

A CASE OF ACADEMIC PLAGIARISM

What's to stop someone—desperate to fulfill a publishing quota—from copying an article posted on a publicly available Web page, repackaging it under another byline, and resubmitting it to another journal?

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The publish-or-perish philosophy continues to characterize academic career development in many universities and research centers around the world [6]. Young researchers and university professors are rewarded based on the number of academic publications they produce annually, as well as on the quality of these publications. Quality standards are often determined by the academic ranking of the conference or journal publishing the work. Special importance is given to “recognized” refereed journals, where peer reviews lead to rejection for 80%–90% of all submissions.

Extra pressure is put on university professors in tenure-track appointments to generate a certain number of publications (preferably in refereed journals) [1]. Requirements for the number published and the journal or conference ranking usually depend on the candidate's university and field of research [10]. Some universities grant tenure to candidates with two journal articles; others require more, with at least some in top-ranking journals. Such requirements can be particularly stressful for some candidates.

Pressured to publish to proceed up the ladder, or simply to keep a job, young tenure-track professors may be tempted to cheat their way up through the system. But how can they possibly get away with it? Faking research data is one option, especially when confidentiality prevents disclosure about sources. One famous case of alleged data fabrication involved the British psychologist Cyril Burt. Widely regarded as one of the world's most eminent psychologists, Sir Cyril (1883–1971) was, within a few years of his

