

2-1-2010

Annotated Bibliography of Ethical Issues in Physics: Publication/Authorship

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Recommended Citation

Thomsen, Marshall, "Annotated Bibliography of Ethical Issues in Physics: Publication/Authorship" (2010). *Ethics in Science and Engineering National Clearinghouse*. 381.

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Ethical Issues in Physics
Bibliography assembled by
Marshall Thomsen
Eastern Michigan University
February 2012
Publication/Authorship

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ENE, PUB
Physics Today—February 2010
Volume 63, Issue 2, pp. 10
Muons, deuterium, and cold fusion
Jacques Read

Physics Today—June 2010
Volume 63, Issue 6, pp. 10, 59
Hot topics in cold fusion
Melvin H. Miles and Ludwik Kowalski
These letters discuss issues relating to Cold Fusion and Condensed-Matter Nuclear Science, including the extent to which such research should be treated seriously by the mainstream physics community.

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PUB

Physics Today—January 2010

Volume 63, Issue 1, pp. 40-45

Bell Labs and the ruby laser

Donald F. Nelson, Robert J. Collins, and Wolfgang Kaiser

This historical account raises issues related to scientific communication through the publication process and how priority for discovery is determined.

Physics Today—May 2010

Volume 63, Issue 5, pp. 8-10, 59

More light on ruby laser's history

Jeff Hecht, Ralph F. Wuerker, Isaac D. Abella, Viktor Evtuhov, Donald N. Langenberg, William Joyce, Donald F. Nelson, Robert Collins, and Wolfgang Kaiser

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Physics Today -- December 2009

Volume 62, Issue 12, pp. 10-11

Evaluation by citation: An imperfect system

Peter Sigmund and Johan Wallin

Citation history is used by some to evaluate the quality of a publication, but is it a valid measure?

PUB

Science and Engineering Ethics

Volume 15, Number 2 / June, 2009 pp. 161-167

Image Manipulation as Research Misconduct

Debra Parrish and Bridget Noonan

This brief article looks at ORI cases involving manipulation of images prior to publication.

PUB

Science and Engineering Ethics

Volume 15, Number 1 / March, 2009, pp. 1-2

On the Ethics of Using Citation Indices in Evaluations

Raymond E. Spier

The author concludes, “that although the number of citations of a given paper is a measurable parameter—that is all it is.”

PUB

Science and Engineering Ethics

Volume 14, Number 3 / September, 2008, pp. 305-310

Perceptions of Ethical Problems with Scientific Journal Peer Review: An Exploratory Study

David B. Resnik, Christina Gutierrez-Ford and Shyamal Peddada

The authors report on a survey of workers at National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. The respondents reported having experienced a range of problems with peer review, from incompetent reviews (68%) to theft of ideas (5%).

PUB

Science and Engineering Ethics

Volume 14, Number 3 / September, 2008, pp. 311-322

Plagiarism: Words and Ideas

Mathieu Bouville

The author argues that it is important to distinguish between the theft of ideas and the less important re-use of a few unaltered sentences.

PUB

Science and Engineering Ethics

Volume 13, Number 2 / June, 2007, pp. 147-157

A comparison of conflict of interest policies at peer-reviewed journals in different scientific disciplines

Jessica S. Ancker and Annette Flanagin

The study included seven physics journals (none of which had conflict of interest policies), but not necessarily the cross section that physicists would choose to survey.

PUB

Physics Today -- March 2007

Volume 60, Issue 3, pp. 30-31

Experimenting with Plagiarism Detection on the Arxiv

Toni Feder

Brief report on this preprint server's intention to begin checking all submissions for plagiarized passages from their existing database.

PUB

Science and Engineering Ethics

Volume 12, Number 3 / September, 2006, pp. 543-554

Duplicate publication and 'paper inflation' in the fractals literature

Ronald N. Kostoff, Dustin Johnson, J. Antonio Del Rio, Louis A.

Bloomfield, Michael F. Shlesinger, Guido Malpohl and Hector D. Cortes

A mostly technical paper describing the process used to identify redundant publications with the help of the SCI database.

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Science and Engineering Ethics

Volume 12, Number 3 / September, 2006, pp. 555-565

An analytic hierarchy process model to apportion co-author responsibility

Theodore J. Sheskin

The author proposes a way of quantifying the contributions of individuals on a project as a way of establishing authorship and authorship order on manuscripts.

Science and Engineering Ethics

Volume 12, Number 3 / September, 2006, pp. 567-570

Commentary on "an analytical hierarchy process model to apportion co-author responsibility"

Michael C. Loui

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Physics Today -- September 2005

Volume 58, Issue 9, pp. 43-48

Einstein Versus the Physical Review

Daniel Kennefick

Historical account on Einstein's reaction to a negative review on a paper submitted to Physical Review. The account is based in part on recently uncovered logbooks at Physical Review.

Physics Today -- June 2006

Volume 59, Issue 6, pp. 9-10

Expanding the Record on Einstein and Peer Review

Martin Blume and Robert K. Adair

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Physics Today -- June 2005

Volume 58, Issue 6, pp. 49-54

Citation Statistics from 110 Years of Physical Review

Sidney Redner

This study of citation statistics provides insight into the publication process and arguably is of relevance to attempts to develop quantitative measures of article or journal impact.

Physics Today -- December 2005

Volume 58, Issue 12, p. 12

Weighing the Value of Physical Review Citation Statistics

J. C. Phillips, Rustum Roy, Bryan Suits, and Sidney Redner

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Physics Today -- March 2004

Volume 57, Issue 3, pp. 61-62

Publish or Perish—An Ailing Enterprise?

Mohamed Gad-el-Hak

The author provides some cases illustrating excessive publication and then makes concrete suggestions to reverse the trend of quantity rather than quality in publication.

Physics Today -- September 2004

Volume 57, Issue 9, pp. 11-13

Publish-or-Perish Perspectives: Dividing Coauthors, Valuing Referees, Taming Expectations

Lance Nizami, Vladimir A. Krasnopolsky, Michael Ibison, and Mohamed Gad-el-Hak

Physics Today -- March 2005

Volume 58, Issue 3, pp. 12-14

Publish-or-Perish Postscripts

A. Jeffrey Giacomin, Michael Ibison, and Loc Vu-Quoc

Physics Today -- April 2006

Volume 59, Issue 4, p. 16

Unintended Impact of Author Impact Factor

James F. Scott and Loc Vu-Quoc

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APS Forum on Physics and Society Newsletter

Volume 32, Number 3 July 2003

Letters from Italy: A Physicist's Decision not to Review Papers for Phys. Rev., Daniel Amit

This brief exchange between an editor and a “retiring” reviewer illustrates an interesting intersection between publication issues and international policy issues.

PUB

Science and Engineering Ethics

Volume 9, Number 2 / June, 2003, pp. 221-241

Roles for scientific societies in promoting integrity in publication ethics

Addeane S. Caelleigh

The author argues that there is a gap between authors/researchers and editors in the perception of publication ethics. This gap cannot be closed merely by ethics education; scientists need to promote high standards among students through their actions.

PUB

Physics Today -- January 2003

Volume 56, Issue 1, p. 71

Sometimes It's the Ref Who Fouls Out

Richard Branham

Letter to the editor on journal referees.

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Science and Engineering Ethics

Volume 8, Number 4 / December, 2002, pp. 529-539

Seven ways to plagiarize: Handling real allegations of research misconduct

Michael C. Loui

The author looks at the definition of plagiarism, presents several case studies, and concludes with recommendations to authors and to those who investigate plagiarism allegations.

Science and Engineering Ethics

Volume 8, Number 4 / December, 2002, pp. 540-542

Exploring the role of the research integrity officer

Commentary on 'seven ways to plagiarize: Handling real allegations of research misconduct' (M. C. Loui)

Lisa N. Geller

Science and Engineering Ethics

Volume 8, Number 4 / December, 2002, pp. 543-544

Self-plagiarism and dual and redundant publications: What is the problem?

Commentary on 'seven ways to plagiarize: Handling real allegations of research misconduct' (M. C. Loui)

Stephanie J. Bird

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Science and Engineering Ethics

Volume 8, Number 2 / June, 2002, pp. 155-174

Responsible authorship and peer review

James R. Wilson

A broad overview of the topic with examples taken from physics. Can be used as a starting point for the discussion of ethics and the publication process.

PUB

Science and Engineering Ethics

Volume 8, Number 2 / June, 2002, pp. 175-190

Coauthorship in physics

Eugen Tarnow

A survey taken of APS members suggests that often individuals listed third or below on the authorship list are not entitled to authorship.

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Science and Engineering Ethics

Volume 8, Number 1 / March, 2002, pp. 98-108

Peer review and innovation

Raymond Spier

The author looks at peer review in the U. K. of innovative research in the context of journal articles and grant proposals and concludes it is much easier to submit an article to an alternative journal for publication than it is to submit a proposal to an alternative agency for funding.

Science and Engineering Ethics

Volume 8, Number 1 / March, 2002, pp. 109-112

Much Ado about peer review, part 2

Commentary on “peer review and innovation”

Daryl E. Chubin

Commentary includes a brief discussion of the U. S. perspective on the above article.

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Science and Engineering Ethics

Volume 7, Number 1 / March, 2001, pp. 147-150

“Sherry’s Secret”

Case study and commentary on research ethics

Leslie R. Sims

This case study focuses on issues relating to data fabrication, publication, collaboration, and mentorship. While one hopes the situation is well outside what a typical graduate student will experience, the resulting conflicts the student in this case study experiences are still useful to explore.

Science and Engineering Ethics

Volume 7, Number 1 / March, 2001, pp. 151-152

Commentary on “Sherry's secret”

Deborah G. Johnson

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APS Forum on Physics and Society Newsletter

Volume 30, Number 1 January 2001

The APS in an Age of Litigation

Harry Lustig

Text of a talk that discusses lawsuits in which the APS has had to defend its view of the publication process.

PUB

Physics Today -- August 2000

Volume 53, Issue 8, pp. 35-38

Physicists in the New Era of Electronic Publishing

James Langer

An early look at the impact of electronic publishing on scholarly writing, including a discussion of the role of scientific societies in maintaining peer-reviewed journals.