professor, who himself needed to survive as a beginning academic in the harsh “jungle” we had created. After my first attempt, which displeased him, he wrote the text of all my subsequent publications himself. I was his first PhD student, the test case on which this system was “refined.” Thereafter, he began investing efforts to teach later students how to write—or at least that is my perception. This is yet another illustration of how the *publish or perish* culture forces compromises where form becomes more important than substance, and professors are pressured to focus “only on results,” as if academia were an industry or factory.

This is a symptom of the systemic "publish or perish" culture. This crisis is not limited to one field. A colleague using AI in cancer treatment states: *"...80% of what is now produced at the university is, to put it mildly, a low-quality scientific product. [...] The problem is not the specific professors—they are just a symptom."*

This is not an isolated opinion. The recent paper, **"Fraudulent Publishing in the Mathematical Sciences"** ([<https://arxiv.org/abs/2509.07257>]), highlights the same systemic rot.

This rot is most dangerous in medicine, where fraudulent research directly translates into human suffering and death. Therefore, any systemic purge must begin with medical science.

However, this academic crisis is only a symptom of a deeper flaw within our societies.

My [research](#), culminating in the ["Theorem on Preventing Catastrophes in Managed Democracy,"](#) mathematically demonstrates that the election process in all Western democracies is systematically flawed to the point of being **"almost fraudulent."** Without an [Independent Verification Mechanism \(IVM\)](#), our system is inherently vulnerable to repeating catastrophes like the Holocaust or World War III. You can review the theorem in my work here: [https://www.artiomkovnatsky.com/posts/beyond_obvious/itog] (*Note: the Russian versions are the originals and most up to date, including the other articles; it may be best to read them with Google Translate*).

This is not a theoretical exercise for me. I am a descendant of Holocaust survivors, whose family members were shot in our local "Babi Yar." **My motivation is to ensure this never happens again.** As a citizen of both Germany and Israel, I have a unique and personal duty to ensure this never happens again.

Therefore, I am issuing a public ultimatum.

As a symbol of historical responsibility, the IVM initiative must begin in **Germany**. If it is not undertaken within **44 days**, I will be forced to create a new political party in Germany. Its name will be **"Independent Verification Mechanism (IVM)" (PUV: Partei für Unabhängige Verifikation)**. Its sole political program will be **my theorem**. Its only goal will be the implementation of this protocol to prevent future catastrophes, after which the party **will be dissolved**.

I hope the political leaders of Germany will show wisdom and make this step unnecessary.

This entire initiative will be made maximally public across all media channels I can reach. Any help in this matter is welcome.

Here is a part of my family's history — a documentary with my grandfather's testimony about the Holocaust and the war: [<https://youtu.be/Cs339pje5M>].

Sincerely,