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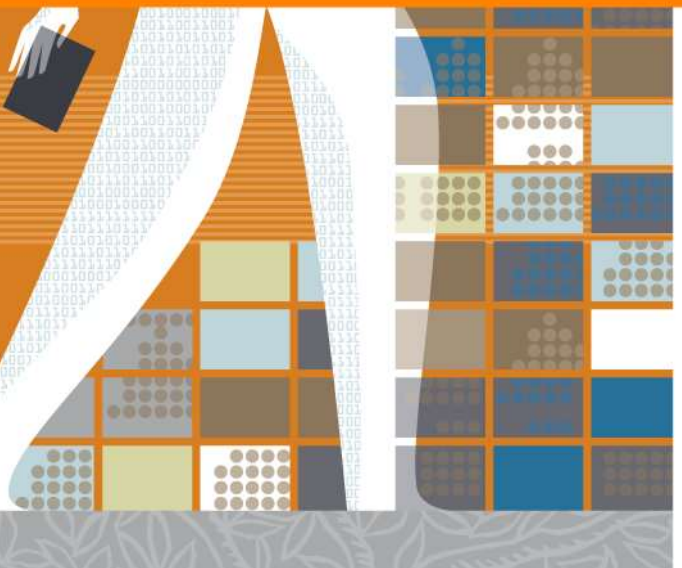
Elsevier Publishing Campus | Publishing Connect

Ethics in Science

in particular ethics in publishing



Prof. dr. Henrik Rudolph

Editor-in-Chief Applied Surface Science

Defining ethics (in scientific publishing)

Merriam-Webster

ethics *plural in form but singular or plural in construction* : the discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation
•**2a** : a set of moral principles : a theory or system of moral values the present-day materialistic *ethic*
• an old-fashioned work *ethic*
• —often used in plural but singular or plural in construction an elaborate *ethics*
• Christian *ethics*
•**b ethics** *plural in form but singular or plural in construction* : the principles of conduct governing an individual or a group professional *ethics*
c : a guiding philosophy
•**d** : a consciousness of moral importance forge a conservation *ethic*
•**3 ethics** *plural* : a set of moral issues or aspects (such as rightness) debated the *ethics* of human cloning

Ethics and morality… the good citizen

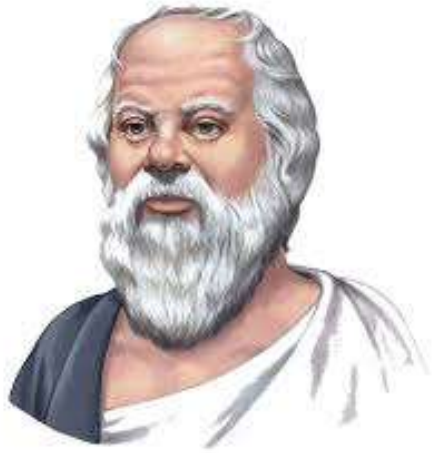
The Eastern Philosophy

Confucius 551-479 BC

The explicit rules of (good) behaviour
The “silver” rule:

"What you do not wish for yourself, do not do to others."

The Western Philosophy



Socrates ca. 470-399 BC

The search for moral virtues
Socrates's paradoxical wisdom:

“To know you are not wise, makes you wiser, than men who think they are wise”

Ethics and morality… is that a religion?

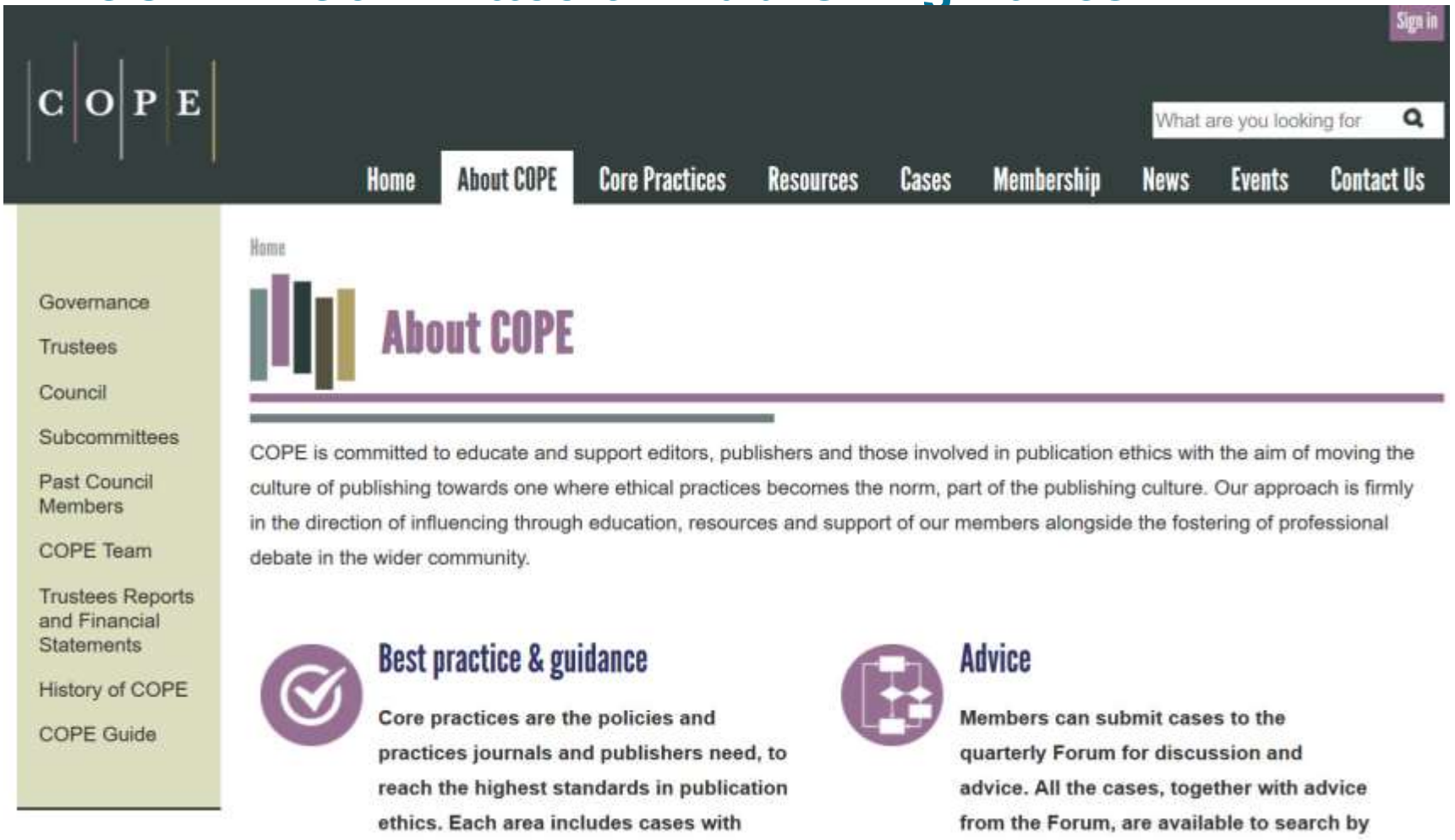
The Eastern (Buddhism)

"If we fail to look after others when they need help, who will look after us?"

The Western (Christianity)

"We have the duty to do good"

COPE – Committee on Publishing Ethics

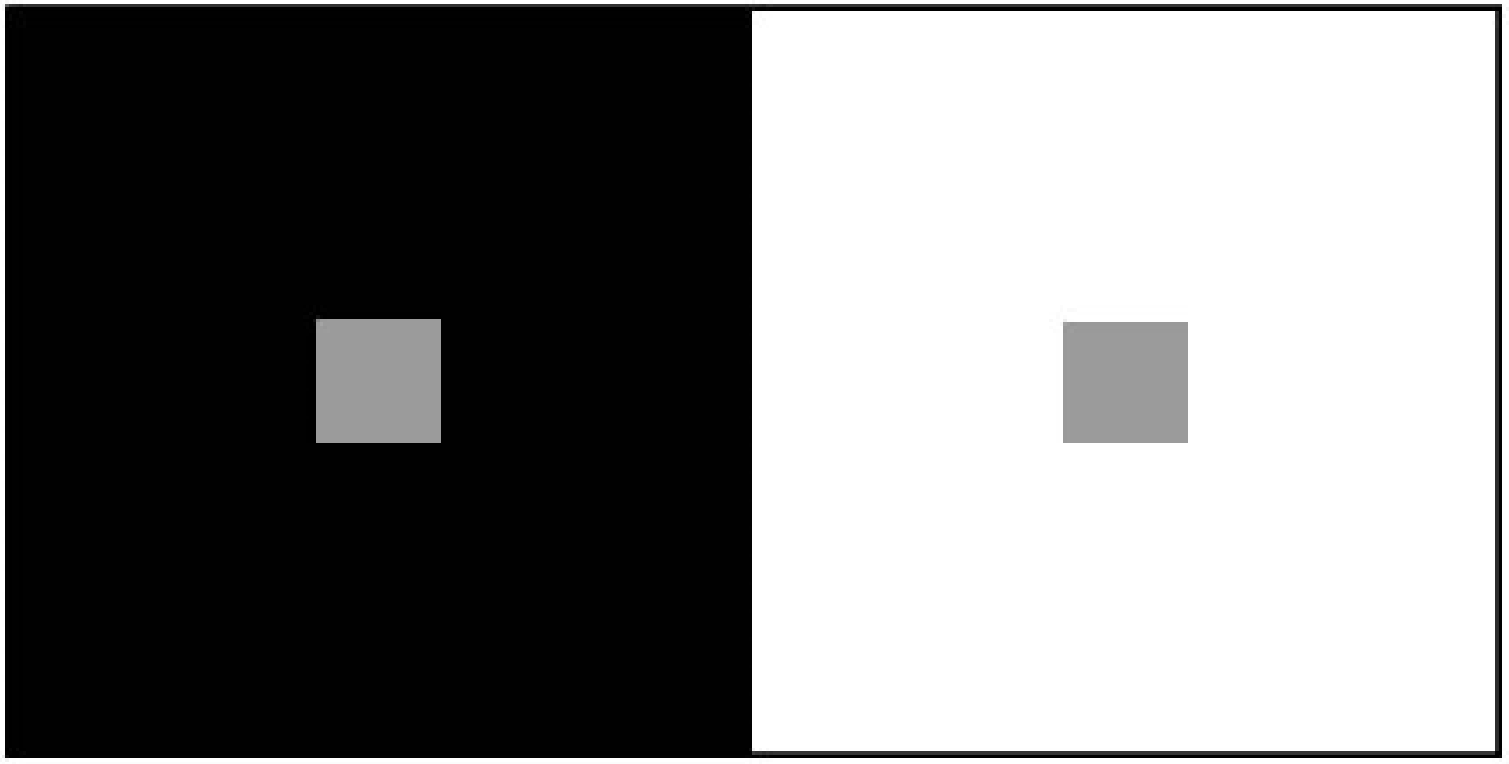


www.publicationethics.org

Ethics is like riding a bike….

The (traffic) laws might be different, but it is all a matter of keeping the balance

It is not all black and white

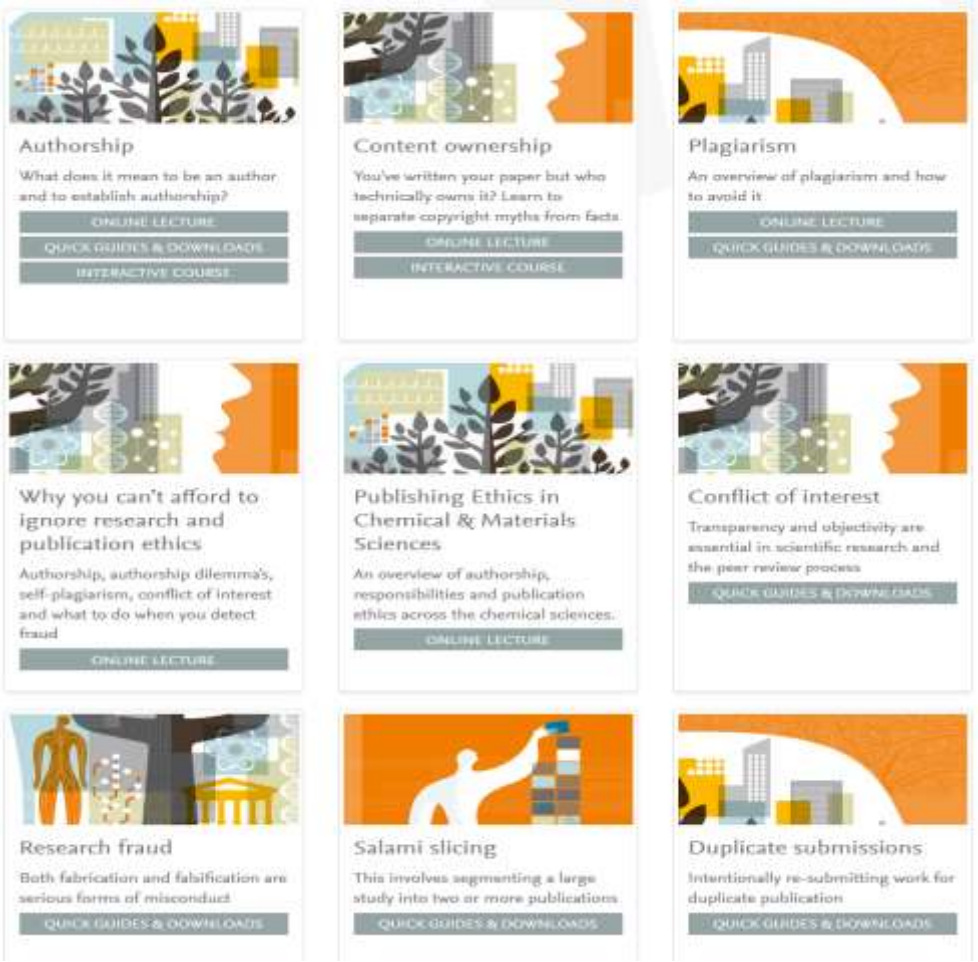


And it can be a matter of reference, but we try to do it on an absolute “scale”!

The “ground rules” of scientific publishing

https://www.publishingcampus.elsevier.com/pages/63/ethics/Publishing-ethics.html

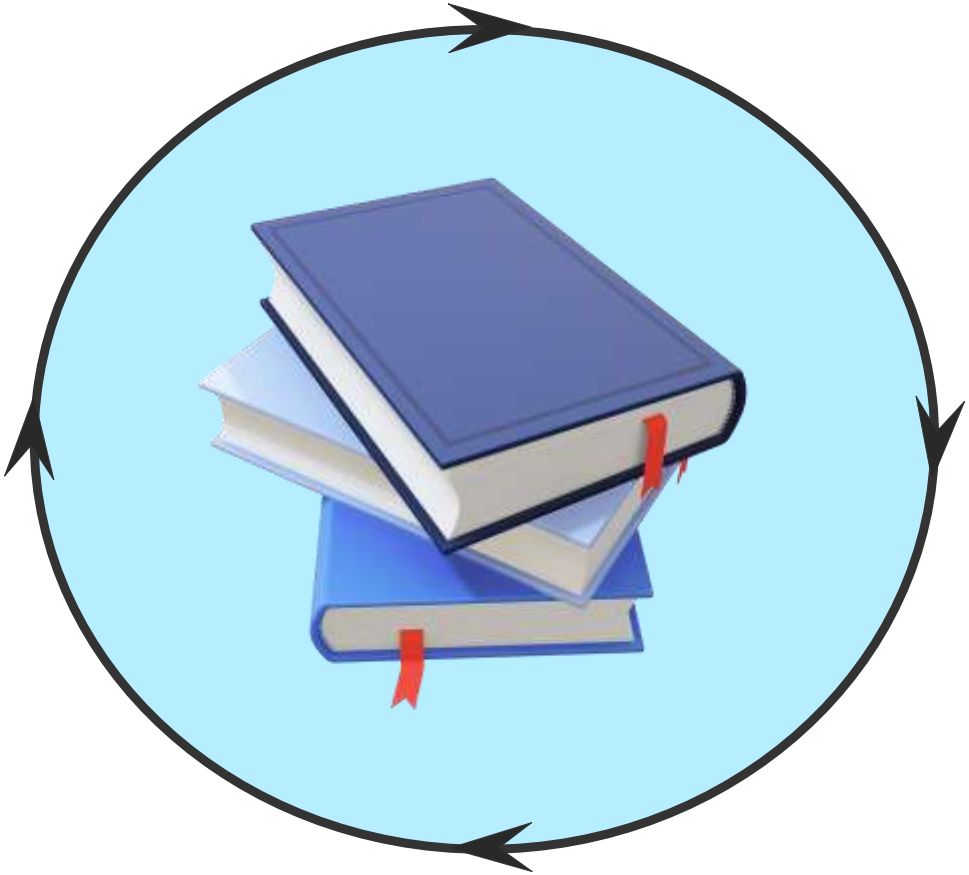
(Good) science
Science ethics
Authorship
Ownership of material
Conflict of interest
Publishing ethics
Salami publishing
Duplicate submissions
Fair peer reviewing
Research fraud



Stakeholders in the publishing circle

They all have a responsibility in the process

1) Funding “agency”
2) Academic institution
3) Author and co-authors
4) Publisher
5) Editor
6) Reviewers
7) Libraries
8) Readers



Publisher….?

Obviously it would not be in the interest of a publisher to be “unethical”

- There are so-called “*predatory journals”*. They often look like other legitimate journals, but they are scam online *publications* that swindle researchers to publish for payment

- There are also “*predatory conferences”* often with associated conference proceedings

Typical signs of predatory journals/conferences: broad and ambitious subjects. No Web-of-Science or Scopus listing of journals. No proper peer review and no established editorial board.

BOTTOM LINE: WASTE OF MONEY AND TIME

Publisher….!

Naming and shaming (but is that ethical?)

International Journal of Current Research
In Science, Engineering & Technology

Publishing Connect

Workshop Brazil Oct. 2018

Authors and co-authors

Authorship:

- Omitting authors
- Adding (contributor?)
- Deleting
- Changing author affiliation
- Changing order of authors
- Corresponding authors
- Acknowledging contributors

Authors and co-authors

Research:

- Unethical research methods
- Research standards violations
- Research data manipulation
- Omitting “negative” results
- Hidden research (or instrument) errors
- Research results misappropriation
- (Undisclosed) conflicts of interest

Authors and co-authors

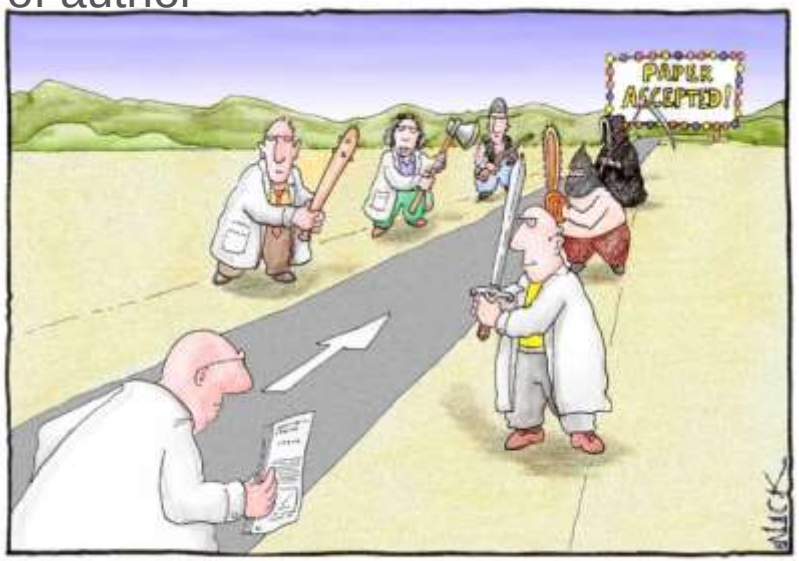
Submission (process):

- Multiple simultaneous submissions
- Resubmission of already accepted paper
- Reusing parts of already accepted papers
- Submitting under a false identity
- Suggesting false (or non-existing) reviewers
- Chasing the reviewers
- (Undisclosed) conflicts of interest

Reviewers (and editors!)

Editorial (review) process

- Conflicts of interest (collaborator, friend, foe ..)
- Not an expert in the field
- Deliberately giving a poor review grade
- Reviewer contacting the authors during review
- Using the information you have received for own purposes
- Bias towards ethnic or other background of author
- Promoting own (unrelated work)
- Unnecessarily delaying the work



Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as "quite an improvement."

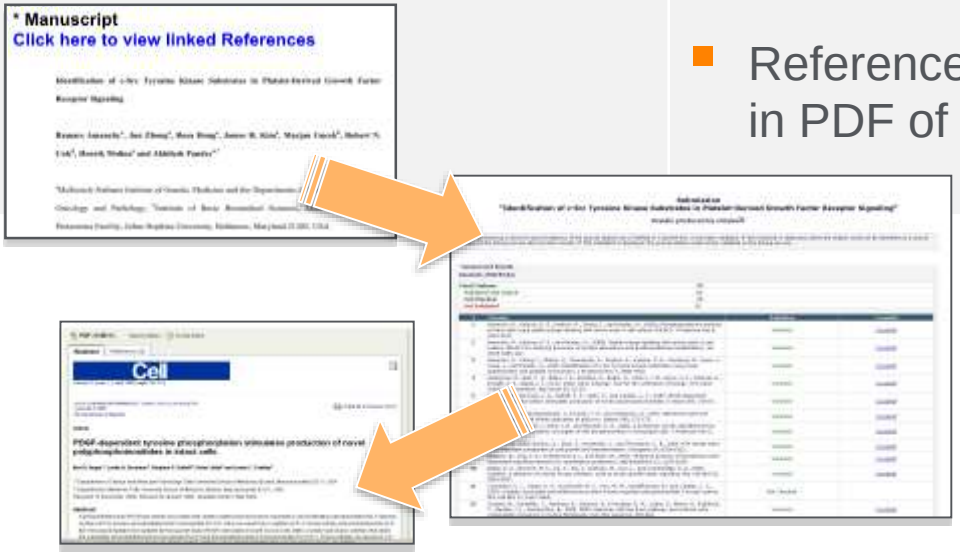
How to detect plagiarism (tools for editors and reviewers)

For Editors

- Plagiarism detection tool at time of submission (iThenticate)
- Tool based on Scopus database to identify potential reviewers

For Reviewers

- Free access to
  All content published by Elsevier
- Free access to
  The world's largest abstract and citation database
- Reference-linking and resolution in PDF of the manuscript



Academic misconduct and ethics complaints

Contact the journal (via the home page) or directly to EiC

EiC or special ethics group will research the complaint

Outcome of investigation can be:

1) Complaint is directed at the right journal (multiple journal academic misconduct)
2) Complaint is not justified (or not provable)
3) Complaint is malicious
4) Complaint is (partly) justified

In case of a justified claim – this leads to:

1) A corrigendum if the issue is remediable
2) Retraction if the publication is so erroneous that it can't be solved with a corrigendum

Retraction – the ultimate "punishment"

ScienceDirect

doi:10.1016/j.sigpro.2005.07.019 Cite or Link Using DOI

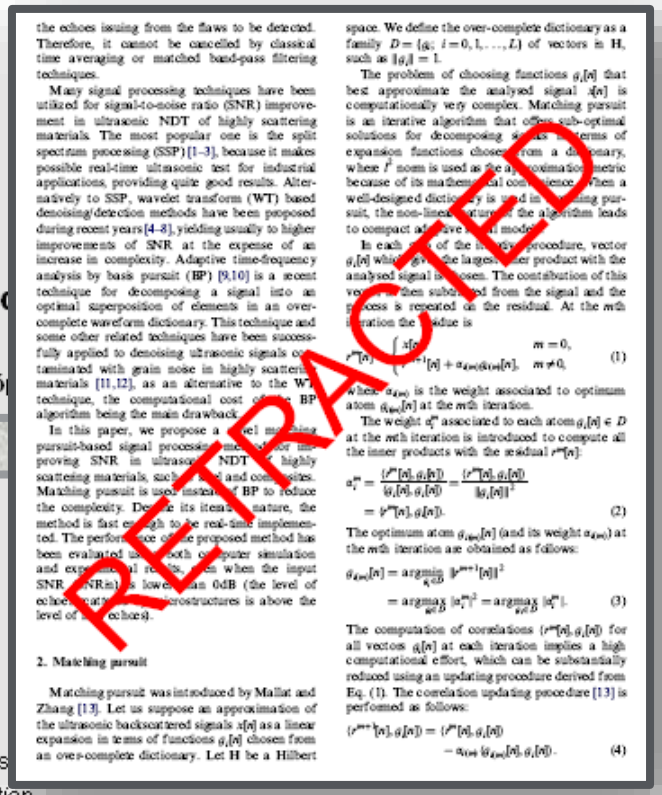
RETRACTED: Matching pursuit-based approach for ultrasonic flaw

N. Ruiz-Reyes[a], P. Vera-Candeas[a], J. Curpián-Alonso[a], J.C. Cuevas-Martinez[a] and F. Ló

Available online 24 August 2005.

This article has been retracted at the request of the Editor-in-Chief and Publisher. Please see http://www.elsevier.com/locate/withdrawalpolicy.

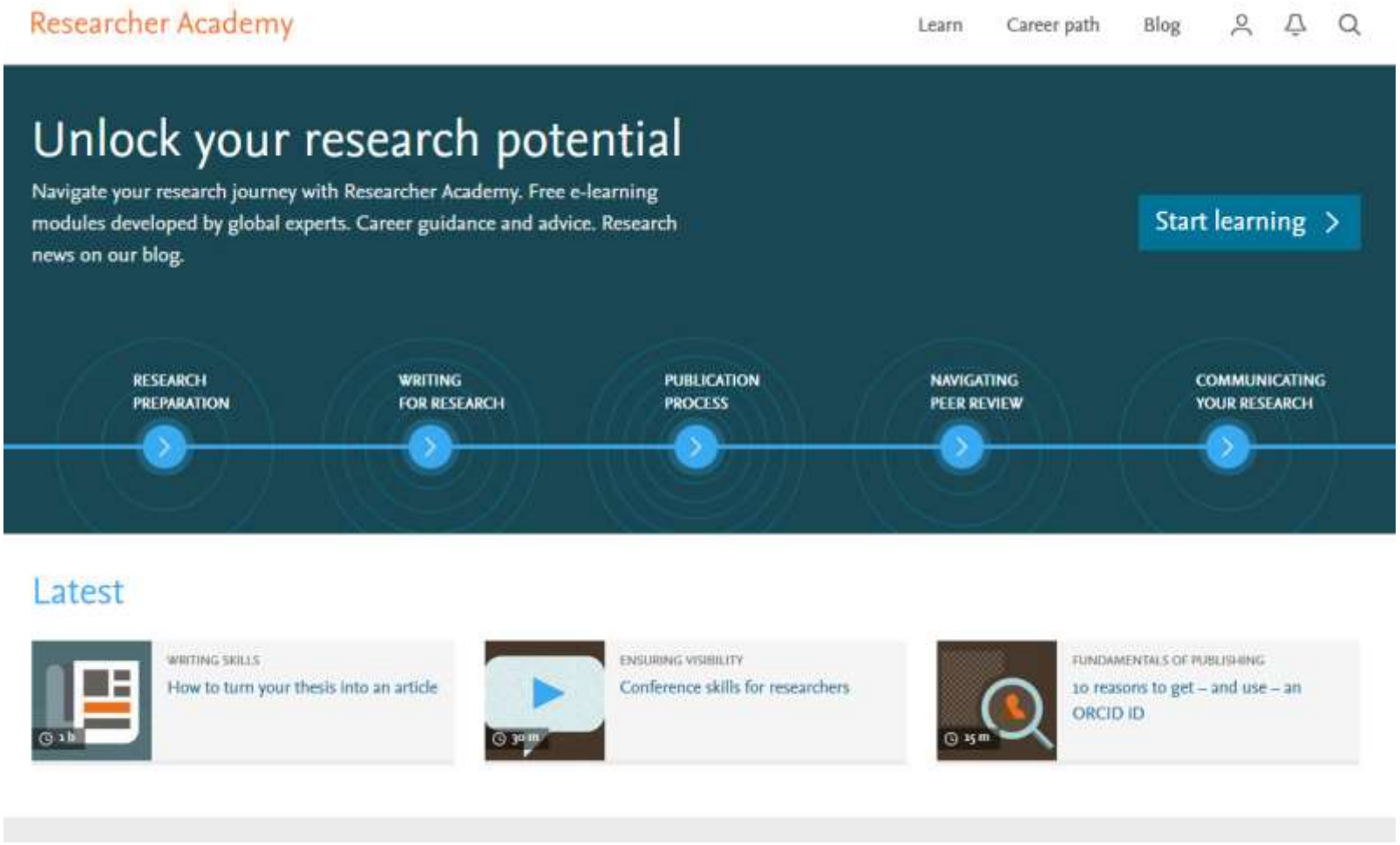
Reason: This article is virtually identical to the previously published article: "New matching pursuit-bas algorithm for SNR improvement in ultrasonic NDT", *Independent Nondestr... ...nd Evaluation International* volume 29 (2006) 453 – 459 authored by N. Ruiz-Reyes, P. Vera-Candeas, J. Curpián-Alonso, R. Mata-Campos and J.C. Cuevas-Martínez.



The article of which the authors committed plagiarism: it won't be removed from ScienceDirect. Everybody who downloads it will see the reason of retraction…

Resources for the (young) scientist

https://researcheracademy.elsevier.com/



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