Plagiarism: Is it Just an “Approach”?

Retraction Watch

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I have no relevant financial conflicts of interest.
RetractionWatch.com

- Founded in July 2010
  by Adam Marcus and Ivan Oransky, MD

- "Tracking retractions as a window into the scientific process"

- Expanded to include "expressions of concern," major corrections and other aspects of scientific publishing

Retraction Watch key stats

- More than 1,040 posts

- 5-6 posts per week

- More than 6.2 million page views

- Nearly 18,000 comments
Retraction Watch Sources

• Databases such as:

• Pubmed, Science Direct, Google Scholar

• Tips from readers

Database in the Works

Retraction posts by author, country, journal, subject, and type

Select Category

- best of retractions (8)
- by author (320)
- alirio melendez (14)
- amy wagers retractions (7)
- andrew ochroch retractions (1)
- andrew wakefield retraction (1)
- anil potti retractions (36)
- axel ulrich retractions (1)
- bharat aggarwal (8)
- carsten carlberg retractions (6)
- Craig Hill (3)
What People Say

"Maybe I am not the target audience for this blog, but to me the single most important question about a retracted paper is not 'Why was it retracted?' but rather 'What was it supposed to have proven, that I should not rely upon anymore?'

Retractions on the Rise

**Backpedaling**

Retraction notices in scientific journals world-wide have surged.

![Chart showing retraction notices increase over years](chart)

Notes: The number of articles published between 2001 and 2010 has also risen but for less, about 4%. 2011 data are through July.

Source: Thomson Reuters

Source: The Wall Street Journal
Misconduct accounts for the majority of retracted scientific publications

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Abstract

A detailed review of all 2,047 biomedical and life-sciences research articles indexed by PubMed as retracted on May 3, 2012 revealed that only 21.9% of retractions were attributable to error. In contrast, 67.4% of retractions were attributable to misconduct, including fraud or suspected fraud (43.4%), duplicate publication (14.2%), and plagiarism (9.8%). Incomplete, uninformative or misleading retraction announcements have led to a previous underestimation of the role of fraud in the ongoing retraction epidemic. The percentage of scientific articles retracted because of fraud has increased ~10-fold since 1975. Retractions exhibit distinctive temporal and geographic patterns that may reveal underlying causes.

In this article, a colleague sent me an article about the winner-takes-all incentives in science and how they can lead to abuses. Is there a better way?
“Winner Takes All” Incentives

“The winner-take-all aspect of the priority rule has its drawbacks, however. It can encourage secrecy, sloppy practices, dishonesty and an excessive emphasis on surrogate measures of scientific quality, such as publication in high-impact journals.”

-- Fang and Casadevall, Scientific American

Types of Plagiarism

- Not all created equal
- Should the response be uniform?
Technical Plagiarism

When a coin falls on one of its two sides, one bit of information is obtained, whereas a rolled six-sided die provides approximately 2.6 bits. Any conscious experience, even one of pure darkness, must be extraordinarily informative, since countless other experiences could have occurred instead.19

References:


Consciousness and Integrated Information

The evidence from anesthesia and sleep states (Fig. 2 and 3) converges to suggest that loss of consciousness is associated with a breakdown of cortical connectivity and thus of integration, or with a collapse of the repertoire of cortical activity patterns and thus of information (Figs. 2 and 3). Why should this be the case? A recent theory suggests a principled reason: Information and integration may be the very essence of consciousness (52). Classically, information is the reduction of uncertainty among alternatives. When a coin falls on one of its two sides, it provides 1 bit of information, whereas a die falling on one of six faces provides ~2.6 bits. But then having any conscious experience, even one of pure darkness, must be extraordinarily informative, because we could have had countless other experiences instead (think of all the frames of every possible movie). Having any

Self Plagiarism

Continuous Positive Airway Pressure via the Boussignac System Immediately after Exubation Improves Lung Function in Morbidly Obese Patients with Obstructive Sleep Apnea Undergoing Laparoscopic Bariatric Surgery

MORbidly obese (MO) patients are at elevated risk for perioperative pulmonary complications. These include increased atelectasis, due to loss of functional residual capacity (FRC), anesthetics, and surgery and airway obstruction consequent of obstructive sleep apnea-hypopnea syndrome, anesthetics, and opioid analgesia.1,3 A variety of techniques have been applied to minimize the development of perioperative atelectasis, including reverse Trendelenburg positioning, intraoperative positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP), and continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) during induction of anesthesia. However, the period immediately after extubation is a potentially hazardous time due to the risks of airway obstruction, narcotics, residual anesthetics, and residual neuromuscular blockade.

Noninvasive Ventilation Immediately After Exubation Improves Lung Function in Morbidly Obese Patients with Obstructive Sleep Apnea Undergoing Laparoscopic Bariatric Surgery

Patients who are morbidly obese (MO) are at increased risk for perioperative pulmonary complications. These include increased atelectasis due to loss of functional residual capacity (FRC), anesthetics, and surgery and airway obstruction as a consequence of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA)-hypopnea syndrome, anesthetics, and opioid analgesia.1,4 A variety of intraoperative techniques have been applied to minimize the development of postoperative atelectasis, including reverse Trendelenburg positioning, recruitment maneuvers,1,6 intraoperative positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP), and continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) during induction of anesthesia.7 The period immediately after tracheal extubation is a potentially hazardous time because of the risks of airway obstruction, narcotics, residual anesthetics, and residual neuromuscular blockade.15
What's Yours is Mine

Retraction Watch

Cal Poly Pomona education researcher leaves post after rampant plagiarism is revealed

with 4 comments

In late June, we wrote about a case of wholesale plagiarism involving an education researcher in California, Thoenghuang H. Huang. Our post prompted a flurry of emails from readers cluing us in to other cases in which Huang, of California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, had lifted essentially entire articles from other scholars and changed lists, if anything, but the author information.

For example, Huang's "The Contributions of Teachers' Credentialing Routes and Experience Levels on Classroom Management," in the January 2005 issue of the International Journal of Instruction, was the same, word-for-word, as the work of two other authors.


The International Journal of Instruction has removed the article from its archive and plans to announce the retraction.

Retraction Watch

Plagiarism: it's just an "approach" to writing papers, right?

The following article from ChemView, a German journal, is a not-so-joyful reminder of plagiarism. It's published by Elsevier Science, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and the editor-in-chief is Dr. J. W. J. van de Sande. The article, "Reduction of the Polarization of Heterostructured Electrodes," by T. H. Brand and H. G. Nitsch, published in Electrochimica Acta, Volume 30, Issue 12, 1995, pages 2019-2030, has been retracted. The authors apologize for the oversight and have attempted to contact the original authors. The paper's retraction is due to the discovery of a significant error in the data presented.

The要注意的是，剽窃行为不仅仅是“方法”来写作论文，而是严重的学术不端行为。
That the authors lifted some text from another paper is small fries. The major flaw o

It may be going a bit too far to use value-laden expressions like “wall of shame” an
As other have pointed out, researchers under pressure to publish in a language the
Researchers unfamiliar with editors’ expectations for appropriate citation and attribu
Publishing Bans for Plagiarism?

"I don’t see any distinction between a ban based on fraud, to one also based on plagiarism, to one based on any other range of ethical transgressions. Either all ethical issues get dealt with simultaneously and equally, or don’t single out just one type of issue (i.e., fraud, which is actually probably a minor issue in science – honestly performed junk science is a larger problem, as is ripping off other people’s ideas [a massive problem that needs correction], as is a range of other unethical behavior among editors, editorial boards, and reviewers)."
Publishing Bans for Plagiarism?

"Failing to accord proper credit for the source of your ideas is just as bad as faking your data, as is the use of political connections to suppress the publication of another scientist's work."

Retraction Watch

Nursing researcher Scott Weber draws penalties from ORI in plagiarism, fraud scandal

Scott Weber, a nursing researcher and professor at the University of Pittsburgh, was under investigation for plagiarizing work from other researchers. The Office of Research Integrity (ORI) found evidence of plagiarism and ordered Weber to return the research funds and pay a fine. Weber's conduct included copying text and figures from other researchers without proper citation. The case highlights the importance of ethical research practices.