

My rights an author's perspective

Pippa Smart
Pippa.smart@gmail.com

EASE Conference, Strasbourg, 2016



Not all authors are ...

- Evil
- Fraudulent
- Fabricating data
- Massaging analysis
- Plagiarising content
- Making up stories
- Fixing the results
- Adding friends to author lists
- Ignoring findings
- Stealing ideas
- Harming puppies and kittens



Most authors are ...

- Normal people
- Who make mistakes
- Who are trying to build their careers



Proposition 1

YOU WANT MY ARTICLE

I WANT TO PUBLISH MY ARTICLE

LET'S MAKE A DEAL ...

Proposition 2

THEY'RE MY WORDS

THAT'S MY EXPRESSION

So ... my language isnt perfect

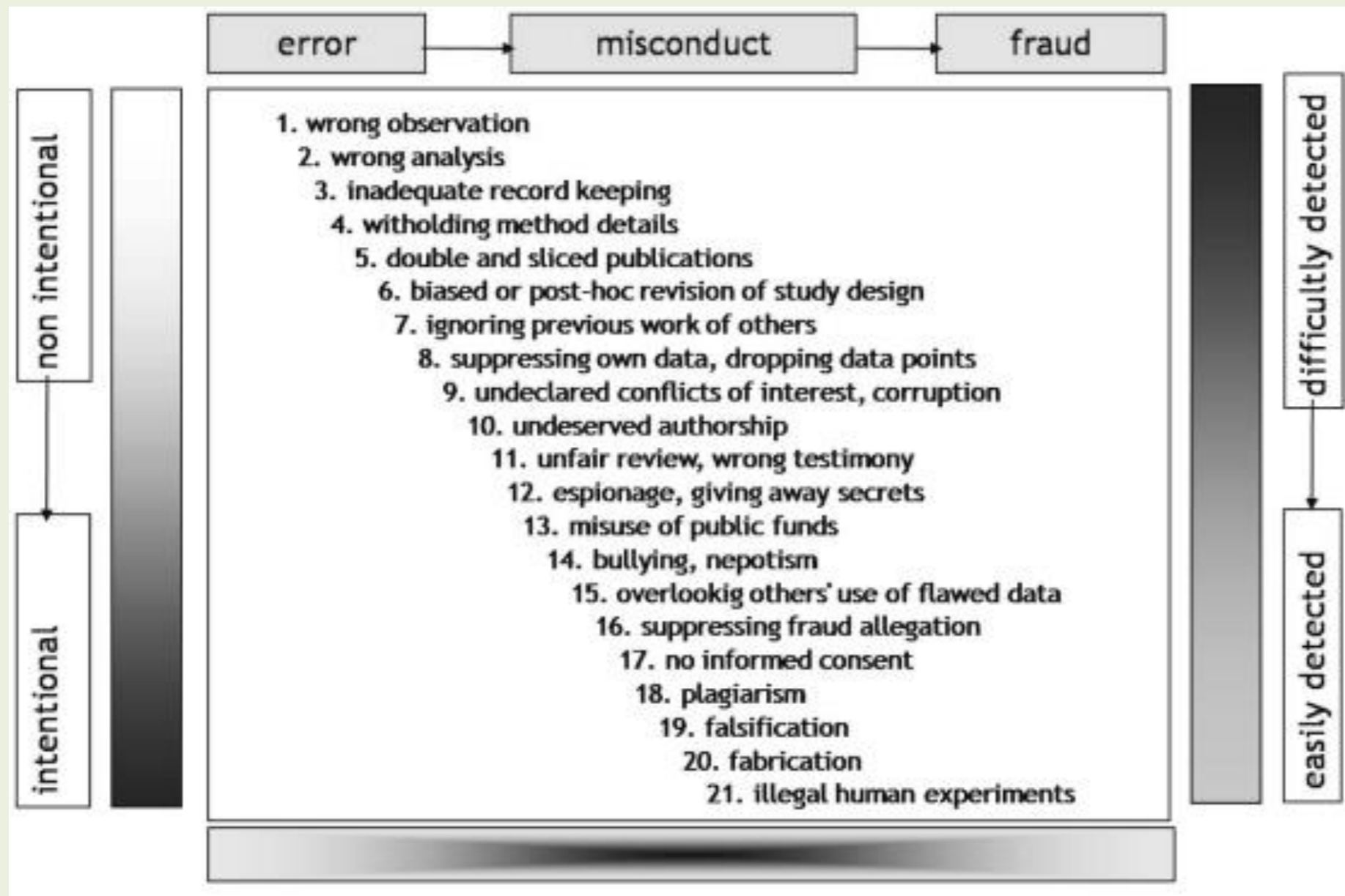
- English isn't my first language
- What's wrong with copying other phrases that help me get my message clear?

Proposition 3

CUT ME SOME SLACK –

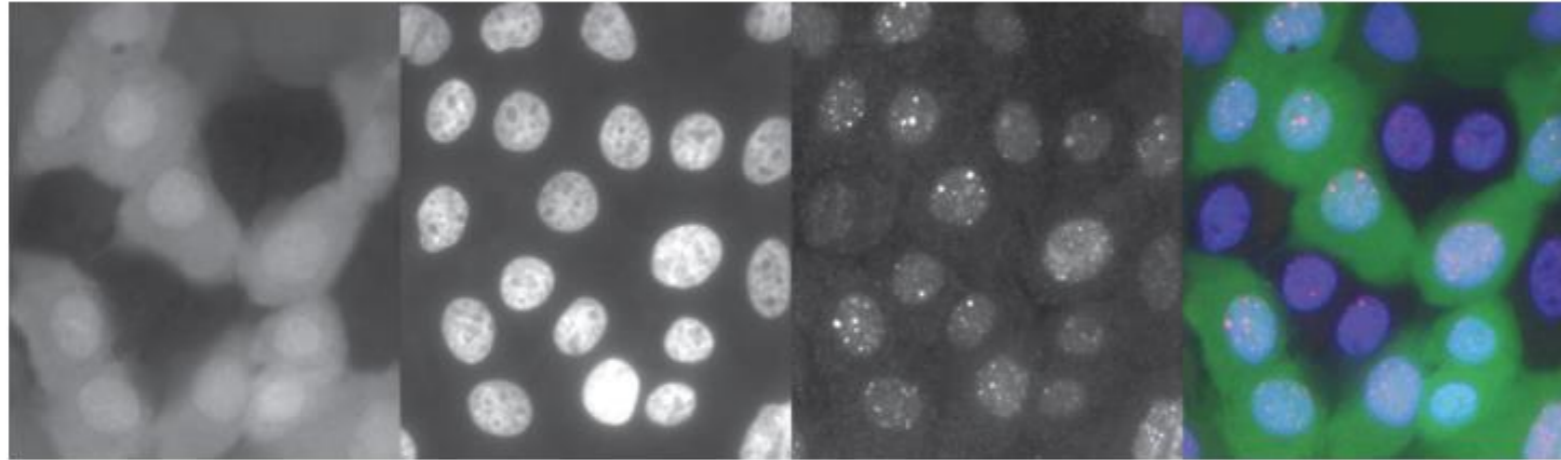
NOBODY'S PERFECT

Misconduct is not always fraudulent



Is photoshopping science universally wrong?

June 1, 2016 1.07am BST



Building the layers - Photoshop is essential for creating compound images of immunofluorescent cells. *Kate Patterson, CC BY-ND*

Email

Twitter

Facebook

LinkedIn

Print

63

9

2

“Photoshop should be banned from every scientific research institution”.

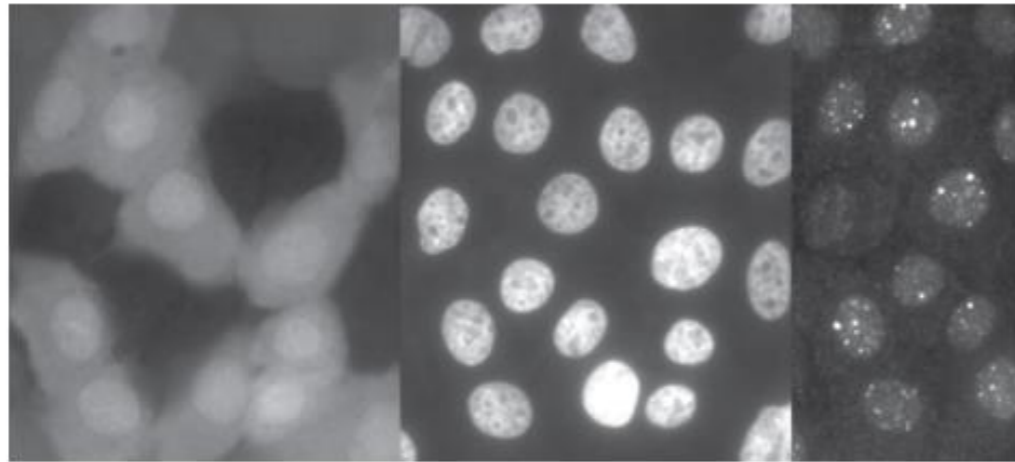
A passionate scientist once offered her untethered and impassioned feedback following one of my *How to harness the tools of Illustrator and Photoshop for publication-worthy figures* tutorials.

Her comment sparked quite a heavy debate between many of the scientists in the room and, at that time I found it hard to explain my own ethical position without sounding dismissive.

I left feeling resolute that I should have focussed more on the *why* scientists should use Illustrator and Photoshop rather than the *how*.

Is photoshopping science universally wrong?

June 1, 2016 1:07am BST



Building the layers - Photoshop is essential for creating compound images of immunofluorescence

Email

Twitter

Facebook

LinkedIn

Print

63

9

2

“Photoshop should be banned from every

A passionate scientist once offered her untold feedback following one of my *How to harness Photoshop for publication-worthy figures* tutorial

Her comment sparked quite a heavy debate among scientists in the room and, at that time I found it an ethical position without sounding dismissive

I left feeling resolute that I should have forbidden scientists should use Illustrator and Photo

Retraction Watch

Tracking retractions as a

Poll: Is duplication misconduct?

with 26 comments

If authors duplicate portions of their own work in multiple papers — such as descriptions of methods, a boilerplate background to their field, etc. — should that be considered misconduct?



Of course, to many journals, [duplication](#) — also known as “self-plagiarism” is a retractable offense. A [recent letter to the U.S. Office of Research Integrity \(ORI\)](#) from the Council on Governmental Relations asked the agency to consider it misconduct, and “include self-plagiarism in the definition of plagiarism.” More specifically, the letter — reported by the [Report on Research Compliance](#) — says to new ORI director [Kathy Partin](#):

“ORI recognizes self-plagiarism as a questionable practice and a form of academic dishonesty. However, ORI’s definition of plagiarism as “the appropriation of another person’s ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit,” makes pursuing an allegation of self plagiarism problematic, especially if a university has not specifically included self-plagiarism in their research misconduct definition (many have used the ORI definition to construct their policies).

However, we’ve heard from many researchers over the years who believe that self-plagiarism is decidedly not misconduct. They wrote the material themselves, so why can’t they use it again?

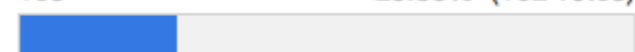
Tell us what you think in our poll, below.

Thank you for voting!

No 74.12% (464 votes)



Yes 25.88% (162 votes)



Total Votes: 626

What if I spot an error?

Retraction Watch

Tracking retractions as a

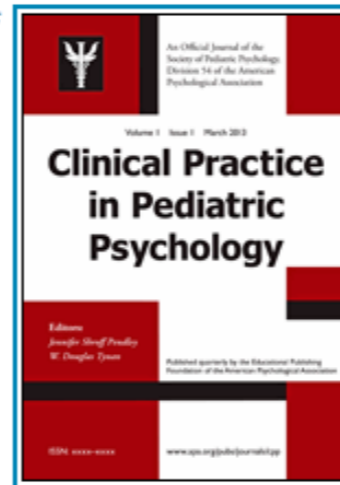
What to do when you make a mistake? Advice from authors who've been there

with 6 comments

After a group of researchers noticed an error that affected the analysis of a survey of psychologists working with medical teams to help pediatric patients, they didn't just issue a retraction — they published a [commentary explaining what exactly went wrong](#).

The error was discovered by a research assistant who was assembling a scientific poster, and noticed the data didn't align with what was reported in the journal. The error, the authors note, was:

“ an honest one, a mistake of not reverse coding a portion of the data that none of the authors caught over several months of editing and conference calls. Unfortunately, this error led to misrepresentation and misinterpretation of a subset of the data, impacting the results and discussion.



Needless to say, these authors — who use their “lessons learned” to help other researchers avoid similar missteps — earn a spot in our [“doing the right thing”](#) category. The retraction and commentary both appear in *Clinical Practice in Pediatric Psychology*.

Their first piece of advice in [“Retraction experience, lessons learned, and recommendations for clinician researchers”](#) — assume errors will happen, and not vice versa:

“ 1. **Be mindful that the likelihood of making errors in a number of research endeavors is high and common.** Assume that errors will be made rather than not! Risk for errors is higher in our current research climate where there are often larger study teams, the members are in different locations, and may represent individuals from different disciplines with diverse skillsets.

Other advice: Assign authors overlapping tasks to avoid “gaps in accountability,” regularly check data entry and analysis, and set aside large blocks of time for research to avoid missing details. There were a few tidbits that seemed especially important, from our perspective:

“ **Own your errors and avoid defensiveness by covering them up or diverting responsibility.** Handle errors when they are discovered. Although challenging and humbling, errors should be handled and promptly corrected when discovered. Keep in mind how much worse it will be if your errors are discovered by your editor, a reader, or your institution.

How will you react?

Retraction Watch

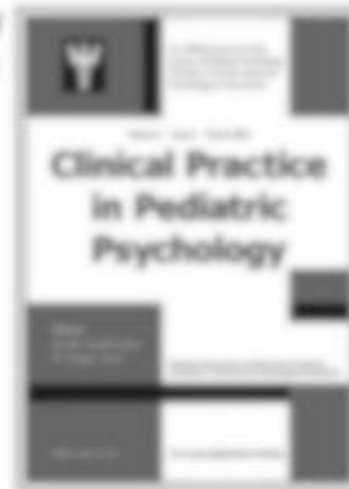
Tracking retractions as a...

What to do when you make a mistake? Advice from authors who've been there

with 5 comments

After a group of researchers noticed an error that affected the analysis of a survey of psychologists working with medical teams to help pediatric patients, they didn't just issue a retraction — they published a commentary explaining what exactly went wrong.

The error was discovered by a research assistant who was assembling a scientific poster, and noticed the data didn't align with what was reported in the journal. The error, the authors note, was:



“ an honest one, a mistake of not reverse coding a portion of the data that none of the authors caught over several months of editing and conference calls. Unfortunately, this error led to misrepresentation and misinterpretation of a subset of the data, impacting the results and discussion.

Needless to say, these authors — who use their “lessons learned” to help other researchers avoid similar missteps — earn a spot in our “doing the right thing” category. The retraction and commentary both appear in *Clinical Practice in Pediatric Psychology*.

Their first piece of advice in “Retraction experience, lessons learned, and recommendations for clinician researchers” — assume errors will happen, and not vice versa:

“ “ **9. Editors should create a culture of support, not punishment, around reporting of errors.** From personal experience, we can attest that the hardest e-mail to write is the one where you have to tell your editors about your error, knowing that it may throw off their publication plans and schedule. The support and encouragement provided by the Clinical Practice in Pediatric Psychology (CPPP) editors, including their request that we write the current article, has been crucial to this process, and their reinforcement of our honesty and integrity in revealing our error has made this process much less painful than it could have been.

Other ad and anal that see

“

errors are discovered by your editor, a reader, or your institution.

Being accused is no joke

nature International weekly journal of science

Home | News & Comment | Research | Careers & Jobs | Current Issue | Archive | Audio & Video | For Authors

News & Comment > News > 2016 > June > Article

NATURE | IN BRIEF Share Email Print

German minister accused of plagiarism in medical dissertation

Allegations follow previous cases of federal ministers losing their government posts after evidence of plagiarism.

Alison Abbott

29 September 2015

 [Rights & Permissions](#)

The Hannover Medical School in Germany is examining allegations that German defence minister Ursula von der Leyen plagiarized in her 1990 medical dissertation in obstetrics.

The allegations were made on the ['VroniPlag Wiki' website](#), a platform that searches academic theses for plagiarism. Compared to some of the cases VroniPlag has examined before, the alleged plagiarism is only "moderate", Gerhard Dannemann, a law researcher at Humboldt University in Berlin, told the magazine *Der Spiegel*.

Student > Student Life > Studies

Half of UK university students are losing marks for not referencing correctly, survey finds

Findings come months after The Times exposes 'plagiarism epidemic' among Britain's institutions

Defence minister denies claims of plagiarism

Michael Gardner 02 October 2015 Issue No:384

Like 1 Tweet G+1 0 Share 2

Join us on facebook

Follow us on twitter

News Feeds

Global Edition

Africa Edition

As yet another German politician allegations of lifting material, law whether a statute of limitation w academic plagiarism.

Meanwhile, Minister of Defence U touted by many as a possible con Angela Merkel has denied allegat

CRIME NETHERLANDS

VU AMSTERDAM ECONOMICS TEAM CLEARED IN PLAGIARISM INVESTIGATION

Posted on Jan 13, 2016 by Janene Pieters

Former economics professor at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam Peter Nijkamp and his team did not commit plagiarism and did not tamper with research results, the Academic Integrity Committee of VU Amsterdam and the VU Medical Center concluded in their investigation into the matter, the Volkskrant reports.

Two years ago Nijkamp and one of his PdD students were anonymously accused of plagiarism and fabricating research. This caused quite the commotion, given that Nijkamp is known as a reputable scientists and published about 50 research articles a year. His critics felt that such a high number of articles is only possible through cutting and pasting, and not through thorough research.

BullGuard

Are your smart devices broadcasting information about you?

scan

Courthouse News Service

Thursday, June 02, 2016 Last Update: 6:52 AM PT

Professor Claims Princeton Defamed Him

By NICK RUMMELL

Like Tweet G+1 ShareThis

TRENTON, N.J. (CN) — A former dean of Princeton's school of architecture sued the university, claiming it defamed and demoted him because of bogus rumors of plagiarism.

Alejandro Zaera-Polo claims Princeton fired him in 2014 after months of rumors and a university investigation stemming from an anonymous post accusing him of copying a Wikipedia entry on façades for a prestigious international architecture exhibit.

He claims the university, its President Christopher Eisgruber and Dean of Faculty Deborah Prentice defamed him after a recklessly performed investigation "that seemingly confirmed the widespread, false, and damaging public rumors" about him. He sued them on May 24 in Mercer County Court.

opened and believes that end out false accusations the Volkskrant. immediately put away as

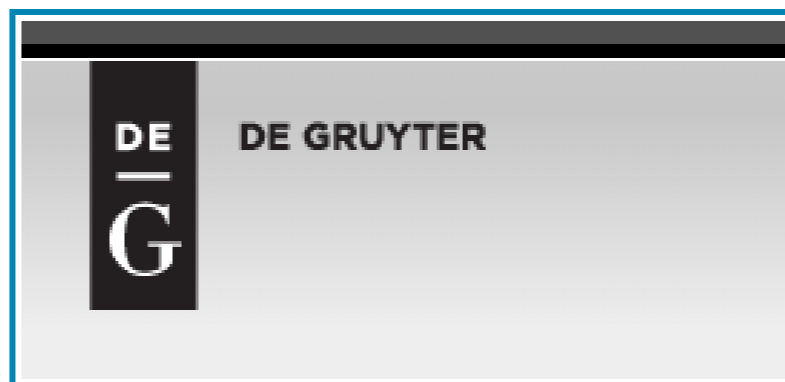
Some of us will take action

Lawsuit against publisher over retraction comes a step closer to reality

with 6 comments

An author has begun the process of taking legal action against a publisher for retracting his paper.

As we [reported last month](#), John Bishop, the CEO of an independent media company called [Crocels](#), based in Pontypridd, Wales, argues that by taking down his paper, De Gruyter defamed him and breached a contract — their agreement to publish his paper. Now, Bishop has sent the publisher what's known in the UK as a "letter of claim."



In the letter, Bishop writes:

“ In accordance with the civil procedure rules in the United Kingdom I am notifying you under the pre-action protocol that I am likely to have to take legal action against you under the E-Commerce Directive for breach of statutory duty and under the law of contract for breach of contract.

You can read the whole [letter of claim here](#), which is addressed to [Alex Greene](#), the Senior Editorial Director at

“ I cannot be held responsible for your internal procedures failing – you agreed to publish my work and therefore have no right to back out of that agreement.

He argues that the retraction notice defames him:

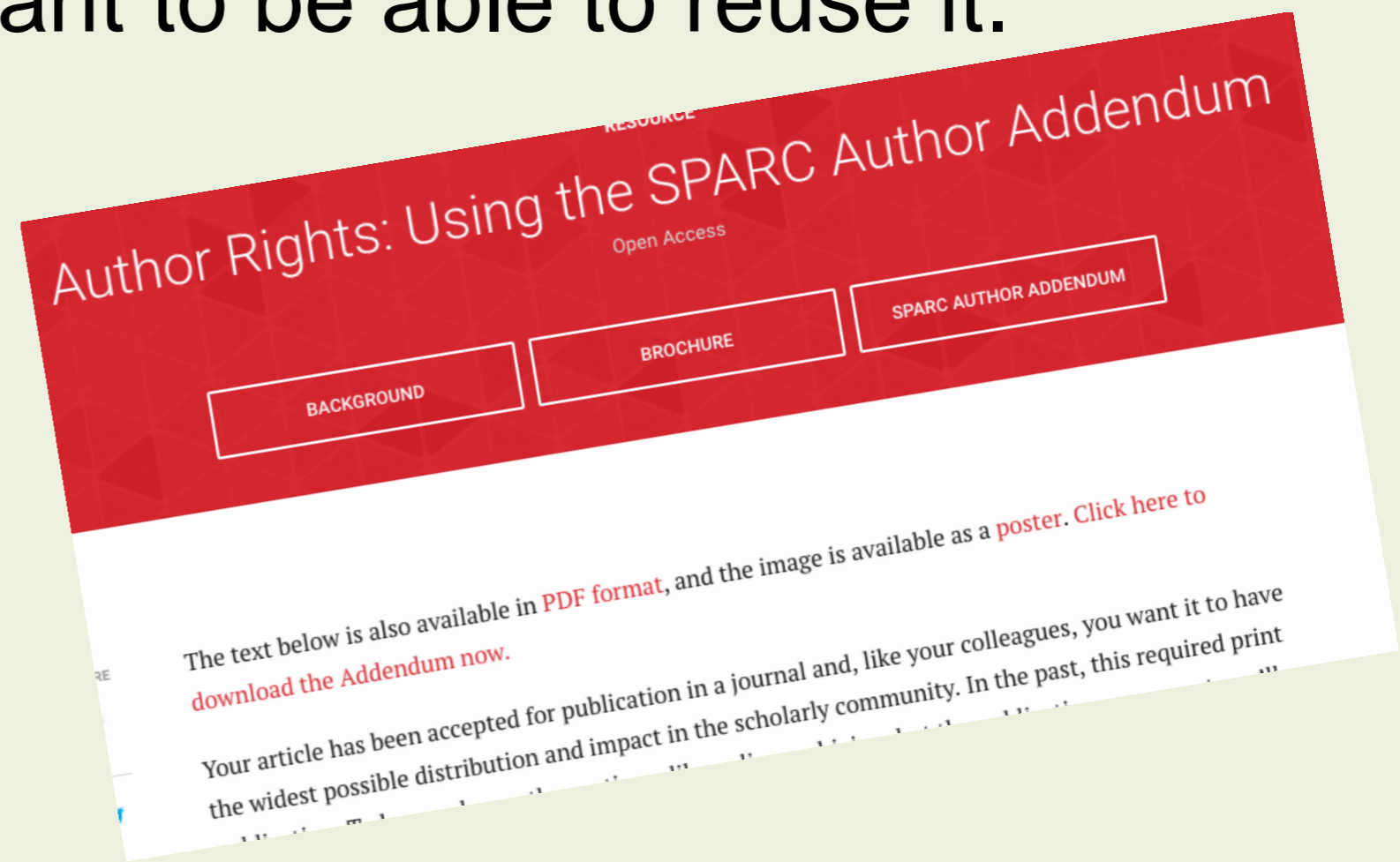
“ On Google Scholar in particular, when people see the citation for the original work they see the derivative with the words "Reaction of" and in all other academic paper databases people see the derivative among all my other research papers, furthering the defamation of me.

Proposition 3

IT'S MY STUFF

I'm the author

- I give you rights to use my article
 - In consideration of ...
 - Dissemination, review, improvements, design, archiving, adding value ... Etc.
- But it's my stuff. I want to be able to reuse it.



Who gave you permission?

| Do you agree to grant your readers the right to: ("Yes" answers in % of column) | Arts and Humanities | Medical and Life Sciences | Science, Mathematics and Engineering | Social Sciences |
|--|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Translate your work without your approval | 18,6 | 37,5 | 34,4 | 22,2 |
| Include your work in a text anthology without your approval | 21 | 27 | 36,8 | 28,1 |
| Extract data from the text of your work by automatic software without your approval | 32,1 | 26,3 | 32,0 | 32,4 |
| Republish your work with a commercial company without your approval | 5,4 | 8,3 | 6,2 | 4,5 |

Don't assume I understand

- Copyright assignment (eh?)
- Licence to publish (what?)
- What's the difference?
- Do I care?
- Who has time to read these things?

Don't confuse me

- “Re- use of the accepted and peer-reviewed (but not final) version of the Contribution shall be by separate agreement with **** .”
 - But the website says: “The accepted version may be placed on: the author's personal website; the author's company/institutional repository or archive; not for profit subject-based repositories such as PubMed Central”
- The right to re-use the final Contribution or parts thereof for any publication authored or edited by the Contributor (excluding journal articles) where such re-used material constitutes less than half of the total material in such publication.
 - Contributors may re-use figures, tables, data sets, artwork, and selected text (up to 250 words) from their Contributions

Once again ... with gusto ...

YOU WANT MY ARTICLE

I WANT TO PUBLISH MY ARTICLE

LET'S MAKE A DEAL ...

Play nice ...?



We authors are not to blame for everything

LET'S PLAY NICE