

Promoting the Responsible Conduct of Communication of Research in China



Beth A. Fischer and Michael J. Zigmund
University of Pittsburgh

Is there a problem with responsible conduct in China?

The case of He Haibo (Zhejiang University, October 2008)

- Dual publication
- Honorary authorship
- Plagiarism
- Fabrication
- Falsifications
- Forged copyright transfers
- Eight retractions



Yang Wei
President,
Zhejiang University

Is there a problem with responsible conduct in China?

First 7 of 5,80,00 Google hits

1. Plagiarism in China: Rule of reason
2. Chinese journal finds 31% of submissions plagiarized
3. US-China today: Unraveling plagiarism in China
4. Plagiarism plague hinders China's scientific ambition
5. Plagiarism and China's future economic development
6. The scourge of plagiarism in China
7. Plagiarism and copycatting in China

Is there a problem with responsible conduct in China?

- Plagiarism in 31% papers in J. ZJU
- 1/3 of 6,000 reports plagiarized or fabricated
- Journal retracted 120 papers over 2 yrs
- Recent report on 1,641 college students:
 - 60% witnessed misconduct
 - only 5% would report it
 - 20% participated



新語錄
New Threads

Fang Shimin

“Honesty is not only unacknowledged,
but often regarded as stupidity.”

Possible causes

- Lack of understanding of guidelines
 - English as second language
 - Cultural differences

Possible causes

- Lack of understanding of guidelines
- Emphasis on memorization
 - Advancement in public service prior to 20th C
 - Grade school achievement

Possible causes

- Lack of understanding of guidelines
- Emphasis on memorization
- Culture of communal property
- Pressure to publish
- Rejection of mss for poor English
- Lack of codes, oversight, enforcement
- Poor training
 - Responsible conduct
 - Scientific research

Possible causes

- Lack of understanding of guidelines
- Emphasis on memorization
- Culture of communal property
- Pressure to publish
- Rejection of mss for poor English
- Lack of codes, oversight, enforcement
- Poor training
- Plagiarism in private sector

Plagiarism in private sector

- Pirated DVDs and software



Plagiarism in private sector

- Pirated DVDs and software
- Knock off consumer goods



Fake Apple store

Plagiarism in private sector

- Pirated DVDs and software
- Knock off consumer goods
- “Inventions”



Chen Jin and
his “innovative” chip

Our experience in China

(2004- present)



Our experience in China

- Fudan University (Shanghai)
- Capital University (Beijing)
- HK University of Science and Technology
- Second Medical University (Xian)
- Shanghai Jiaotong University
- Third Military Medical University (Chongqing)
- Beijing University

Our experience in China

- Communication skills
 - Writing research articles
 - Giving seminars and poster presentations
- Audience
 - Undergraduates
 - Graduate students
 - Postdocs
 - Faculty
 - Research staff

Our experience in China

- Instruction in English
- Duration
 - 1 hr
 - 18 hr over 3 weeks

Generalizations

- Considerable interest
 - Trainees
 - Research faculty
 - Administrators
- Wide range of language ability
 - Age
 - Institution
- Range of comprehension of topics

Some of the concerns

- Fabrication
- Falsification
- Plagiarism
- Authorship
- Dual publication
- Lack of scholarship
- Sharing

Our experience in China

Comprehension of key issues

- Importance of quality publications

High

- Authorship

Low but readily explained

- Plagiarism

Difficult to understand

Plagiarism exercise

Analysis of cores taken from the polar ice cap suggest a rapid increase in the rate of melting during the last decade (Smith et al, 2008).

- A. Cores taken from the polar ice cap suggest a rapid increase in the rate of melting.
- B. Recent analysis of polar ice indicated that the melting rate has increased.
- C. There is a good deal of evidence for global warming.

Plagiarism exercise

Analysis of cores taken from the polar ice cap suggest a rapid increase in the rate of melting during the last decade (Smith et al, 2008)

- A. “Cores taken from the polar ice cap suggest a rapid increase in the rate of melting
- B. Recent analysis of polar ice indicated that the melting rate has increasec
- C. There is a good deal of evidence for global warming.

Final exam

Define plagiarism.

8. Define plagiarism? (4 points)

I am sorry I don't know this word "plagiarism"

Final Exam

1. Define plagiarism. (4 points)

① use false or misleading data or information to publish the paper.

② creat data or figures which did not exist

③ copy another one's findings without citation or reference

④ cheat the public and scientific field ~~in their~~ ^{for}

2. Of the items listed below, what two parts of a research article are the most widely read? (Mark your 2

~~to~~ promotion or graduation

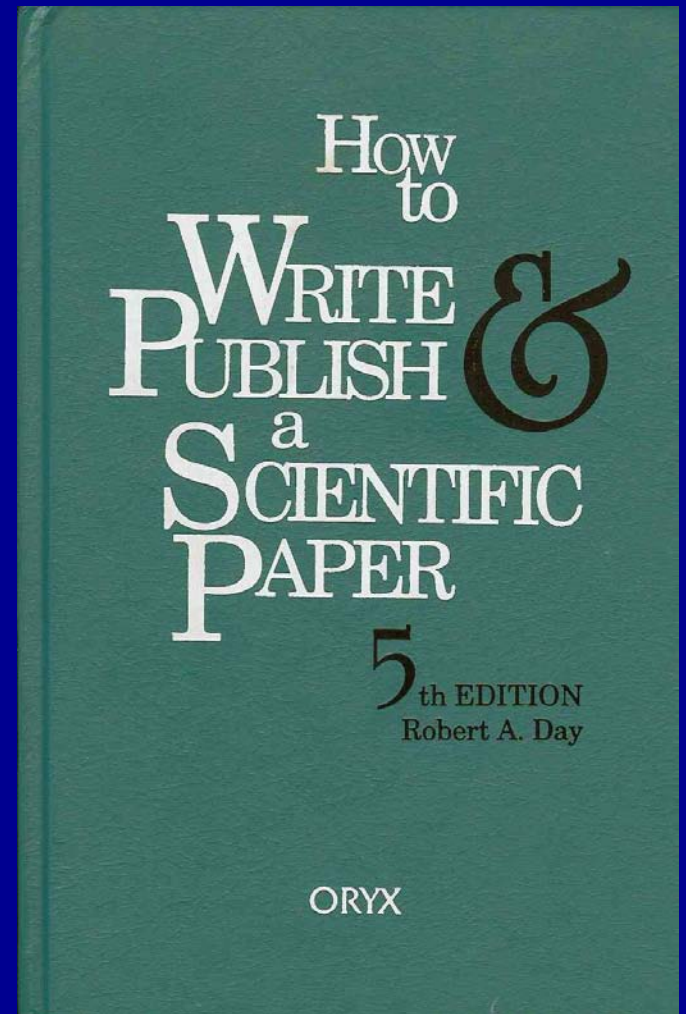
answers with an X.) (4 pts.)

How not to proceed!

- Unwarranted assumptions
 - It is specific to China



Hwang Woo-Suk
(South Korea)



Vietnam

The West has its own legacy!



Cyril Burt



Mediabistro.com



Scott Reuben



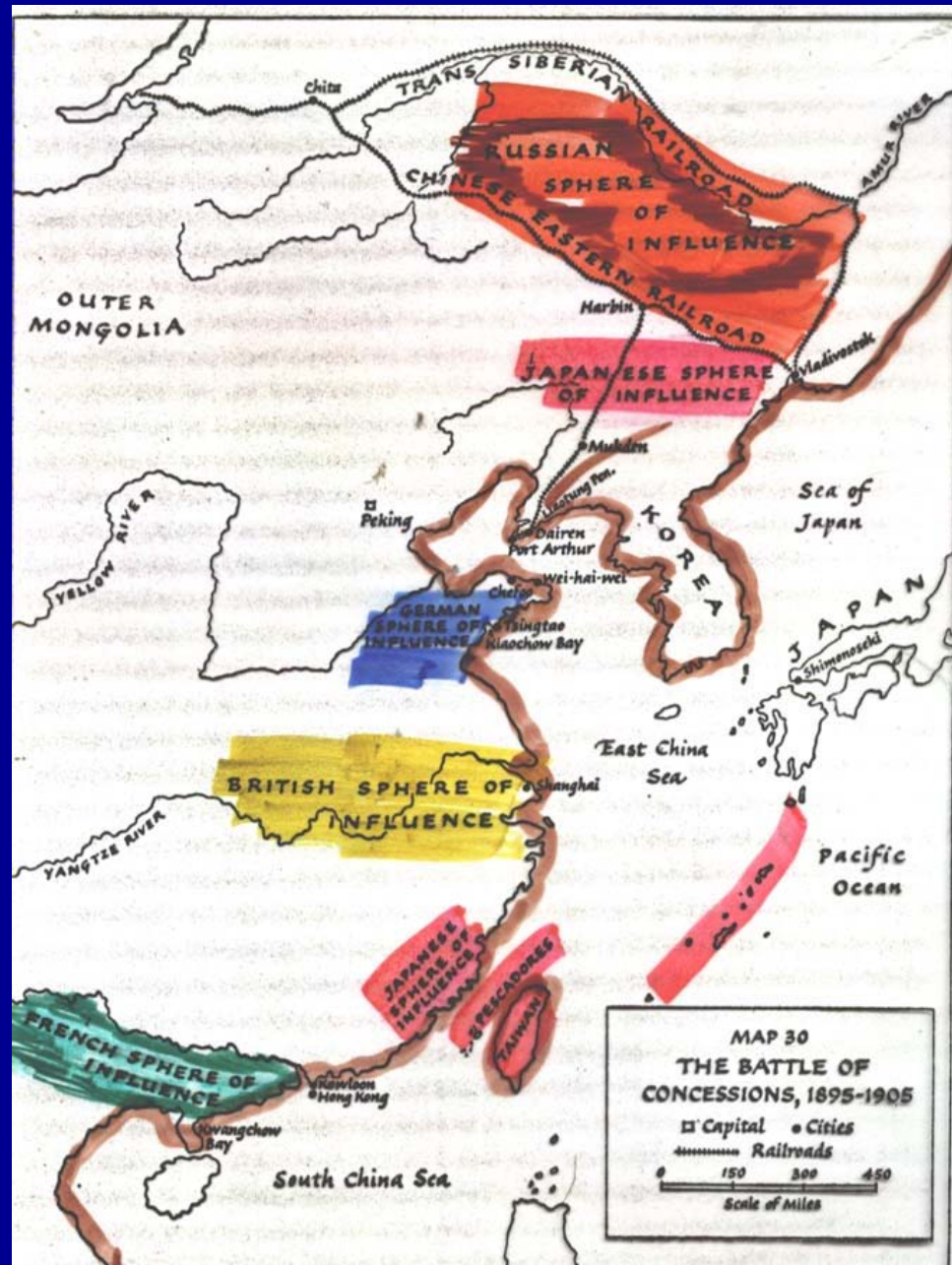
Andrew Wakefield



Daniel Kwok

How not to proceed!

- Unwarranted assumptions
 - It is specific to China
 - All misconduct is conscious
 - Full understanding of English instruction
 - Thorough institutional follow-through
- Paternalism



Yet, Chinese want to learn from the West



Then, how to proceed?

- National level
 - Culture
 - Oversight
- Institutional level
- Students and faculty

Then, how to proceed?

- Cultural sensitivity
- Active learning
- In partnership with local institutions
- Two-way exchange of best practices
- Evaluation of efficacy

Our approach

- RCR training in context of professional skills

Skill

Example

Manuscripts

Plagiarism

Proposals

Confidentiality

Misrepresentation

Oral Presentations

- Active learning
- Small group faculty-led discussions
- Examination



AAAS-ORI sponsored trainer-of-trainers workshop

- March 16-19, 2012
- Georgetown University
- NIH, NSF, ORI representatives
...and more

www.skillsandethics.org/2012conference