Science Fraud

Institutions are often reluctant to discipline wrongdoers, ignoring it, quietly shifting the blame to the perpetrator. This is not really fraud, but a cover-up of the truth. Some of the more common types of science fraud are:

1. Plagiarism: This is the act of taking someone else's work and passing it off as your own.

2. Fabrication: This involves making up data or images that are then passed off as real. For example, a researcher might fabricate experimental results or create images that are not actually present.

3. Falsification: This involves manipulating data or results to fit a certain narrative. This can include altering graphs, changing data points, or selectively using a few sources to support a particular argument.

4. Peer review process: There have been cases of researchers stealing the work of their students to obtain all of the credit and kudos. This is a form of fraud that can happen when supervisors and funders have little direct involvement.

5. Suppression of negative results: This is when researchers fail to report negative results or suppress their publication.

6. Authorship fraud: This involves pretending to be the author of a paper or asserting authorship when it was not earned.

7. Image enhancement: This involves using computer programs to alter images in a way that makes them look better than they actually are. This can include removing wrinkles, altering the color balance, or changing the contrast to make an image look more balanced.

8. Data manipulation: This involves altering the data to make it look better than it actually is. This can include changing the scale, adding or subtracting numbers to fit a certain narrative.

9. False attribution: This involves pretending that someone else wrote the paper when it was actually written by the researcher.

10. Influencing peer review: This involves trying to influence the peer review process by sending information about the paper to reviewers.

11. Funding fraud: This involves using research funding in the quest for research grants. This can include using funds for personal use or using grant money to pay for things that are not related to the research.

Some of the more common methods of science fraud are:

1. Using a tutor to write an essay: Most academics have had a tutor assign an essay and instructed them to use the tutor's ideas and write it up. This is not fraud, but a way of getting credit for someone else's work.

2. Selectively using a few citations: Most scientific papers, especially during the early stages of publication, tend to use a few primary sources. This is not fraud, but a way of isolating the research from the background sources.

3. Using secondary sources: Most scientific papers will eventually catch out and copyscape and other plagiarism detection tools when they are caught. This is not fraud, but a way of getting credit for someone else's work.

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