Conference cycle on Academic Integrity in Higher Education: present and future challenges

Universitat de València (UV) / Université de Bourgogne (uB)

Cinta Gallent Torres and Bénédicte Coste
(cinta.gallent@uv.es; Benedicte.Coste@u-bourgogne.fr)

4 sessions (1h 30h) (15 min. discussion)

Dates: January 11, 18 and 25, 2023; February 1, 2023

Schedule: 5:00 p.m-6.30 p.m. UTC+1

Link to the sessions: https://bit.ly/3FC0esn

Course designed for: students, faculty, and early career researchers.

Inscription deadline: January 5, 2023.

****

Session 1: "Ethics and Scientific Integrity for Dummies"

This session will consist of an introduction to ESI from its inception to 2022. It provides a historical overview of the issue from the mid-20th century onwards and presents major legal and administrative European texts. It also presents major studies on ESI and notable case studies. It concludes with recent issues linked to new technologies such as AI.

Objectives:

- Make participants familiar with ESI's key concepts and terminology
- Draw participants' attention to the issues pertaining to ESI
- Understand how ESI impacts our activities and how to take it into account in our practices

Contents:

- Ethics and academic integrity in higher education
- History and key texts
- European perspectives (recommendations at postgraduate level)
- Fraud, falsification, and plagiarism (FFP): definition and examples
- External case studies
- Q/A session with the audience

Session 2: "Academic misconduct at university level: factors encouraging students to make unethical use of information"

This session will review different dishonest practices carried out by university students and the causes that lead them to engage in unethical behavior. It will also address the prevalence, development and gravity of academic malpractice, and highlight the main conclusions studies

on this topic have reached. Reflecting on how important it is to respect the intellectual property of third parties will make our students learn the correct way of referencing their sources.

Objectives:

- Understand misconduct at university level (is it different to previous levels?)
- Identify malpractice in an academic context
- Reflect on the mechanisms that could be implemented to raise awareness of this phenomenon in the university community
- Reflect on the use (or misuse) of other people's ideas in academic tasks and exams

Contents:

- Academic misconduct in the current university context: extent and causes
- Prevalence, development, and gravity of academic malpractice: main studies on this topic
- Plagiarism and other dishonest practices among students
- Definition and categorization. Examples. Mechanisms to avoid misconduct
- Respect for the intellectual property of third parties: training students to correctly reference their sources

Session 3: "Pseudoscientific publishing models and strategies: the case of predatory journals and conferences"

Presentations at renowned conferences and publications in recognized journals are the main channels for transmitting science. For any scientist, it is important to make their work visible and to publish their research findings in high impact journals. Conference organizers and publishers of journals of dubious character are aware of this need, so they try to exploit it through offers of fraudulent publications. In this session, postgraduate students, faculty, and junior researchers will learn how to identify and avoid these publishers and conferences whose practices deviate from the standards of accuracy, seriousness, and probity, which define the processes of scientific communication.

Objectives:

- Reflect on the current transformation in the world of scholarly and scientific dissemination and publication: the Open Access movement

- Describe and analyze malpractice in the organization of scientific conferences and in the editorial processes of predatory journals that demonstrate deviant or non-standard behavior with the intention of contributing to their detection

- Identify and describe their characteristics and strategies for attracting potential "clients"

- Describe and analyze the consequences of participating in these scientific events and publishing manuscripts in these journals

Contents:

- The Open Access movement and the cobra effect

- The world of academic and scientific publishing in process of transformation: different types of journals (e.g., legitimate journals, megajournals, hijacked journals, and predatory journals): Features to look out for

- How to spot and avoid pseudoscience

- Consequences for researchers of participating in bogus journals and academic events

Session 4: "Challenges of Artificial Intelligence for Ethics and Scientific Integrity"

This session explores recent issues induced by the growing presence of AI-driven technologies in our academic activities. So far, the ethics of AI has been, and is still, a subject of discussion, investigation and, in some cases, recommendations. How does AI-driven research intersect with ESI? How can we use AI-powered tools and abide by the requirements of ESI?

Objectives:

- Introduce participants to the identified issues pertaining to the use of IA
- Present cases when the use of IA-driven technologies intersects with ESI concerns
- Make participants reflect on questions arising from IA and ESI

Contents:

- Introduction to the ongoing discussion on ethics and AI
- Some areas where AI and ESI intersect
- The European Union's position on research in and with AI
- Pending questions
- Q/A (15 minutes)

All sessions will include a practical activity to be done during the session.

Final activity: Padlet