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Avoiding the Plagiarism Trap

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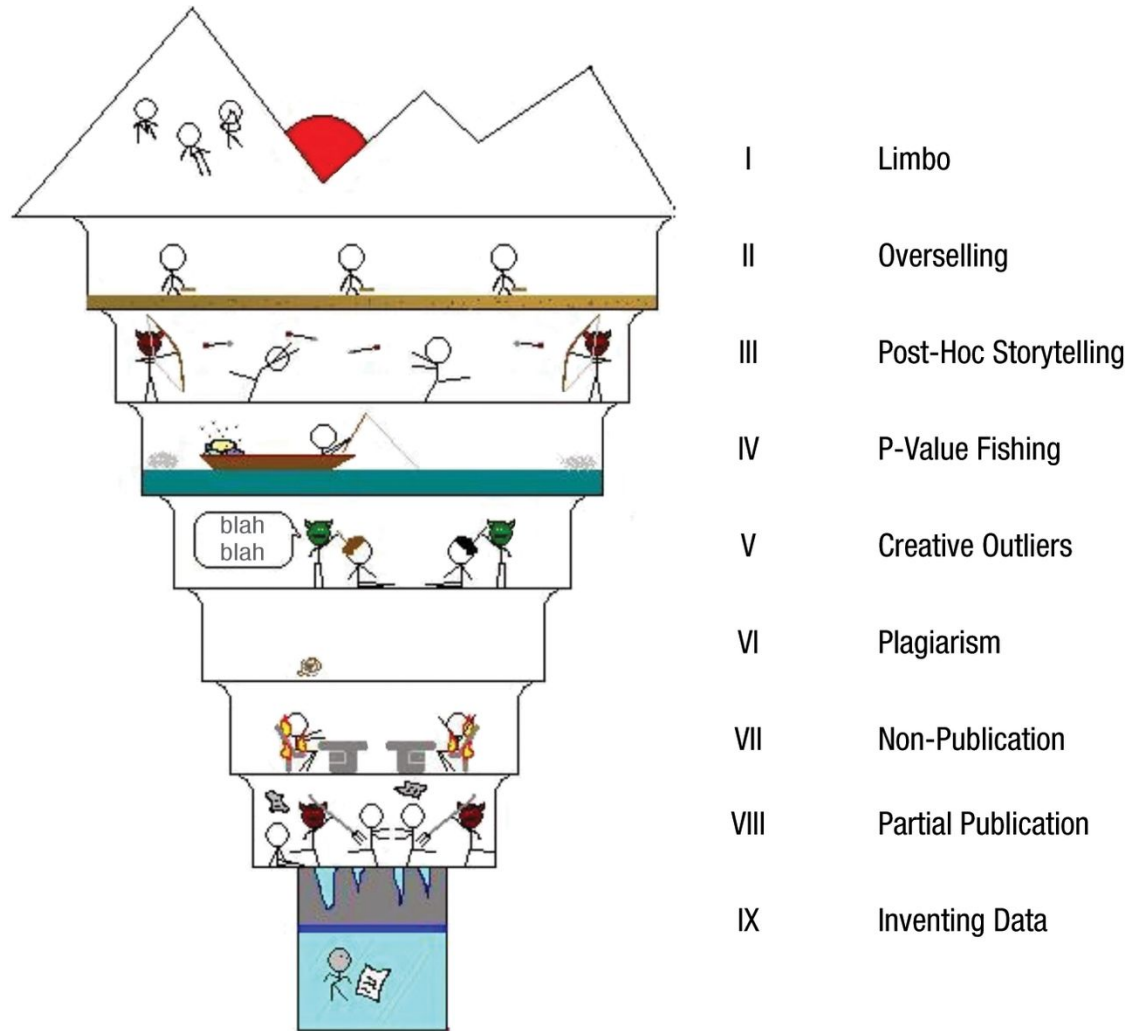
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Avoiding the Plagiarism Trap

Amanda Izenstark
Reference & Instructional Design Librarian
University Libraries
September 14, 2016

Fig. 1. The nine circles of scientific hell (with apologies to Dante and xkcd).



Neuroskeptic Perspectives on Psychological Science
2012;7:643-644



The Nine Circles of Scientific Hell

Neuroskeptic¹

In the spirit of Dante Alighieri's *Inferno*, this paper takes a humorous look at the fate that awaits scientists who sin against best practice.

The *Divine Comedy* of Dante Alighieri is a classic of world literature and was the first major work in the Italian language. In the first book of the trilogy, *Inferno*, Dante offers a tour of the nine increasingly horrible levels of Hell, in which the wicked are tormented forever in ways corresponding to their sins. But Dante lived before the era of modern science. Perhaps it is necessary to update his scheme to explain what happens to those guilty of various scientific sins, ranging from the commonplace to the shocking (see Fig. 1.).

Dante's Hell had a place for everyone, and it was only Christ's intervention that saved anyone from it; even "good" people went to Hell, because everyone sinned, and sins were

Fourth Circle: p Value Fishing

Those who tried every statistical test in the book until they got a p value less than .05 find themselves here, in an enormous lake of murky water. Sinners sit on boats and must fish for their food. Fortunately, they have a huge selection of different fishing rods and nets (brand names include Bayes, Student, Spearman, and many more). Unfortunately, only one in 20 fish are edible, so the sinners in this circle are constantly hungry.

Fifth Circle: Creative Use of Outliers

Those who "cleaned up" their results by excluding inconvenient data points are condemned here. Demons pluck out their hairs one by one, each time explaining that the sinner is better off

Neuroskeptic. (2012). The nine circles of scientific hell. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 7(6), 643-644. [doi:10.1177/1745691612459519](https://doi.org/10.1177/1745691612459519)

What is plagiarism?

Examples

Copying *parts* of
another source

Using an entire paper
from another source

Using another writer's
ideas, words,
phrases, or
terminology without
citation

Rearranging or
paraphrasing
another's words
without attribution

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without attribution

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research twice

Intentional
vs
Unintentional

Three emails about citing...

Dear Amanda,

How would you cite this?



romeo-and-juliet1

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“Romeo-and-Juliet1.” Undated. Online Image.
23 Feb 2016.

Annazuhlke. “Romeo-and-Juliet1.” 01 Feb 2010.
Online Image. Flickr. 23 Feb 2016.

- Original image is probably not “Taken on February 1, 2010”
- “annazuhlke” is probably not the original photographer
- But that’s the information we have, and to provide accurate access to the source and version we used, that’s how the image is cited

Dear Amanda,

How would you cite *this*?

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Internet History Sourcebooks

www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/sieyes.asp

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Modern History Sourcebook: Abbé Sieyes: What is the Third Estate?

Emmanuel Joseph Sieyes: "What is the Third Estate? [Excerpts]

What is necessary that a nation should subsist and prosper?

Individual effort and public functions.

[Individual Efforts]

All individual efforts may be included in for classes:

1. Since the earth and the waters furnish crude products for the needs of man, the first class, in logical sequence, will be that of all families which devote themselves to agricultural labor.
2. Between the first sale of products and their consumption or use, a new manipulation, more or less repeated, adds to these products a second value more or less composite. In this manner human industry succeeds in perfecting the gifts of nature, and the crude product increases two-fold, ten-fold, one hundred-fold in value. Such are the efforts of the second class.
3. Between production and consumption, as well as between the various stages of production, a group of intermediary agents establish themselves, useful both to producers and consumer; these are the merchants and brokers: the brokers who, comparing incessantly the demands of time and place, speculate upon the profit of retention and transportation; merchants who are charged with distribution, in the last analysis, either at wholesale





<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/sieyes.asp>

Sieyes, Emmanuel Joseph. "What is the Third Estate? [Excerpts]." *Internet History Sourcebook*. Accessed October 12, 2012 <http://legacy.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/sieyes.asp>

Halsall, Paul. "Modern History Sourcebook: Abbé Sieyes: What is the Third Estate?" *Internet History Sourcebook*. Accessed October 12, 2012 <http://legacy.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/sieyes.asp>

Dear Amanda,

How would you cite *this*?

LIVE
Heartburn Drugs Tied to Dementia RiskBy **NICHOLAS BAKALAR** FEBRUARY 17, 2016 3:16 PM 41 Comments Email Share Tweet Save More

The popular heartburn drugs known as proton pump inhibitors have been linked to a range of ills: bone fractures, kidney problems, infections and more. Now a large new study has found that they are associated with an increased risk for dementia as well.

Proton pump inhibitors, or P.P.I.s, are widely available both by prescription and over the counter under various brand names, including Prevacid, Prilosec and Nexium.

German researchers, using a database of drug prescriptions, studied P.P.I. use in 73,679 men and women older than 75 who were free of dementia at the start of the study. Over an average follow-up period of more than five years, about 29,000 developed Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. [The study is in JAMA Neurology.](#)

After controlling for age, sex, depression, diabetes, stroke, heart disease and the use of other medicines, they found that regular use of P.P.I.s increased the risk for dementia in men by 52 percent and in women by 42 percent, compared with nonusers.

"Our study does not prove that P.P.I.s cause dementia," said the senior author, Britta Haerisch of the German Center for

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By NICHOLAS BAKALAR FEBRUARY 17, 2016 3:16 PM 41 Comments

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For new mothers who are breast feeding, what are the best strategies for weight loss that will not jeopardize the milk supply?

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351 followers

BODY

Does taking an NSAID for tendinitis lead to healing or only to pain relief?

Asked by gleedy

1726 followers

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Original Investigation | February 15, 2016

Association of Proton Pump Inhibitors With Risk of Dementia

A Pharmacoepidemiological Claims Data Analysis

ONLINE FIRSTWilly Gomm, PhD¹; Klaus von Holt, MD, PhD¹; Friederike Thomé, MSc¹; Karl Broich, MD²; Wolfgang Maier, MD^{1,3}; Anne Fink, MSc^{1,4}; Gabriele Doblhammer, PhD^{1,4,5,6}; Britta Haenisch, PhD¹[\[+\] Author Affiliations](#)JAMA Neurol. Published online February 15, 2016. doi:10.1001/jamaneurol.2015.4791 Text Size: **A** A A[Article](#) [Figures](#) [Tables](#) [Supplemental Content](#) [References](#) [Comments \(1\)](#)

ABSTRACT

[ABSTRACT](#) | [INTRODUCTION](#) | [METHODS](#) | [RESULTS](#) | [DISCUSSION](#) | [CONCLUSIONS](#) |
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Importance Medications that influence the risk of dementia in the elderly can be relevant for dementia prevention. Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) are widely used for the treatment of gastrointestinal diseases but have also been shown to be potentially involved in cognitive decline.

Objective To examine the association between the use of PPIs and the risk of incident dementia in the

Bakalar, N. (2016, February 17). Heartburn drugs tied to dementia risk. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2016/02/17/heartburn-drugs-tied-to-dementia-risk/>

Gomm, W., von Holt, K., Thomé, F., Broich, K., Maier, W., Fink, A., . . . Haenisch, B. (2016). Association of proton pump inhibitors with risk of dementia: A pharmacoepidemiological claims data analysis. *JAMA Neurology*. Retrieved from <https://archneur.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2487379>

What makes
plagiarism so bad?

Tips for Avoiding Plagiarism

1

Remember that you need to cite
everything - ideas, text, images,
and data - that you found
elsewhere

2

If you're citing a source that was originally published elsewhere, you need to cite where you saw the source, not the *original* source

3

Take very good notes, and
always keep information about
the original source near your
notes

4

If you quote or paraphrase as you're writing, leave yourself a note in your text as a reminder

5

Consult Appropriate Publication
Manuals

APA

MLA

Chicago

AMA

Harvard

Columbia

Journal-Specific Styles

6

Use a citation manager to
organize and support
your work

RefWorks

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Mendeley

Papers

Plagiarism's Scary Friend: Fabrication

Eric Poehlman

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[Eric Poehlman - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_Poehlman ▾

Eric T. Poehlman (born c. 1956), a scientist in the field of human obesity and aging, was the first academic in the United States to be jailed for falsifying data in a ...

[An Unwelcome Discovery - New York Times - The New York Times](#)

www.nytimes.com/2006/10/22/magazine/22sciencefraud.html?...all

Oct 22, 2006 - On a rainy afternoon in June, **Eric Poehlman** stood before a federal judge in the United States District Court in downtown Burlington, Vt. His ...

[Grantee Misconduct: Dr. Eric T. Poehlman - News & Events ...](#)

www.nih.gov ▸ [News & Events](#) ▾

Mar 7, 2011 - Grantee Misconduct: Dr. **Eric T. Poehlman** - News & Events - National Institutes of Health (NIH)

[Menopause Doc Fudged Data - CBS News](#)

www.cbsnews.com/8301-18563_162-703359.html ▾

Feb 11, 2009 - Dr. **Eric Poehlman** was renowned for his groundbreaking research on women and menopause. He theorized that menopause makes women ...

[Images for eric poehlman](#) - Report images



[Case Summary - Eric T. Poehlman - The Office of Research Integrity](#)

ori.hhs.gov/poehlman_notice ▾

Aug 2, 2011 - Printer Friendly. [Federal Register: March 24, 2005 (Volume 70, Number 56)] [Notices] [Page 15092-15095] From the Federal Register Online ...

Eric Poehlman

Eric T. Poehlman, a scientist in the field of human obesity and aging, was the first academic in the United States to be jailed for falsifying data in a grant application. [Wikipedia](#)



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Scott Reuben

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*Ignorance of the law
is no excuse*

Know the requirements of:

Your Project

Your Advisor

Your Committee

Your Institution

Your Publisher

Your Funding Agency

retractionwatch.com

Peer reviewer steals text for his own chemistry paper, gets sanctioned by journal

with 5 comments

A peer reviewer apparently thought portions of a manuscript he was reviewing were so good he wanted them for himself.

Substantial sections of a paper that [Junwei Di](#) reviewed appear in his own paper on a method for making tiny particles of silver to precise specifications. Di is a chemist at Soochow University in China. The journal has banned Di from submitting papers or serving as a peer reviewer "for a certain time."



The [retraction note](#) for the 2015 paper, "[Controllable Electrochemical Synthesis of Silver Nanoparticles on Indium-Tin-Oxide-Coated Glass](#)" explains how the editors at *ChemElectroChem* became aware of the plagiarism:

Retraction Watch 2/18/16

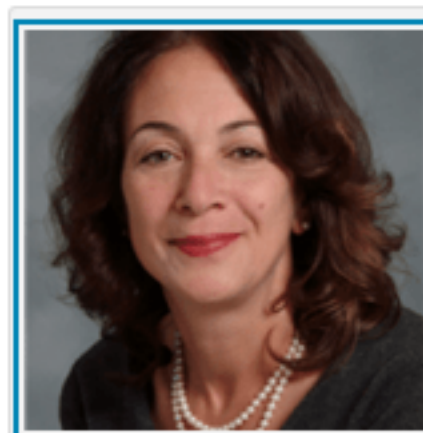
<http://retractionwatch.com>

Sanction for Toronto researchers upheld despite court challenge

with one comment

A Toronto hospital network is keeping two researchers' labs closed even after an Ontario court quashed part of a misconduct finding by the institution.

Some background: After the University Health Network found evidence of falsified data, [Sylvia Asa](#) stepped down as Program Medical Director of the Laboratory Medicine Program, the [largest hospital diagnostic laboratory in Canada](#). Due to the investigation, UHN suspended the labs of Asa and her husband [Shereen Ezzat](#). In response, Asa and Ezzat asked an Ontario court to [quash the misconduct findings](#); last month, the court overturned two out of three findings, and [asked UHN to reconsider its sanction against the pair](#).



Sylvia Asa



Shereen Ezzat

According to the *Toronto Star*, on February 4th the UHN notified the researchers that [the sanction against them would be upheld](#), and it would not reopen the researchers' labs.

Retraction Watch 2/18/16

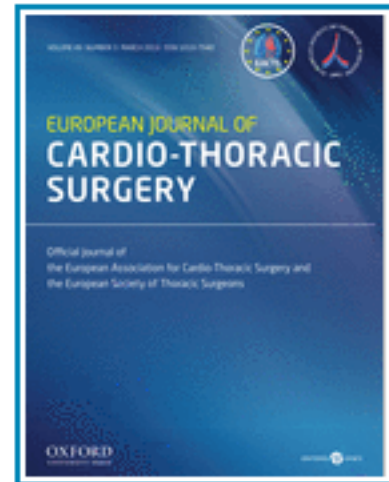
<http://retractionwatch.com>

Don't perform heart surgery described in retracted paper, says editor

with 5 comments

A journal is retracting a paper about a heart surgery technique after discovering the researchers did not have ethics approval to perform the procedure on 130 patients. What's more, the local cardiac surgical society had asked the first author to stop using the method in 2004, six years before the study was complete.

The patients in the study had [atrial septal defects](#) — a congenital hole in their hearts that allows blood to leak between chambers. The retraction note concludes with the editor in chief advising other surgeons to not use the method to close the hole described in the retracted article, "[Long-term assay of off-pump atrial septal defect closure using vena caval inflow occlusion and minimally invasive approaches in 130 cases.](#)"



Retraction Watch 2/18/16

<http://retractionwatch.com>

Paper on alleged – and paradoxical – health benefits of obesity pulled for plagiarism

with one comment

An [article](#) that suggested there is no benefit to being overweight among cancer survivors – the so-called “obesity paradox” – is being retracted for plagiarizing large sections from another paper that explored the same topic in cardiovascular disease.

The journal *Cancer Causes & Control* pulled the 2014 article last June after determining it contained “large portions” of text from [another paper in *Preventive Medicine* by a different set of authors](#), which suggested that evidence linking obesity to health benefits in cardiovascular disease may stem from a form of selection bias.

Here's more from the [retraction note](#): [Read the rest of this entry](#) »



Retraction Watch 2/17/16

<http://retractionwatch.com>

8th retraction appears for researcher who faked patient records

with one comment

An 8th paper has been retracted for [Anna Ahimastos](#), a heart researcher who faked patient records.

It's the last in a chain of retractions that were the result of an investigation by her former workplace, Baker IDI Heart & Diabetes Institute in Australia. As with the others, she did not agree to the retraction.

The investigation found fabricated patients records in some papers; in other papers, such as the newly retracted 2010 study in *Atherosclerosis*, the original data source could not be verified. The latest retraction — "[A role for plasma transforming growth factor- \$\beta\$ and matrix metalloproteinases in aortic aneurysm surveillance in Marfan syndrome?](#)" — followed up on a previous clinical trial, examining how a blood pressure drug might help patients with a life-threatening [genetic disorder](#).



Retraction Watch 2/15/16

<http://retractionwatch.com>

Journal retracts 7 papers by MD Anderson cancer researcher long under investigation

with 7 comments

An MD Anderson Cancer Center researcher who has been under investigation by the institution for at least several years has had seven papers retracted from a single journal.

Bharat Aggarwal [told us in 2012 that MD Anderson was investigating his work](#), but in 2013 [threatened to sue us for reporting on the case](#). Aggarwal is no longer listed in the MD Anderson directory, and an email to him there bounced.

This week, *Biochemical Pharmacology* retracted seven studies of which he is the only common author, noting the "data integrity has become questionable." The papers have been cited a total of more than 500 times, according to Thomson Scientific's Web of Knowledge; one has been designated as "highly cited." Here are the seven retractions: [Read the rest of this entry »](#)



Bharat Aggarwal

Retraction Watch 2/22/16

<http://retractionwatch.com>

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Bharat Aggarwal

Retraction Watch 2/22/16

<http://retractionwatch.com>

(evaluate your sources carefully)

"society [is] looking toward your original results"

Comment from a user named Mamunur Rashid on a post on RetractionWatch:

"ORI finds Harvard stem cell lab post-doc Mayack manipulated images"

<http://retractionwatch.wordpress.com/2012/08/29/ori-finds-harvard-stem-cell-lab-post-doc-mayack-manipulated-images/>

Thoughts?
Questions?

Thank you!

Amanda Izenstark
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