

Authorship, Publication, and Plagiarism

Mark S. Frankel

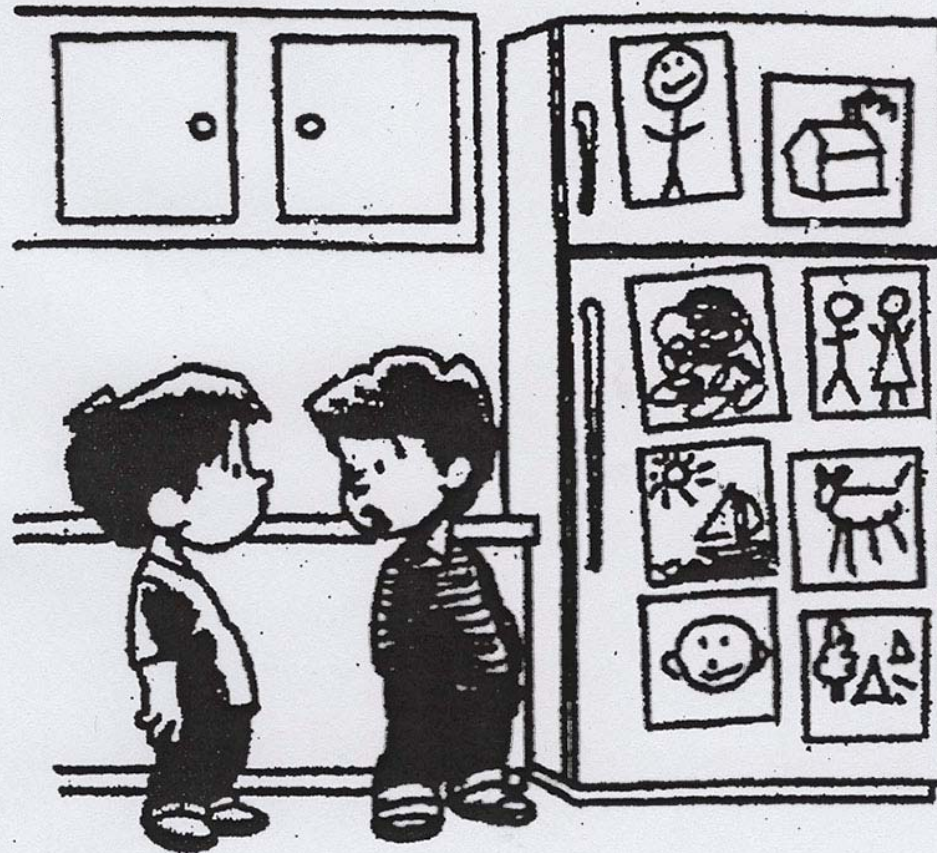
Director, Scientific Freedom, Responsibility and Law Program
American Association for the Advancement of Science
Washington, DC

RCR Programs

UC Davis

March 12, 2008





“These days, it’s publish or perish.”

PLAGIARISM

“The appropriation of another person’s ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.”

Doesn’t matter whether intentional or not.
Unintentional plagiarism is still plagiarism.

THE CHRONICLE

of Higher Education

December 17, 2004 • \$3.75
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SPECIAL REPORT
PLAGIARISM

Unoriginal Sin

Plagiarism by professors is widely condemned,
but it often goes undetected and unpunished.
A Chronicle investigation unmasks scholarly thieves: **A8**

... requires the degree
... 19). Geographers
... of many different
... of study, but re-
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... distinguish
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... and, particularly, with recognizing the in-
... elves between the physical and cultural com-
... the human-environmental interface.
... Physical characteristics refer to such natural
... of a locale as its climate and soil, the presence or
... of water supplies and mineral resources, its terri-
... tures, and the like. These natural landscape attri-
... provide the setting within which human action oc-
... They help shape—but do not dictate—how people in-
... The resource base, for example, is physically determined,
... though how resources are perceived and utilized is cultur-
... ally conditioned.

... People modify the environmental conditions of a
... given place simply by occupying it. The existence of a
... U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (and its counterparts
... elsewhere) is a reminder that humans are the active and
... frequently harmful agents in the continuing spatial inter-
... play between the cultural and physical worlds (Figure 1.10).
... Virtually every human activity leaves its imprint on its
... area's soils, water, vegetation, animal life, and other re-
... sources and on the atmosphere common to all earth spaces.
... The impact of humans has been so universal and so long es-
... tablished that essentially no "natural landscape" any longer ex-
... ists. The visible expression of that human activity is the
... cultural landscape. It, too, exists at different scales and dif-

... locations. One of the
... nt - countries. One of the
... the global level of human activity
... causing identified by reference to its shape and street address
... tude and longitude. Other coordinate systems and street address
... the United States. Relative location is the position of a place in relation to
... where in the world. It expresses spatial interrelationships and interdependence.
... that of other places. One may think of the location of a concert hall not in
... On a personal level, but where it is relative to city hall.
... terms of its street address, but where it is three blocks north of city hall.
... example, the concert hall is three blocks north of city hall.
... All places have individual physical and cultural traits that distinguish them
... place as its climate and soil, presence or absence of water and mineral re-
... sources, and terrain features. These natural landscape attributes provide the
... setting within which human action occurs. They help shape—but do not dic-
... tate, how people live. The resource base, for example, is physically condi-
... tioned, though how resources are perceived and utilized is culturally condi-
... tioned. People modify the natural landscape of a given place simply by
... occupying it. Virtually every human activity leaves its imprint on the natural
... landscape, for example, settlement features (buildings and roads) and land
... use (agricultural practices). The visible imprint of that human activity is the
... cultural landscape—it exists at different scales and different levels of visibility.
... Geographers are ever aware that the physical context of a place is important
... in understanding the activity patterns of people and modify. These interconnec-
... tions between people and the places they occupy and modify. These interconnec-
... tions and modifications are not static or permanent but are subject to contin-
... uous change.

... Maps provide a vital tool for geographers in analyzing places. One of
... important rules of geography is that places on the Earth have their own
... unique character, that is, no two places on the Earth's surface are the
... same. Therefore, geograph-

INTERLUCKING SOME BACKGROUND IMAGES

George O. Carney, a professor at Oklahoma State U., has copied the work of many authors over the years. In a 2003 essay (right), he took hundreds of words from an introductory textbook (left) by Jerome D. Fellmann, a retired U. of Chicago professor.

The Chronicle of Higher Education

History – Journal Editors Grapple With the Perils of Plagiarism

Richard Byrne
January 18, 2008

Turkish physicists face accusations of plagiarism

Geoff Brumfiel

September 6, 2007

Nature

Chemical & Engineering News

February 18, 2008

William G. Schulz

A Massive Case Of Fraud

Journal editors are left reeling as publishers move to rid their archive

A CHEMIST IN INDIA has been found guilty of **plagiarizing** and/or falsifying more than 70 research papers published in a wide variety of Western scientific journals between 2004 and 2007.

dongA.com

January 25, 2007

**KU's President Plagiarized: Report
Resigned after 56 days as President.**



August 2, 2006

**S.Korean education minister resigns amid scandal of
thesis plagiarism**

The New York Times

March 1, 2008

SHERYL GAY STOLBERG

Bush Aide Resigns After Admitting Plagiarism

Richard A. Posner
The Little Book of Plagiarism
(Pantheon, 2007)

Plagiarism is an “embarrassingly second-rate” offense,
“its practitioners...pathetic.”

The Columbus Dispatch August 12, 2006

OU professor sues after school links him to plagiarism

An Ohio University professor has sued the school for defamation, saying that officials falsely accused him of helping students in the mechanical engineering department plagiarize their master's theses.



Andrea Gawrylewski
June 8, 2007

Journal editor retracts comments

The editor of *Fertility and Sterility* apologizes for damaging remarks to *The Scientist* about a controversial paper.

Retracting his statements that accused Korean authors “of plagiarizing another scientist’s work and lying to the journal about it.”

**Famous
Plagiarists.com**



**War On
Plagiarism.org**

Science and Medicine



New Journal Release--Plagiary--Call for Papers

Plagiarism in the Professional, Published Discourse of Science and Medicine

Gasp! Not in science and medicine too . . .

Unfortunately, yes. Scientists and medical researchers are not immune to the virulent strains of plagiarism and other forms of falsifications and fabrications afflicting the discourse embodied in the cross-disciplinary professional literature.

Some of the most blatant offenses against the conventions for honest discursal interchange have been perpetrated by members of the scientific and medical discourse communities. The number of professional studies and research reports tainted by plagiarism, forgery, and falsified data will probably never be known. As Dave McMullin observes in reference to the research fraud of Jan Hendrik Schön,

" [R]esearch suggests that scientific fraud is widespread. In a comprehensive study involving 4,000 researchers from 100 faculties, a University of Minnesota research team found that one in three scientists sometimes plagiarize, and that 22 percent of all researchers admit to sometimes handling data carelessly. . . . Fraud seems most likely to pop up in the research of unmonitored scientists who are working alone on irreproducible research."

It comes as great blow to the integrity of scientific inquiry to discover the vast number of questionable papers which individual researchers have slipped by unwitting peer reviewers who serve as the gatekeepers to professional discourse published in the journals, books, and online databases of the scientific and medical communities.

Deja vu: Medline duplicate publication database - Netscape

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Window Help

http://discovery.swmed.edu/dejavu/

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Deja vu

A study of scientific publication ethics

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- References

Powered by eTBLAST
Innovation Labs
UT Southwestern Medical School - Dallas

Deja Vu: a Database of Highly Similar and Duplicate Citations*

Click [this link](#) to begin browsing entries , or click the "Browse" button above and follow the instructions.

We value your feedback. Please take one minute to take a brief survey (Click here). We appreciate your support.

Deja vu is a database of extremely similar **Medline** citations. Many, but not all, of which contain instances of duplicate publication and potential plagiarism. Deja vu is a dynamic resource for the community, with manual curation ongoing continuously, and we welcome input and comments.

In the scientific research community plagiarism and multiple publications of the same data are considered unacceptable practices and can result in tremendous misunderstanding and waste of time and energy. Our peers and the public have high expectations for the performance and

Latest News

2008-01-23 - eTBLAST and Deja vu spotlighted in Nature
Nature commentary, news and podcast describing the trends in duplicate publications through the analysis of the Deja vu database content. [Read more...](#)

2007-12-02 - Deja vu in Bioinformatics
eTBLAST application to the detection of duplicate publication and the Deja vu creation process are published in Bioinformatics and freely accessible. [Read PDF.](#)

2007-07-23 - NIH R01 Grant awarded
A R01 NIH Grant was awarded to the Deja vu team within the

Transferring data from discovery.swmed.edu...

Start Microsoft Word Novell WebAccess - Mozil... Microsoft PowerPoint Deja vu: Medline dupli... Norton 1:27 PM



eTBLAST: A text similarity-based engine for searching literature collections

The Innovation Laboratory

UT Southwestern Medical Center

<http://invention.swmed.edu/etblast/index.shtml>



iParadigms, LLC “[D]edicated professionals...working together to stop the spread of internet plagiarism and promote new technologies in education.”
<http://turnitin.com>

Turnitin allows educators to check students’ work for improper citation or potential plagiarism by comparing it against continuously updated databases using the industry’s most advanced search technology.

FreestylerIII

<http://cise.lsbu.ac.uk/orcheck/freestyler.html>

Freestyler is a graphical stylistic metrics tool. It presents rolling average graphs of various metrics (reading age, sentence length, voice, punctuation, etc.)...designed to assist in providing an evidential indication that a document supposedly written by a single individual may have been written by two or more.



Our approach is to **provide a non-commercial, open-source alternative for instructors not wanting to involve for-profit third-parties in the process of evaluating student work.**

<http://www.pairwise.cits.ucsb.edu/system.htm>

A System for Detecting Software Plagiarism

Moss (for a Measure Of Software Similarity) is an automatic system for determining the similarity of C, C++, Java, Pascal, Ada, ML, Lisp, or Scheme programs. To date, the main application of Moss has been in detecting plagiarism in programming classes.

<http://theory.stanford.edu/~aiken/moss/>

Why Plagiarism?

- Pressure to produce
- Ignorance
- Lazy
- Internet technology (“cut & paste”)
- Term paper web sites
- Poor writing skills

CartoonParadeTM



"Dad, can you help me with my homework?
The term-paper website needs a credit card."

CARLA VENTRESCA AND HENRY BECKETT

Nature

October 2007

Letter to the Editor

Plagiarism? No, we're just borrowing better English

“For those of us whose mother tongue is not English, using beautiful sentences from other studies on the same subject in our introductions is not unusual.”

Plagiarism is ethically wrong

- Lying
- Stealing
- Unfair to others who play by the rules

Why plagiarism injures science (and scientists)

- Science, and scholarship generally, based on critical thinking. Plagiarism undercuts standards of work expected of researchers/scholars.
- Wastes time, energy, and resources of others – one reads something believed to be original.
- Padded CV's. Competitive advantage for those who plagiarize over those who do not.
- Plagiarism = erosion of trust in individuals and institutions of science
- Plagiarism as a predictor of future academic/personal dishonesty (?)

Ethics & Behavior

2007, Vol. 17, pp. 323-336

Is Plagiarism a Forerunner of Other Deviance? Imagined Futures of Academically Dishonest Students

Authors: Gwena Lovett-Hooper; Meera Komarraju; Rebecca Weston;
Stephen J. Dollinger

“Students who report that they have engaged in academic dishonesty are also more likely to report that they can imagine themselves engaging in illegal, risky, and rule-violating behaviors....”

Self-Plagiarism: authors reuse their own previously published work or data in a “new” written product without informing readers that much, if not all, of the new work had appeared earlier.

Redundant submission: when all or some of the same data are submitted to two or more journals without informing any of the editors of the other submission(s).

Duplicate publication: publication of a paper that is essentially identical to one already published, and not alerting the new journal’s editors or readers to the identical publication. The second publication may differ only in minor ways from the original (e.g., order of listed authors, change in title).

Salami publishing: presentation of a large data set, which should have been published in a single article, into smaller published papers.

Data Augmentation publishing: publishing in a new paper subsequently collected data along with previously published data that strengthens the original finding without pointing out the mixing of data.

Concerns about various forms of self-plagiarism

- Undermines trust between author and reader, who assumes, unless otherwise informed, that published material is original
- Wastes resources of the editorial and peer review system
- If published, takes up space of more deserving paper
- False impression about the data and “findings”
- Pads CVs

When might some form of self-plagiarism be justified?

- To reach a completely different readership or a larger audience
- Translation of an article into another language to make it more accessible
- Articles in conference proceedings that are revised/expanded for submission to a journal.

In all the above instances, disclosure of an identical or previous publication should be noted in the other published accounts of one's research

CASE DISCUSSION 1*

Researchers from an Asian country, where English is not the primary language, submit a previously published paper in their home language to the journal, *Science*, in English. One of the reviewers, an Asian-American, recalls having seen the article by the same authors in a foreign-language journal. She immediately informs the Editor-in-Chief of *Science*, who raises the issue with the authors.

Questions

- Is this an example of a duplicate publication/self-plagiarism?
- The authors argue that in science, non English-speaking researchers, many of whom have the resources to acquire English-written journals or the advantage that English-speaking scientists have in publishing in such journals. They believe that “redundant publication” in this context is unfair to many scientists by restricting their ability to publish and is counterproductive to maximizing the dissemination of knowledge in a global community. As the Editor, how would you respond?

*This case is based on “Quifang Wen and Yihong Gao, “Dual Publication and Academic Inequality,” *International Journal of Applied Linguistics*, 17 (2), 2007, pp. 221-225.

Authorship and Publication

- Publication is chief currency of science – professional advancement, funding and recognition.
- Pressure on scientists to publish

Additional Value of Authorship

- Attributing proper credit for work done is the fair thing to do
- Science will function more effectively if scientists believe they receive credit they deserve
- Hold researchers accountable

315 Physicists Report Failure In Search for Supersymmetry

The negative result illustrates the risks of Big Science, and its often sparse pickings.

By MALCOLM W. BROWNE

The paper reporting results of the latest big experiment appeared Dec. 14 in the prestigious journal *Physical Review Letters*. The names of the 315 scientists whose work contributed to the paper, arranged in alphabetical order, occupied an entire page — more than one-fifth the overall length of the report. Following this top-heavy opening, the paper concluded in essence that the scientists had failed to find what they were looking for.

New York Times, 5 January 1993

Journal of **Medical Ethics**

December 2000

Publication ethics and the research assessment exercise: reflections on the troubled question of authorship

Aziz Sheikh, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, London

Problems to do with publication misconduct, and in particular, issues of justice in attributing authorship, are endemic within the research community.



Me First!

The system of scientific authorship is in crisis.

Glenn McGee

September 2007

Authorship disputes are a fairly regular occurrence in science, a natural offshoot of the oppressive demand of a “publish or perish” system. So much can be at stake.

Keys to resolving authorship disputes, or avoiding them entirely

- Transparency (e.g., clear guidelines/policies – labs, departments, journals, funders)
- A priori discussion and agreement to a plan – Who is ultimately responsible and for what? Who deserves authorship?

Goal: All persons identified as authors should qualify for authorship, and all those who qualify should be included.

Issues Related to Authorship

- Who?
- What Order?
- Responsibilities?

The Graduate Student Bill of RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This document is a product of the Graduate Student Association of the University of California, Davis. The document was endorsed in principle by the Graduate Council and the Graduate Division of the UC Davis campus on November 7, 1990.

Graduate students have a right to co-authorship in publications involving significant contributions of ideas or research work from the student. The student should receive "first authorship" for publications which are comprised primarily of the creative research and writing of the student. Faculty and graduate students should agree as early as possible, upon authorship positions commensurate with levels of contributions to the work.

Reigning Authorship Model

- Substantial contributions to conception and design of research, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data
- Drafting article or revising it for intellectual content
- Final approval of version to be published
- Take responsibility for content

JAMA

The Journal of the American Medical Association — To Promote the Science and Art of Medicine and the Betterment of the Public Health

Vol. 271 No. 6, February 9, 1994

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ARTICLE

The contributions of authors to multiauthored biomedical research papers

D. W. Shapiro, N. S. Wenger and M. F. Shapiro

Division of General Internal Medicine, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Los Angeles, Calif.

OBJECTIVE--To determine the contributions of each author to multiauthored biomedical research papers. **DESIGN**--Mailed, self-administered survey. **PARTICIPANTS**--A total of 184 first authors from a consecutive sample of 200 papers with four or more authors published in 10 leading biomedical journals. **MAIN OUTCOME MEASURES**--First authors' ratings of which authors had made substantial contributions to the following: initial conception of the study, design of the study, provision of needed resources, collection of data, analysis and interpretation of data, and writing the first draft of the paper or revising drafts for important intellectual content.

RESULTS--The contributions of nonfirst authors varied greatly within and among papers. Even second and last authors--though they generally contributed more than other nonfirst authors--were markedly inconsistent in the extent and pattern of their contributions. Time spent on the research differed among authors by orders of magnitude. An appreciable number of authors made few or no substantial contributions to the research.

CONCLUSIONS--**The nature and extent of contributions of nonfirst authors to biomedical research reported in multiauthored papers cannot reliably be discerned (or discounted) by authorship or order of authors. The two core purposes of scientific authorship--to confer credit and denote responsibility for research--are not adequately being met by these authorship practices.**

JAMA

The Journal of the American Medical Association — To Promote the Science and Art of Medicine and the Betterment of the Public Health

Vol. 278 No. 7, August 20, 1997

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ARTICLE

When authorship fails. A proposal to make contributors accountable

D. Rennie, V. Yank and L. Emanuel

Institute for Health Policy Studies, University of California, San Francisco 94109, USA.

Why order matters

- Assumptions of readers, and by extension, allocation of rewards in science
- Reference style – first author, et al.

Practices regarding order of authorship

- Nature and/or extent of contribution
- Alphabetical
- Rotate among investigators
- Lab chief
- Senior scientists

Author Responsibilities

- Acknowledge contributions of non-authors
- Vouch for scientific integrity of paper
- Cooperate in the investigation of research misconduct allegations
- Retractions, if warranted

CASE DISCUSSION 2

Scientist A is involved in early collaborations with researchers at another institution. Scientist A decides to move in a different direction. Researchers at the other institution continue to build on the initial work done in collaboration with Scientist A, and a few years later they publish a paper without crediting Scientist A

Questions:

- Should Scientist A have been offered co-authorship?
- Should Scientist A's contribution been acknowledged in a footnote or in some other fashion?
- Does Scientist A have a legitimate complaint that the other researchers committed plagiarism?