



Publishing ethics workshop

Sarah Robbie, Head of Peer Review Policy & Research Integrity

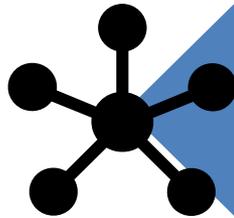
Shay O'Neill, Peer Review Policy & Research Integrity Manager



Aim for this session



Discuss guidelines and training from Taylor & Francis and COPE to help with the publishing ethics challenges which you face.



Go through some examples of publishing ethics cases and questions faced by journal editors



Peer Review Policy & Research Integrity team



Sarah Robbie



Shay O'Neill



Didi Peng

This team work with Taylor & Francis Editorial teams to:

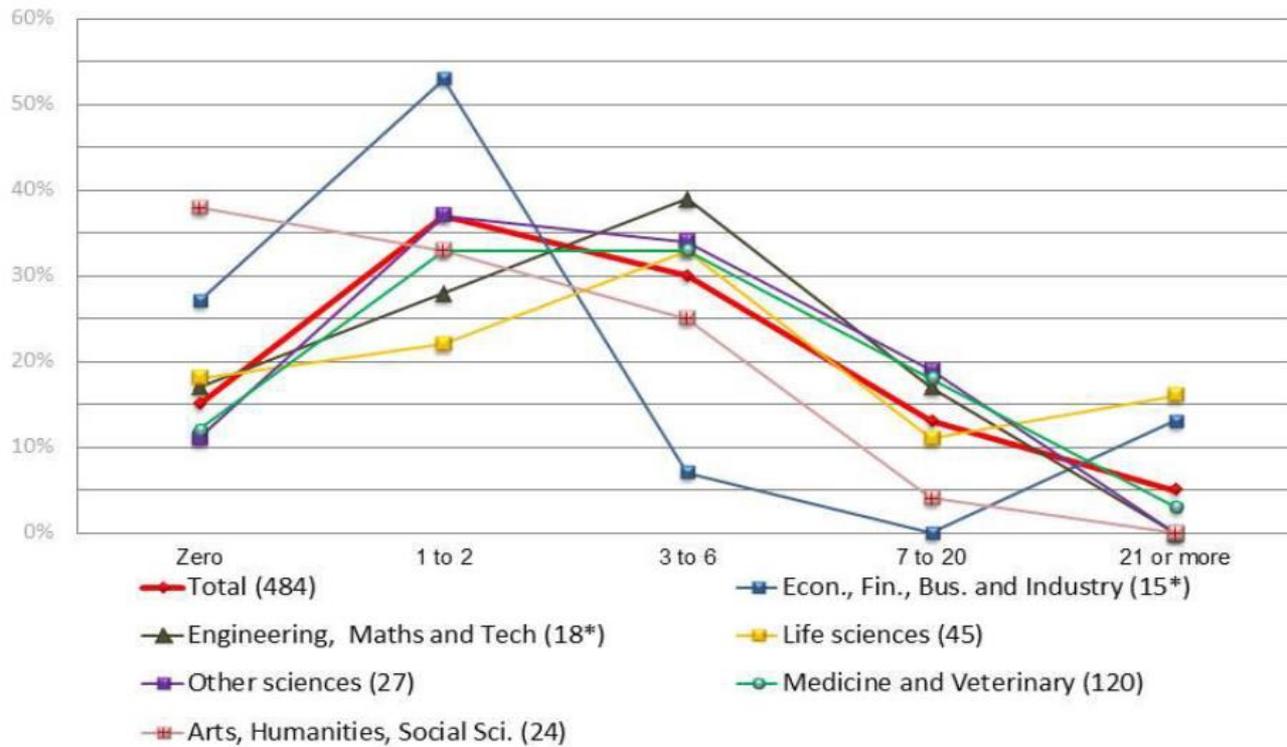
- manage peer review policies across all journals
- act as a central point for ethics queries and cases
- monitor and report on change and innovation in industry standards
- take responsibility for new peer review initiatives.



Ethics cases: some stats



Volume of publication ethics cases seen annually

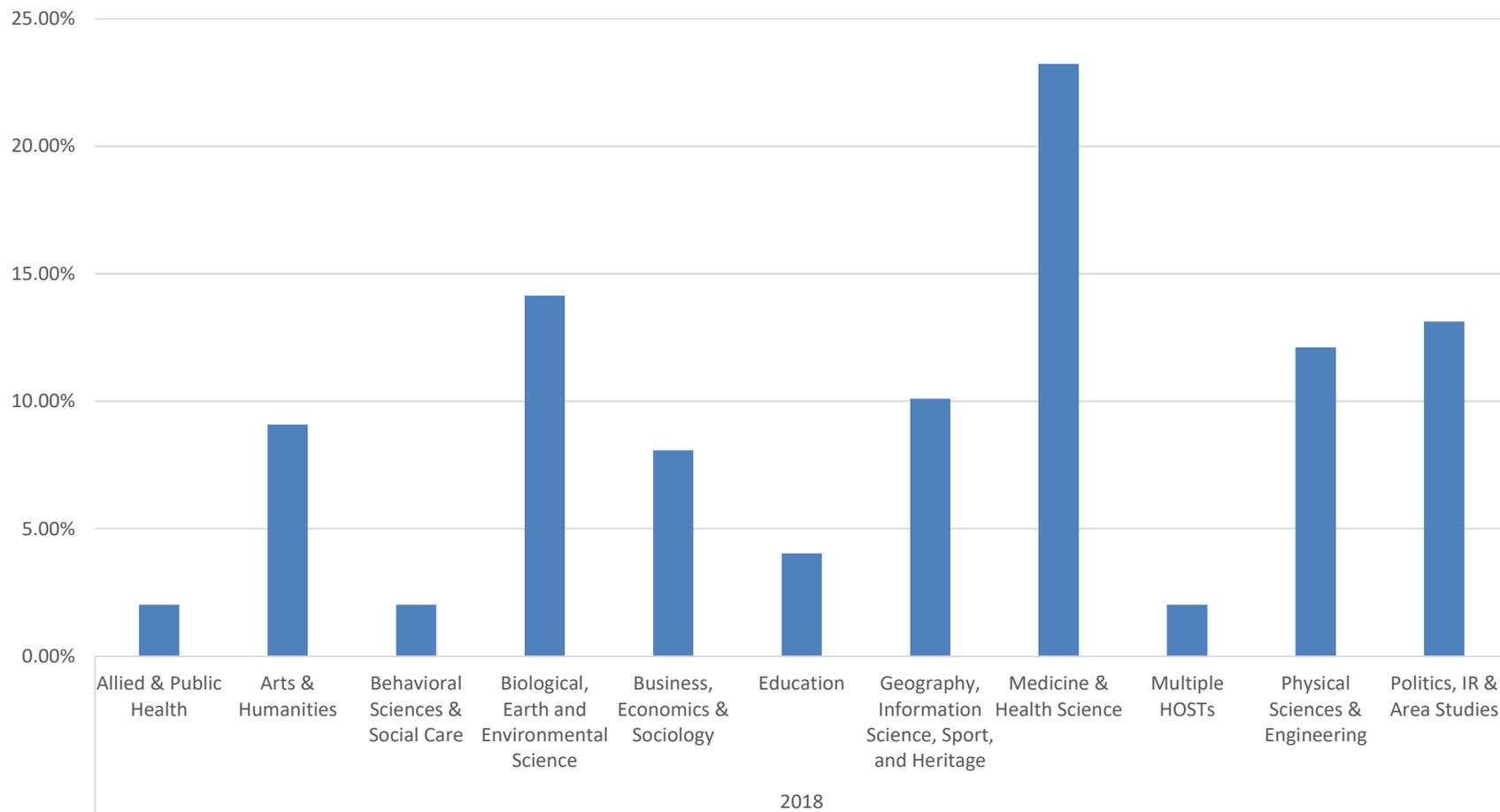


Base: All with an opinion ()
 * Indicates caution: low base of less than 20 respondents





Ethics cases in 2018



Common types of ethical problems



These occur within all disciplines, but sometimes with different treatment:

Plagiarism

- Quotes more often used in AHSS
- STEM often see overlap in methods/materials sections

Authorship

- Different definitions can apply in STEM and AHSS
- Different approaches to authorship globally

Libel and defamation

- Greater risks in AHSS due to more focus on subjective analyses of other people's views and the world around us, rather than "raw laboratory data"



Emerging ethical problems



New types of problems are becoming more common:

Online harassment

- Especially around topics such as race and gender

Political pressure

- Leading to withdrawal of submitted articles

Issues around research with human subjects

- Using social media
- Big data



The 'Sokal Squared' hoax – what are T&F doing?



1. Implementing additional journal editorial office and peer review systems support on selected journals
2. Trialling extended author checks
3. Training for journal editors
4. Peer review consultation with journal editors



So, you've got concerns about a paper...



Keep the case confidential

Contact your Taylor & Francis Managing Editor for guidance and support

Use the COPE flowcharts

Request a Crossref Similarity Check report

Draw on your editorial board for subject specific expertise

Take advantage of peer-review systems features

Use it as an education opportunity

Keep up-to-date with Editor Resources





Deborah Kahn

Publishing Director, Medicine & Open Access
COPE Council Member
Taylor & Francis

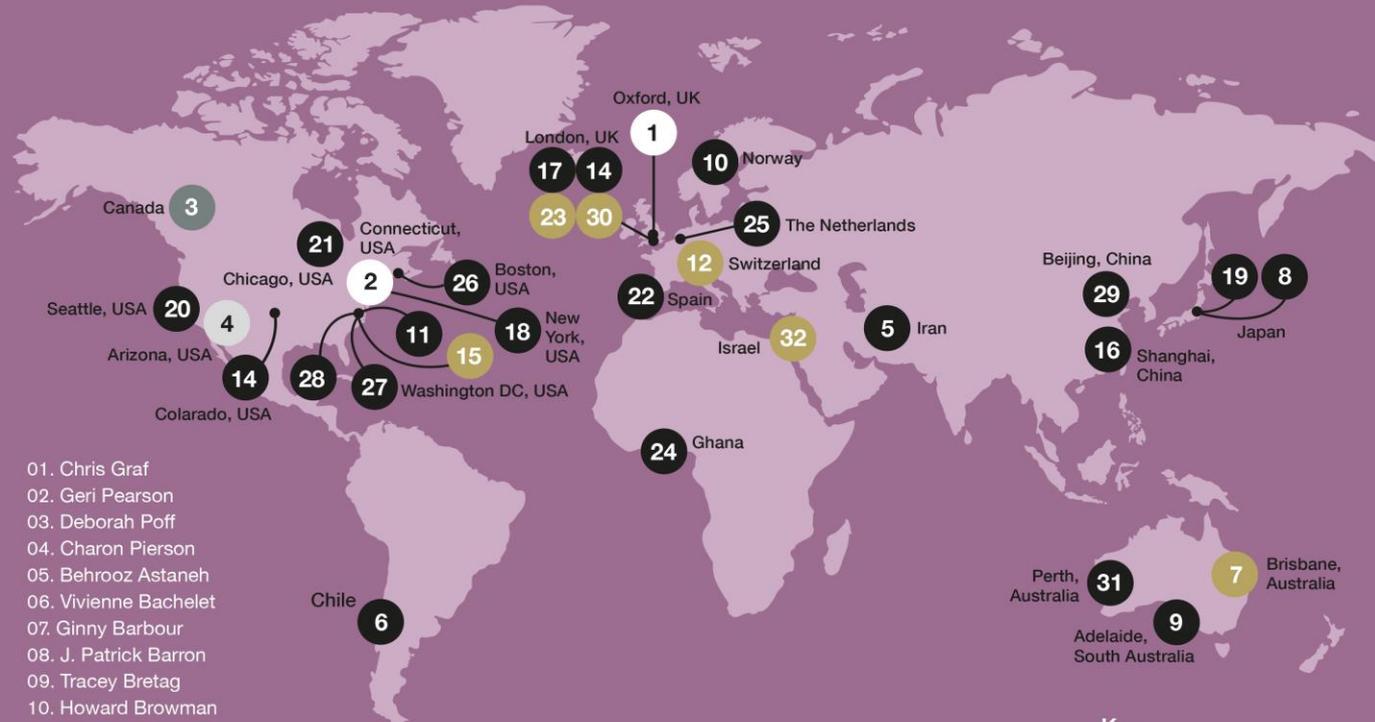


COPE

Promoting integrity in research and its publication

- COPE's role is to assist editors of scholarly journals and publisher/owners in their endeavour to **preserve and promote the integrity of the scholarly record** through policies and practices that reflect the current best principles of transparency as well as integrity.
- COPE is a membership organisation. Our **>12,000 members** are primarily **editors of journals and publishers** and we are currently exploring expanding our membership. Part of this potential expansion is being explored with a pilot project with **five universities around the world**.
- COPE operates, manages, and governs the organisation with a small group of paid employees and a **group of active volunteers** who serve on the trustee board and council.

Geographical diversity of Trustee and Council Members



- 01. Chris Graf
- 02. Geri Pearson
- 03. Deborah Poff
- 04. Charon Pierson
- 05. Behrooz Astaneh
- 06. Vivienne Bachelet
- 07. Ginny Barbour
- 08. J. Patrick Barron
- 09. Tracey Bretag
- 10. Howard Browman
- 11. Nancy Chescheir
- 12. Mirjam J Curno
- 13. Iria del Rio
- 14. David Ginley
- 15. Tara Hoke
- 16. Jason Hu
- 17. Deborah Kahn
- 18. Daniel Kulp
- 19. Trevor Lane
- 20. Seth Leopold
- 21. Michael Magoulias
- 22. Elizabeth Moylan
- 23. Zoë Mullan
- 24. David Ofuri-Adjei
- 25. Frits Rosendaal
- 26. Rachel Safer
- 27. Alison Taylor
- 28. Heather Tierney
- 29. Helena Wang
- 30. Sally Weatherill
- 31. Michael Wise
- 32. Adrian Ziderman

Key

- Co-Chairs
- Vice-Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Council Member
- Trustee

OUR CORE PRACTICES

Policies and practices required to reach the highest standards in publication ethics

[View all core practices](#) ▶



publicationethics.org

COPE's Core Practices

COPE assists editors of scholarly journals and publishers - as well as other parties, such as institutions - in their work to preserve and promote the integrity of the scholarly record through policies and practices. COPE describes these in 10 “Core Practices”. COPE's Core Practices should be considered alongside specific national and international codes of conduct for research.

Our core practices

Core practices are the policies and practices journals and publishers need, to reach the highest standards in publication ethics. We include cases with advice, guidance for day-to-day practice, education modules and events on topical issues, to support journals and publishers fulfil their policies.

[View all core practices](#)



1. Allegations of misconduct



2. Authorship and contributorship



3. Complaints and appeals



4. Conflicts of interest / competing interests



5. Data and reproducibility



6. Ethical oversight



7. Intellectual property



8. Journal management



9. Peer review processes



10. Post-publication discussions and corrections

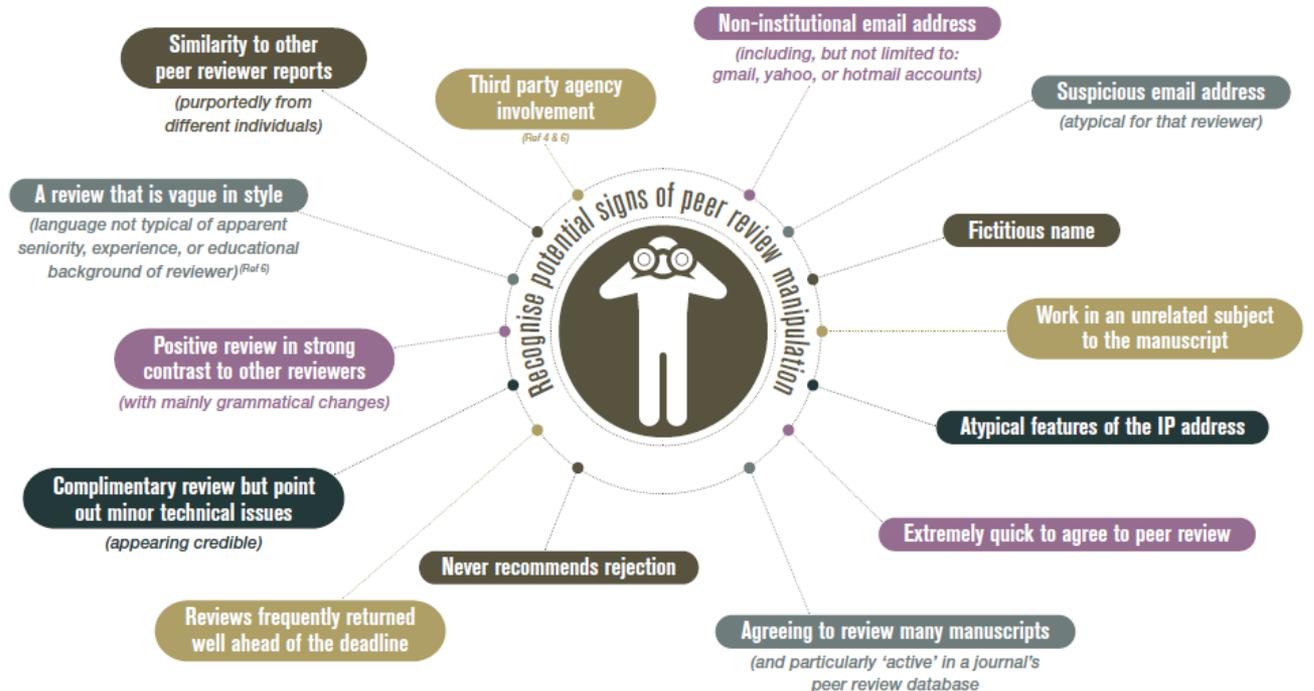
<https://publicationethics.org/core-practices>

Infographic

How to recognise potential manipulation of the peer review process

The features or patterns of activity shown are suggested to **help recognise potential signs** of peer review manipulation.

Often it is the **occurrence of these features in combination** that may indicate a potential issue.



COPE Journal Audit



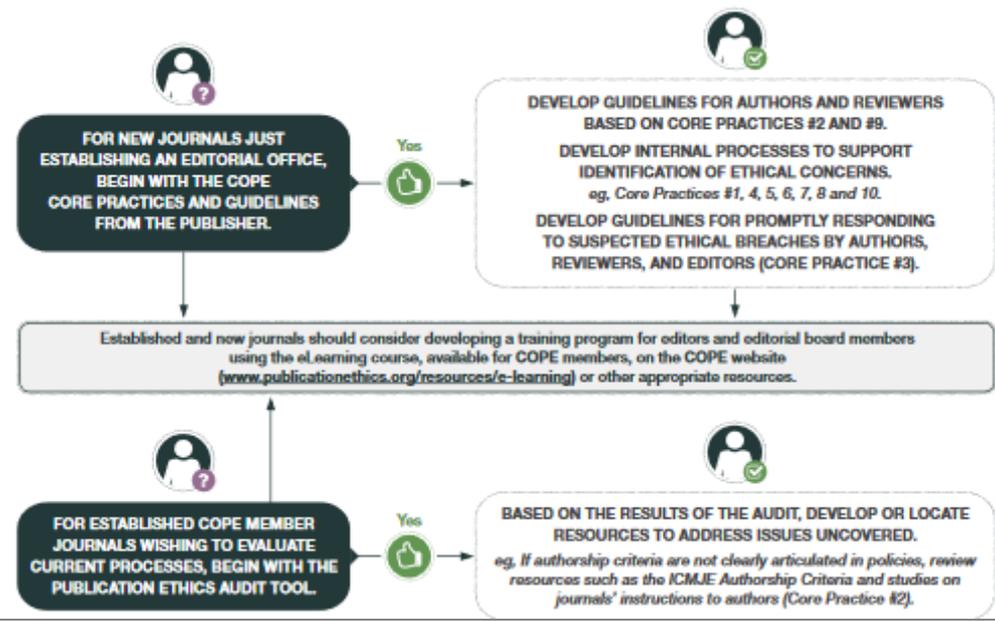
<https://publicationethics.org/resources/audit>

publicationethics.org

GENERAL APPROACH TO PUBLICATION ETHICS FOR THE EDITORIAL OFFICE

Suggested Guide for Approaching Organisation of the Editorial Office to Comply with COPE's Core Practices

COPE has many resources to assist publishers and editors in making decisions about ethical issues in publication, including guidelines, flowcharts, discussion documents, sample letters, eLearning modules, and an audit tool. This overview is a suggested guide for approaching organisation of the editorial office to comply with COPE guidelines.



HOW TO RECOGNISE POTENTIAL AUTHORSHIP PROBLEMS



Authorship Policies:

Clear policies (that allow for transparency around who contributed to the work and in what capacity) should be in place for requirements for authorship and contribution as well as processes for managing potential disputes.

For further details see: publicationethics.org/authorship

Relevant COPE Cases:

Stolen Article: <https://bit.ly/2nKqMhX>

Authorship Issues from Disbanded Consortium: <https://bit.ly/2E3Dqgm>

Withdrawal Request by an Author: <https://bit.ly/2E4JaeE>

Relevant Flowcharts:

How to Spot Authorship Problems: <https://bit.ly/2E3K3B4>

Suspected Ghost, Guest or GIFT Authorship: <https://bit.ly/2E26akf>

Request for Removal of Author After Publication: <https://bit.ly/2Eg31D>

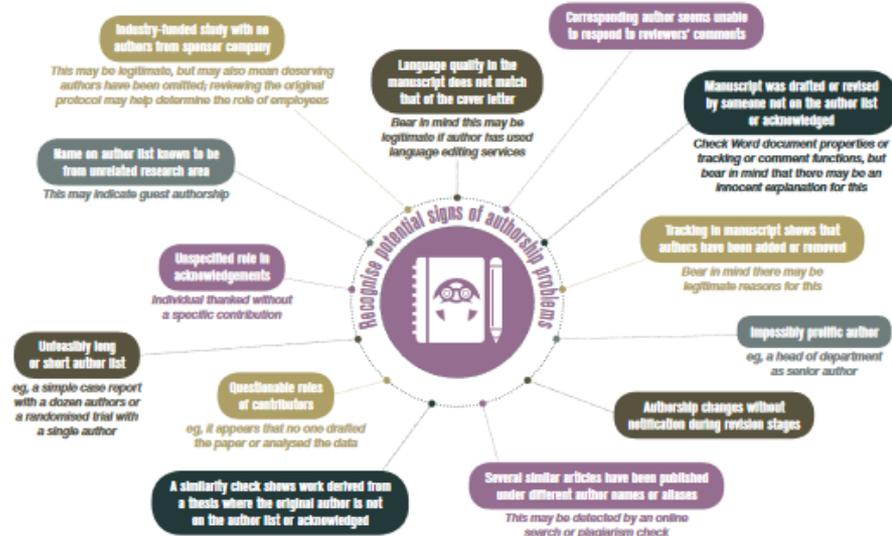
What to do if you Suspect Systematic Manipulation of the Publication Process: <https://bit.ly/2B3o3CN>

References:

- COPE Discussion Document on Best Practice for Issues Around Theses Publishing. <https://bit.ly/2dn8npu>
- COPE Webinar: Common Authorship Issues Faced by COPE Members. <https://bit.ly/2nEmSk3>
- E-Learning module on Authorship (Members only). <https://bit.ly/2Z9W6H>
- Promoting Awareness of Good Authorship Practice. *Siu-wai Leung* <https://bit.ly/2GPy7FX>
- A Systematic Review of Research on the Meaning, Ethics and Practices of Authorship Across Scholarly Disciplines. *Ana Marusic et al* <https://bit.ly/2qG6ggp>
- Publication Practices in Multidisciplinary Teams: A Closer Look at Authorship Assignment and Ranking. *Drs Zubin Master and Bryn Williams-Jones* <https://bit.ly/2nKQ1yL>
- Transparency in Authors' Contributions and Responsibilities to Promote Integrity in Scientific Publication. *PNAS, Marcia K. McNitt et al* <https://bit.ly/2xyP001>
- Ghost Authorship in Industry-Initiated Randomised Trials. *Peter C. Gøtzsche et al* <https://bit.ly/2S4G8BT>
- Authors, Ghosts, Damned Lies, and Statisticians. *Elizabeth Wager* <https://bit.ly/2E3ozG6>

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Signs that Might Indicate Authorship Problems



Best Practice to Minimise Authorship Problems



COPE AHSS Survey

COPE recognise that approaches to ethics can differ between STEM and AHSS subject area.

COPE are working with an external research agency to survey arts, humanities and social sciences journal editors on their experience of ethics on their journals.

The results of this survey will inform COPE's approach to AHSS issues and help prioritise resources needed to support these subjects.

We encourage AHSS journal editors to attend COPE events and online forums. Our next seminar will be in Philadelphia on the theme **'Challenges and Solutions: Issues of Inclusion and Diversity in the Humanities and Social Sciences'**



CASE DISCUSSIONS

GO TO: <https://www.slido.com>

USE CODE: #TFEDITORS



Taylor & Francis Group
an informa business

Case 1: A request for authorship on published paper



Journal contacted by an individual who had recently seen a published article and was surprised that they were not listed as an author because it utilised samples from a database that they established.

Journal then contacted the corresponding author of the article for more information. The corresponding author said that the complainant contributed substantially to the development of the cohort, but was not involved in the design, evaluation or preparation of the data.



Case 1: A request for authorship on published paper



Does the complainant meet common guidelines for authorship e.g. ICMJE?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure



Case 1: A request for authorship on published paper



If the authors cannot agree, who should make a decision about who should be an author on the paper?

- The journal editor
- The corresponding author
- The publisher
- The authors' institution



Case 1: A request for authorship on published paper



Is a correction or a retraction an appropriate course of action in this case?

- Correction
- Retraction
- No action



Case 1: A request for authorship on published paper



- One solution in such cases is for journals to list the contributions of each author. When contributions are clearly listed on a paper, it sometimes becomes clear that some of the contributors do not in fact qualify for authorship, so this practice should be encouraged by journals.
- Institutions need to take responsibility for these types of decisions and should have robust mechanisms in place. It is almost impossible for journals and editors to sort out these issues on their own.
- In this case, the issue was escalated to the institution who agreed a correction should be issued acknowledging the contribution of the individual contributing the dataset

<https://publicationethics.org/case/requesting-authorship-after-publication>



Case 2: Self-plagiarism/salami-slicing



- **Journal A accepted a manuscript with six authors in June, which was published in January the following year.**
- **Several months later, the editors found a paper published elsewhere, which shared striking similarities to paper A. Journal B accepted paper B in November and published it in February the following year. There was overlap in authors.**
- **The editorial board of journal A concurred that papers A and B were written (i) in an identical manner or format of presentation; (ii) under the same study design with only minor changes that would make little clinical difference; and (iii) with extensive use of recycled texts which covered most of the papers, including the majority of the materials and discussion sections.**



Case 2: Self-plagiarism/salami-slicing



Should the editor inform the other journal editor?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure



Case 2: Self-plagiarism/salami-slicing



Should one or both papers be retracted?

- Both papers retracted
- Paper A retracted
- Paper B retracted
- Neither paper retracted



Case 2: Self-plagiarism/salami-slicing



Articles should be retracted to correct the literature not to punish the authors.

Advice was it's up to journal B to retract the paper for redundant publication or salami publishing because journal A published the article first. Hence it is journal B's responsibility here to address the misconduct. The editor should contact journal B and inform them of the issue.

Possibility that the authors were inexperienced and did not think their paper was going to be accepted by journal A because of the time between acceptance and publication? The authors may then have slightly altered the paper and submitted it to journal B? It may be that this is an educational opportunity.

