

Plagiarism and Ethical Research Practices

Responsible Conduct of Research

The Graduate School

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Overview of Workshop

- What is plagiarism?
- Why does plagiarism matter?
- How to avoid plagiarism
- Related ethical issues
 - Duplicate/Partial/Redundant Publication
 - Authorship
 - Multiple Submissions

What is Plagiarism?

- Plagiarism includes both the claiming of words *and* the claiming of ideas as one's own when they are not.
- Most professional organizations include definitions of plagiarism in their publications guidelines or statements of ethical practices.
 - From *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*, A.P.A.
 - “Psychologists do not present portions of another’s work or data as their own, even if the other work or data is cited occasionally”

Purdue's Policy on Integrity in Research
(Executive Memorandum C22):

The integrity of the research process must depend largely on self-regulation; it is the responsibility of all who engage in the search for knowledge. Advances are gleaned from rigorous application of scientific and scholarly methods in compliance with critical codes rooted in intellectual honesty.

Purdue's Policy on Integrity in Research, continued

- To minimize the incidence of academic dishonesty, major attention must be directed toward establishing the best possible research environment. To accomplish this goal, each researcher and academic unit has an obligation to participate in and focus attention on:
 - encouraging integrity in research,
 - **discouraging the quest for success at the expense of integrity,**
 - **assigning credit and responsibility appropriately,**
 - accepting responsibility for the integrity of students and staff involved in research.
 - conducting interpersonal relationships in a professional manner,
 - establishing well-defined research protocols and maintaining careful records.
 - "Research misconduct" shall mean, for the purposes of this policy, fabrication, falsification, **plagiarism**, or other practices that seriously deviate from those that are commonly accepted within the scientific and academic community for proposing, conducting, or reporting research. *It does not include honest error or honest differences in interpretations or judgments of data.*

Policies and Resources from the Office of the Dean of Students

- From “Academic Integrity: A Guide for Students”:
 - Plagiarism is a special kind of academic dishonesty in which one person steals another person's ideas or words and falsely presents them as the plagiarist's own product. This is most likely to occur in the following ways:
 - using the exact language of someone else without the use of quotation marks and without giving proper credit to the author
 - presenting the sequence of ideas or arranging the material of someone else even though such is expressed in one's own words, without giving appropriate acknowledgment
 - submitting a document written by someone else but representing it as one's own

Why Does Plagiarism Matter?

- We can't evaluate research contributions appropriately if we do not know whether or not they are original.
- Plagiarism is claiming that someone else's ideas, intellectual property are our own; it is a failure to give credit where credit is due
- In academia, that is important because we value intellectual property and original insights and ideas, as the statements above suggest.

Why Might Researchers Plagiarize?

- Lack of knowledge about how to do what is expected
- Educational differences that sometimes come from cultural differences
- Pressure to publish work

Consequences of Misconduct

- Example : Plagiarism
 - Revoking a dissertation (Ohio University)
 - <http://thepost.baker.ohiou.edu/articles/2006/02/23/news/2486.html>
 - Loss of job (Texas Tech University)
 - <http://media.www.dailytoreador.com/media/storage/paper870/news/2008/02/05/Opinions/Dt.Columnist.Fired.For.Plagiarism-3187801.shtml>
- Example: Fabrication and Falsification (PhD student –CSU)
 - <http://ori.dhhs.gov/misconduct/cases/Jin.shtml>
 - **Poehlman's case (The New York Times, Oct 22,'06) (Faculty – UV)**
 - http://ori.dhhs.gov/misconduct/cases/poehlman_notice.shtml
- Loss of Reputation
- Debarred from research

How Can Researchers Avoid Plagiarism?

- Understand the conventions for citing the work of others for your discipline
- Recognize that it is expected that you will refer to and build upon others' work, but that you are also expected to acknowledge that work
- Learn to quote, paraphrase, and summarize correctly and to cite sources for quotations, paraphrases, and summaries correctly

Examples of Quotations and Paraphrases

- Quoting: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/563/01/> and <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/> (APA style)
- Paraphrasing: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/619/01/>
- Additional Resource and Examples: <http://www.nau.edu/library/information/guides/plagiarism.html#quoteAPA> and <http://legacy.waldenu.edu/acad-rsrcs/writing-center/plagiarism/whatiss.html>

Related Ethical Issues

- Duplicate/Partial/Redundant Publication (sometimes called “Self-plagiarism”): APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct:
<http://www.apa.org/ethics/code2002.html> see especially 8.13; also <http://facpub.stjohns.edu/~roigm/plagiarism/> with section on self-plagiarism.
- Authorship: APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct:
<http://www.apa.org/ethics/code2002.html> see especially 8.12

Related Ethical Issues

- Multiple Submissions: Before you submit an article for publication, read the guidelines for authors that are included for the journal.
- Examples:
 - *Journal of Marriage and the Family*
 - *Journal of Gerontology*

from Journal of Marriage and the Family:

http://secure.ncfr.com/journals/marriage_family/submit/guide.asp

- Submit only previously unpublished work.
- The *Journal of Marriage and Family* has a policy of anonymous or masked review. Manuscript should not include authors' names, institutional affiliations, or contact information on the title page.
- Authors should make every effort to see that the manuscript itself contains no clues to the authors' identity.

from Journal of Gerontology:

<http://www.geron.org/journals/JGPSauthorinstructions.pdf>

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