

Plagiarism and Ethical Research Practices

A Workshop in the Responsible Conduct of Research
The Graduate School and the College of Education

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Overview of Workshop

- Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)
- What is plagiarism?
- Why does plagiarism matter?
- How to avoid plagiarism
- Related ethical issues
- Case studies for discussion

Responsible Conduct of Research

- What does the term mean?
 - Being honest in academic and research endeavors and continually striving to do the right thing
 - Maintaining the best and highest standards while engaging in research
- RCR does not end with graduate study at Purdue University
 - It is a lifelong endeavor

- Why is RCR Important?
 - For the Graduate student's reputation
 - For the Scholar's reputation and success
 - For the Department's and University's reputation
 - **For Continued Funding**
 - Last but not least...you might find yourself accused on YouTube!
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdQgJn5WUEQ>

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; **bolding added**):

*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.*

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
 - <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

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 Continued

- 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>

Submission of a manuscript to the journal implies that it has not been published and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. All authors must have participated sufficiently in the conception and design of the work, the analysis of the data, as well as the writing of the manuscript to take public responsibility for it.

- Reviewing an article for a review board in 2007 and read: “Validation of an instrument is a judgment based on an integration of empirical results and theoretical rationales (Messick, 1989).”
- This sounds familiar!
 - Exact wording from:
 - French, B. F., & Oakes, W. (2003). Measuring academic intrinsic motivation in the first year of college: Evidence of validity and reliability for a new instrument. *Journal of The First-Year Experience & Students in Transition*, 15, 83-102.
- How do you respond? What do you do? What did I do?

- “Maller worksheet” for reviewing articles

1. Citation (use APA –5th edition style)
2. Research Problem
3. Sample and sampling method
4. Independent variable(s)
5. Dependent variable(s)
6. Measurement of variable(s)
7. Procedure
8. Design
9. Statistical analysis
10. Results
11. Conclusion
12. Limitations/Threats (Internal & External Validity)
13. Contribution to the literature

Key points:

Systematic review

Use your own words

Saves time (no rereading, e-files)

- You are entering data from many (e.g., 1000) surveys and some people miss a few items. Based on responses to other items you fill in the missing data with a similar value.

Is this okay? Why?

- APA ethical guidelines specify authors publishing in APA journals must make data available to third parties for 5 years after publication.

- <http://gradschpdprograms.syr.edu/resources/videos.php>
- Discussion
 - The student says that he is “only” a graduate student and Bob is a postdoc. Is that relevant?
 - What would you do in these circumstances? What should you do?

Controversy at Teachers College, Columbia University

<http://insidehighered.com/news/2008/02/21/constantine>

<http://chronicle.com/news/article/4034/new-york-post-deems-columbia-us-handling-of-plagiarism-case-contemptible>

- In October 2007, Professor Madonna Constantine reported a noose hung on her office door. This made national news and there was an investigation. Since then, Professor Constantine has been accused of plagiarizing colleagues' work. Professor Constantine claims she is the victim of jealous colleagues who plagiarized her, and she has accused the college of racism.
- Discussion of her February 20, 2008 letter (handout)
 - <http://www.columbiaspectator.com/node/29460>

- AERA Standards
 - 45 standards: *Ethical Standards of the American Educational Research Association*
(<http://www.aera.net/aboutaera/?id=222>)
- APA
 - *Ethical principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*
(<http://www.apa.org/ethics/>)
 - *CODE OF FAIR TESTING PRACTICES IN EDUCATION*
(<http://www.apa.org/science/fairtestcode.html>)
- AERA, APA, NCME
 - *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*
(<http://www.apa.org/science/standards.html>)

- Dean Cindy Nakatsu & Associate Dean Gita Ramaswamy, The Graduate School
- Irwin “Bud” Weiser, Head, Department of English
- For further information, see Purdue’s RCR web site:
www.gradschool.purdue.edu/rcr/

THANK YOU FOR COMING!