

Plagiarism

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It is every where

Scientific fraud: action needed in China

On Dec 19, 2009, editors at *Acta Crystallographica Section E* alerted the scientific community to a disgraceful pattern of fraud involving papers they had published in 2007. At least 70 false crystal structures were reported—mainly from two groups led by Hua Zhong and Tao Liu, both at Jinggangshan University, Jian, China. All authors have now agreed to retraction of 41 papers published by Zhong and 29 by Liu. It is rather surprising that wrongdoing on such a scale evaded detection during peer review and, considering that crystal structures are deposited in public databases upon publication, that the truth has been uncovered so slowly.

In China, the government controls almost all funding for research. As in other countries, to gain funding, researchers need to publish as many papers in high impact journals as possible. According to *Science Citation Index* and other resources, Chinese authors published 271 000 papers in 2008, roughly 11.5% of the world's total. This incident is not the first time that scientific fraud has occurred in China. Regulations to monitor state-funded research projects were announced in 2006 by the Ministry of Science and Technology

Science & Technology

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A Massive Case Of Fraud

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

William G. Schulz

A CHEMIST IN INDIA has been found guilty of plagiarizing and/or falsifying more than 70 research papers between 2004 and 2007, according to documents from his university, copies of which were obtained by *Science & Technology*. This is one of the most spectacular and outrageous cases of scientific fraud they have ever seen.

The culprit, sources say, is chemistry professor Pattium Chiranjeevi of Sri Venkateswara University. He was found guilty of plagiarizing research work after a journal editor presented evidence to university officials that the professor had plagiarized. Chiranjeevi, who communicates through a wide variety of e-mail addresses, has not responded to requests for comment.

well as establishing robust and transparent procedures for handling allegations of scientific misconduct to prevent further instances of fraud.

For Hu Jintao's goal of China becoming a research superpower by 2020 to be credible, China must assume stronger leadership in scientific integrity. ■ *The Lancet*

It is every where

- People learn by repeating
- People speak using the same words
- People re-use jokes
- All literature exploits a limited number of basic stories (“...substantially all ideas are second-hand, consciously and unconsciously drawn from a million outside sources.” M. Twain)
- Concept of plagiarism arose hand in hand with authorship, unfortunately the **CONTENT** was lost to **WORDS**

Citation
amnesia

Politicians and business people are happy with plagiarism

- If it does not undermine their profits
- If public don't caught them

J. Baiden, plagiarized as a student (?),
plagiarized as a Presidential
candidate (*idea of speech,
not word-by-word!*)





Candidate of science, dissertation defended in 1997 г., while being vice-major of S. Petersburg; defended before the Dissertation Council of the Gornii Institute. Later rector of this institute became the chief of the election campaign in S. Petersburg.

The climax

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From [The Sunday Times](#)

March 26, 2006

Putin accused of plagiarising his PhD thesis

[Tony Allen-Mills](#), New York

Putin was labelled a plagiarist yesterday after a pair of researchers at the Brookings Institution, a Washington DC

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Vitalii Ginzburg, RAS, Nobel laureate:
I do not know details... probably he was cheated. He is clever enough for not doing such things and not understand that it is counterproductive..

Probably he asked ... assistant to collect the necessary materials, and did not checked the sources himself, what is not excusable, of course. But I do not believe in the intentional Putin's plagate, especially taking his profession into account

218 of 450 chairs in Lower Chamber of Russian “parliament” are occupied by Candidates and Doctors of Science

Internet ads: dozens of offers to prepare and help in preparation of dissertation. The price: \$5k - \$50k.

The “full service” includes the arrangements of publications and “support” in negotiations with dissertation council (of the university or research center)

Is academy special?

- Academy is more intolerant to plagiarism

Prevalence in dissertations

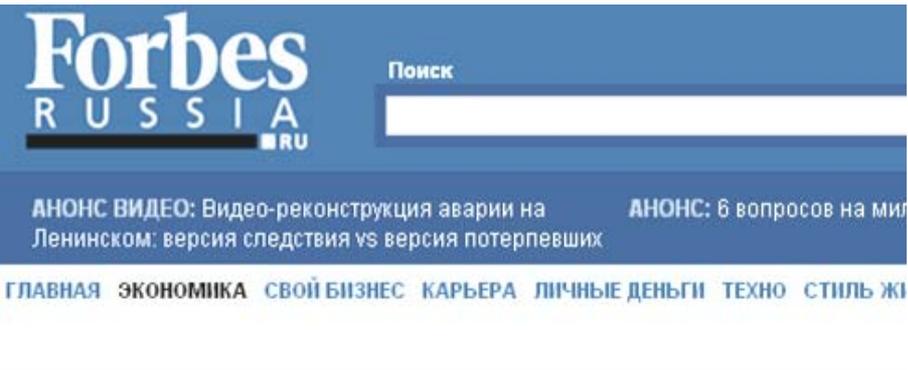
Chairman of Higher attestation commission

- Up to 1/3 of dissertations are bought for money (2006)
- 1000 dissertations rejected because of plagiarism (2007, it is about 3%)
- Computer-based check is introduced in 2008

RAS member accused in plagiarism

Vice President RAS,
Alexander Nekipelov

RAS ad hoc
commission chaired by
RAS president found
that there was no
plagiarism, because
many pages of
translated text (not
marked as quote) were
referenced



Крупные заимствования

Российского академика обвиняют в списывании. Не его первого

Анна Соколова | 24 декабря 2009 17:41

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Академик Александр Некипелов

«В работе содержатся серьезные теоретические новации, ряд остро дискуссионных идей и подходов», — говорится в аннотации к монографии вице-президента Российской академии наук, члена советов директоров «Роснефти» и «Транснефти» Александра



Academic “elite”

- Connected to old party and modern state/business elite
- Part of the ‘consumers’ and ‘providers’ of the ‘dissertation services’
- Suppressing the honest criticism of plagiarism

Asim Kurjak, MD,
Zagreb medical school

Professional regulation

Role of systematic reviews in detecting plagiarism: case of
Asim Kurjak

Iain Chalmers

Plagiarism is difficult to detect, especially if it occurs in journals with a small readership. Systematic reviews can help to identify cases, but as this case shows, unless perpetrators face greater sanctions the problem is unlikely to go away

Principled actions against plagiarizer



- Dangerous
- Probably influential

Ana Marushich, Matko Marushich
Editors, Croatian Medical Journal

Is plagiarism understood in Russia?

- There are cases of persecution
- Terminology is stable
- But it is not in the agenda
 - In MEDLINE - 2 records in Russian
 - After 2000 only one record

But: 2 300 000 Russian in Google
during last year
(OK, $>1/2$ is about music/movies)

Infrastructure?

No one state or funding body, no academy/society has an entity for management of cases of research misconduct

Only in 2009 Moscow State University introduced the Code of Ethics naming plagiarism a misconduct

Place for optimism?

- Russian plagiarism-search engines are developed
- Professors in universities employ plagiarism-finding services and thus students learn about plagiarism
- Students struggling against notorious dean in Moscow University did spot his plagiarism