



The ins and outs of ethical research and integrity

Sarah Claes & Marianne De Voecht

Research, Innovation & Valorisation Antwerp (RIVA)

Research ethics

Sarah Claes





April 2023

Actieplan

Gericht op het verminderen van het
aantal dierproeven in Vlaanderen

**THE P
CAUG**

THE GLOBAL T



Radio 2

**Studenten klagen banden
met Israëlische partners aan,**

Key points

Participants:

- Well-being of human participants and laboratory animals
- Well-being of the researchers
- Vulnerable groups & minors

Respect and attention for:

- Cultural heritage
- Human Rights
- Environment
- Global engagement and North-South dynamics
- Ethics dumping

Safety:

- Dual use, military use & misuse
- Knowledge security
- Risk analysis

Data:

- Privacy & confidentiality
- Data management

Ethics Committees

Committee for Medical
Ethics UZA-UAntwerp

Ethics Committee for
Animal Testing

Ethics Committee for the
Social Sciences and
Humanities

Ethics Committee Misuse,
Human Rights & Security

ethisch.comite@uza.be

ecd@uantwerpen.be

eashw@uantwerpen.be

mihrs@uantwerpen.be

Committee for Medical Ethics UZA-UA (CME)

**Clinical trials, clinical
studies**

GCP certificates

Patients rights @ UZA

Ethics Committee for animal testing (ECD)

Animal experiments

Lunchseminars

Transparency

Ethics Committee for Social Sciences & Humanities (EASHW)

Human participants

**Interviews, surveys,
focusgroups, social media
scraping, ...**

Personal data

Ethics Committee for Misuse, Human Rights & Security (MiHRS)

**Military use, Dual use &
Misuse**

Human Rights

**Knowledge Security /
Foreign Interference**

Artificial Intelligence in Research

Sarah Claes

Marianne De Voecht

What are the main challenges with regard to research?



REFERENCES:
RISK FOR PLAGIARISM OR
IP-VIOLATIONS



INFO NOT ALWAYS UP TO
DATE



BIAS, HARMFUL CONTENT
AND MISTAKES



PRIVACY AND IP



ACKNOWLEDGE USE

Research & AI

■ Research on AI

- Potential (ethical) risks:
 - Misuse
 - Bias

→ Research projects with a significant higher risk or collaborations with a sensitive partner: contact the Ethics Committee for Misuse, Human Rights & Security mihrs@uantwerpen.be

■ Use of AI in research

- Guidelines expected May 2024
- Interesting initiative: ACRAI

Research & AI

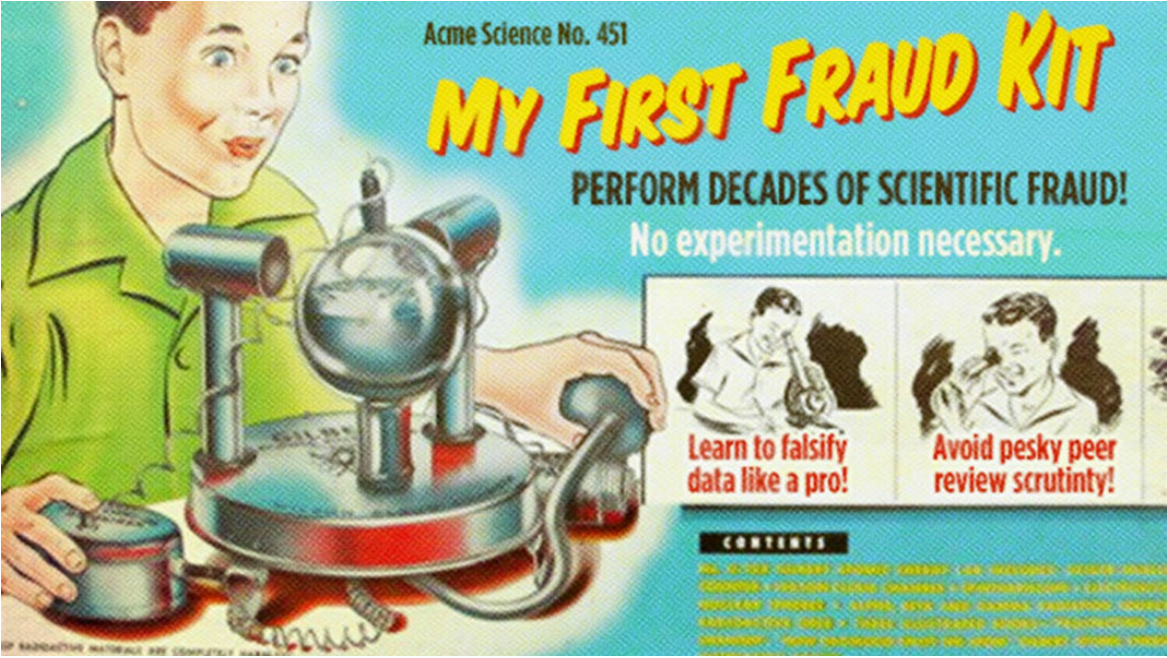
■ Uses of AI in research: some points of attention

- The more responsibility you place on the system, the more verification, control and accountability is required with the outcome. (*KU Leuven, Responsible use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) in research*)
- AI cannot be listed as an author (No responsibility for the content of the publication)
- Disclose use of AI in the Materials and Methods (or similar section) of the publication (*COPE, Authorship and AI tools*)
- Utilizing AI in the peer review process is a breach of confidentiality (*University of Utah, Guidance on the use of AI in research*)

Research Misconduct & Research Integrity

Marianne De Voecht

Research misconduct



Definition Research Misconduct (ORI)

- Research misconduct is defined as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results
 - Fabrication is making up data or results and recording or reporting them.
 - Falsification is manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.
 - Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit



Other Unacceptable Practices (ALLEA)

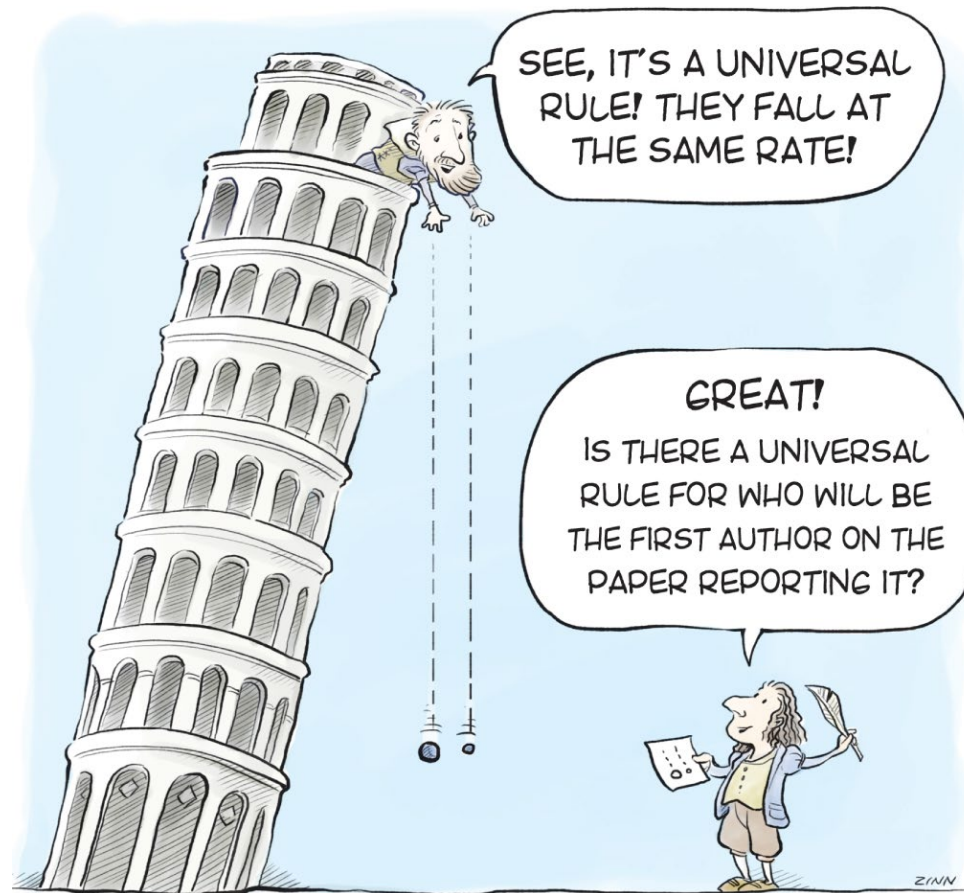
- **Allowing funders, sponsors, or others to jeopardise independence and impartiality in the research process or unbiased reporting of the results**
- **Chopping up research results with the specific aim of increasing the number of research publications ('salami publications').**
- **Delaying or inappropriately hampering the work of other researchers**
- **Withholding research data or results without justification.**
- **...**

Procedure for complaints @UAntwerp

- **Independent Contact Point for Research Integrity**
 - Prof. Willem Lemmens
- **Committee for Research Integrity**
 - Create awareness and give advice to researchers
 - Investigate possible violations of research integrity
 - Flemish Committee for Research Integrity
- **Confidential counsellor for RI**



Research Integrity



What is Research Integrity?

- **Research integrity describes**
 - an attitude of researchers and those involved in research whereby they conduct their research according to **appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards.**
 - an approach for organising and conducting **responsible scientific and scholarly work.** Because of this, it is inherently part of the **quality assurance of daily research practice** and its results.

<https://www.uib.no/en/rino>



Why does Research Integrity matter?

- Scientific and scholarly research

- To understand the world we live in
- As a basis for further research
- To solve real-life problems

➡ Almost everybody has a potential interest in the way research is done and its outcomes.

➡ Integrity, quality and legitimacy of research are inextricably connected.

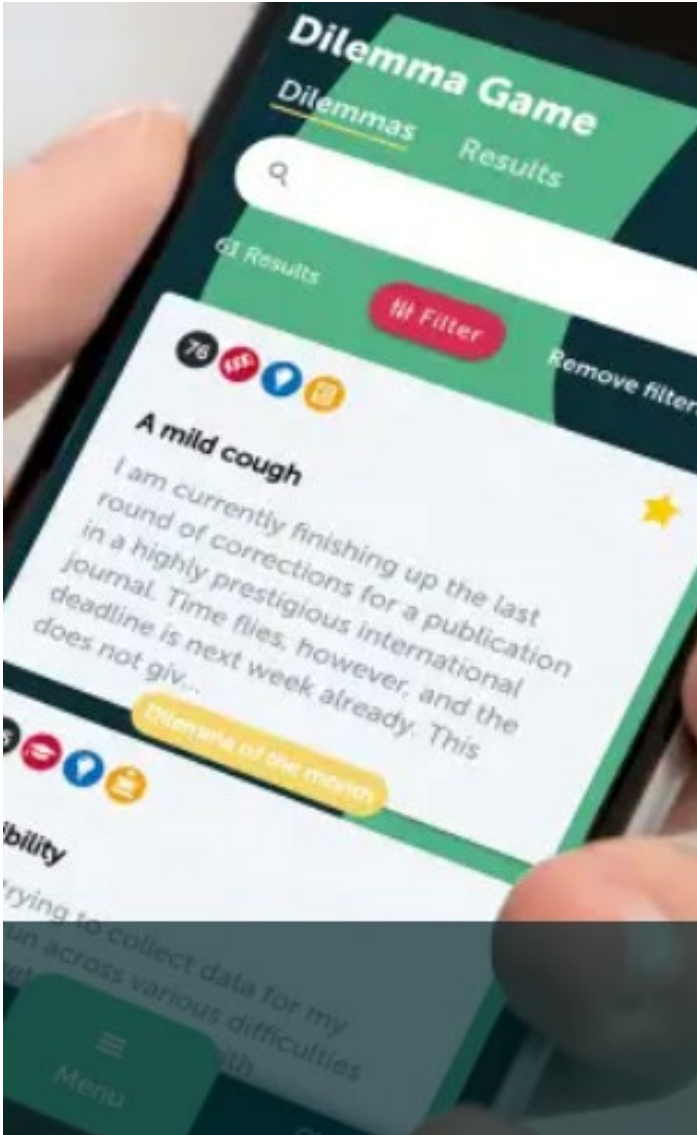
Mind the GAP

- Interuniversity online training tool on research integrity
- Available on Blackboard (after login)
- 4 Basic modules + 2 extra modules (ethics & GDPR)
- Approximately 8 hours to complete
- Final test (80% or higher to receive certificate)
- Important: compulsory for starting PhD researchers

Cases (Dilemma Game)

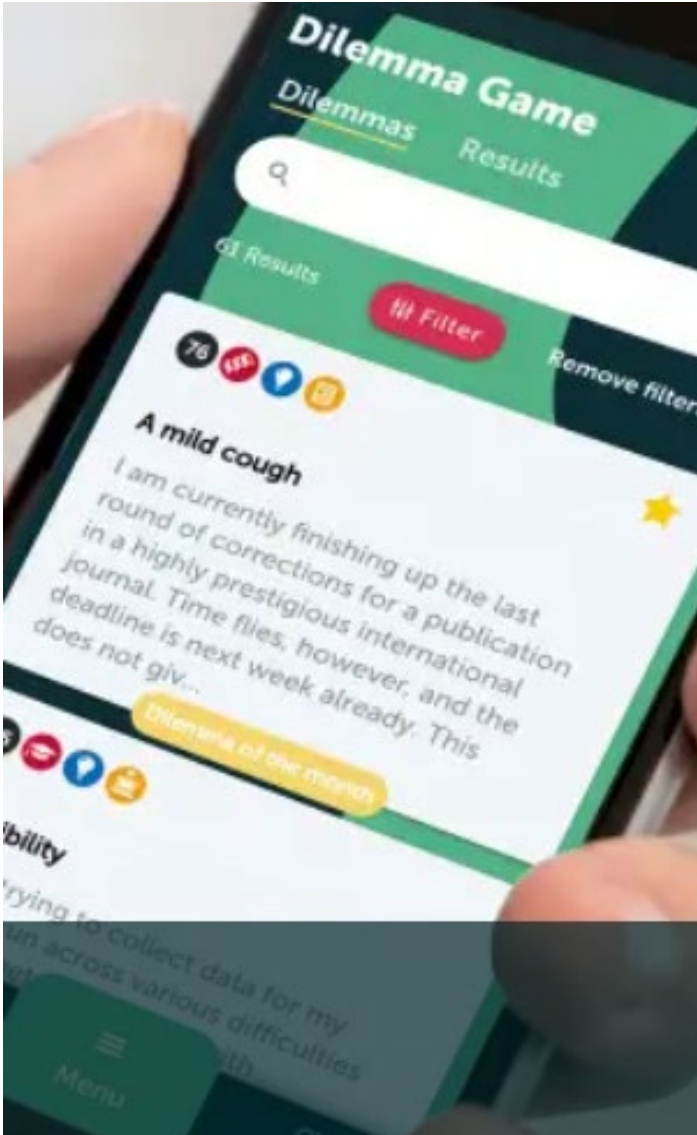


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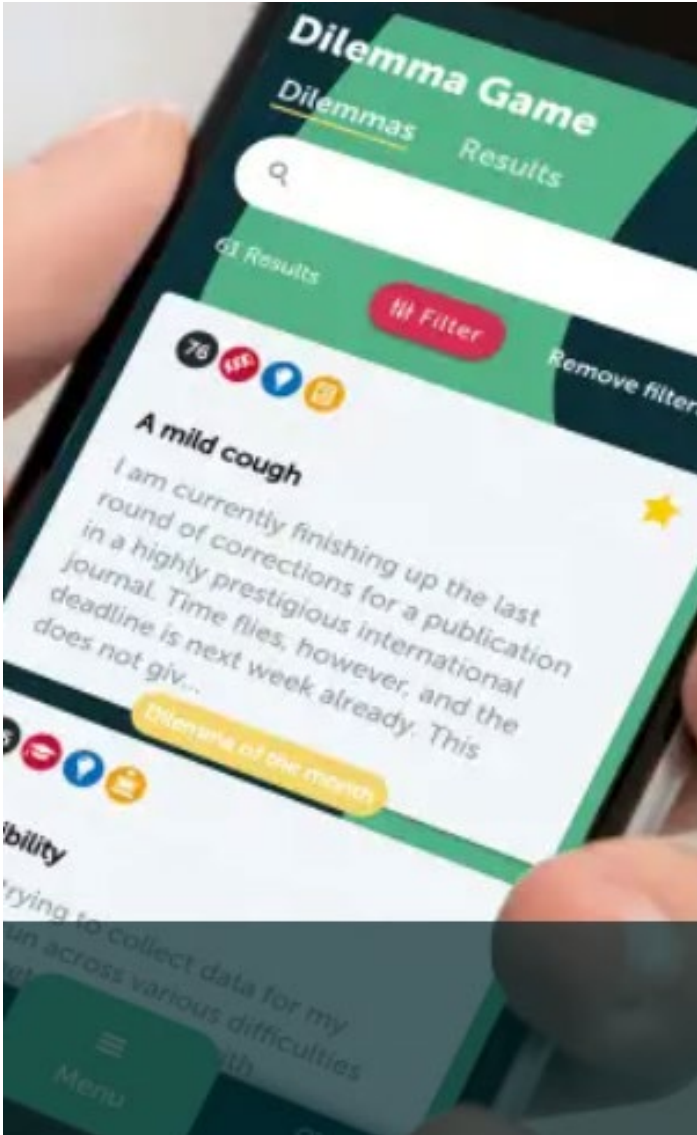
Free lunch?

- I am starting my PhD project and as a first task I am asked to rewrite a paper by a former PhD colleague who has meanwhile left academia. I notice the paper needs only small changes and the reviewers are very mild and friendly, so the paper may get accepted in the next round. My professor suggests putting me as last author, to support my academic career, despite my limited contribution to the actual research process. He will himself be the first author. The former PhD has agreed that others can use his work, but no specific agreements were made. What do I do?



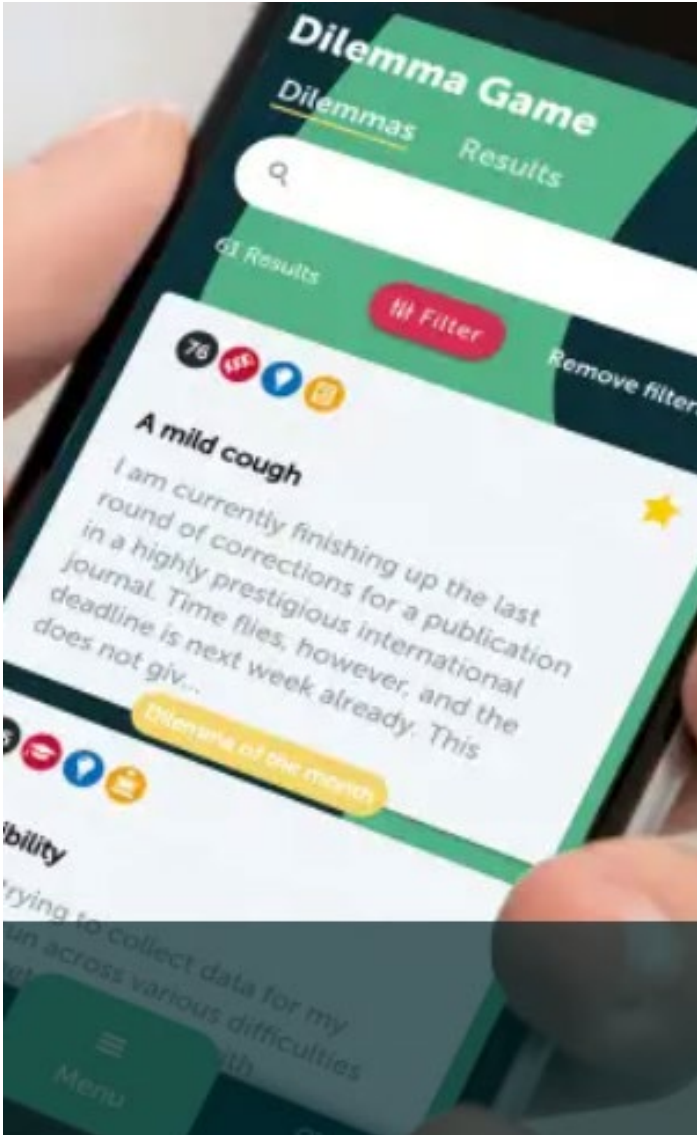
Free lunch?

- A I agree to the offer and get listed as last author.
- B I suggest that I should be mentioned in a footnote, but not listed as author.
- C I contact the former PhD and ask him whether he wants the publication in his name.
- D I decline the revising job; I do not want to be involved



Friendly reviewer

- I am working as a PhD student and have almost finished my thesis. Within a few months I will start working at another institute on the same type of research. I have just submitted the last chapter of my dissertation to a journal. Yesterday, I received an email from my future boss in which he asks me to provide him with some review suggestions for my own paper. As it happens he is one of the reviewers. In this way, I am better prepared to respond to his review report and can increase the chance of acceptance. For both of us it will be good to have the manuscript accepted in a prestigious journal, as it will boost my career and increase the chances for getting grants together with my future boss. What do I do?



Friendly reviewer

- A I tell my supervisor about the email and let it depend on him what to do.
- B It is very important for my career to get the article published, so I send an email with some suggestions to my future boss.
- C I thank my future boss for his help, but I tell him that I cannot accept the offer.
- D I contact the editor of the journal about the offer of the reviewer.

Questions?

