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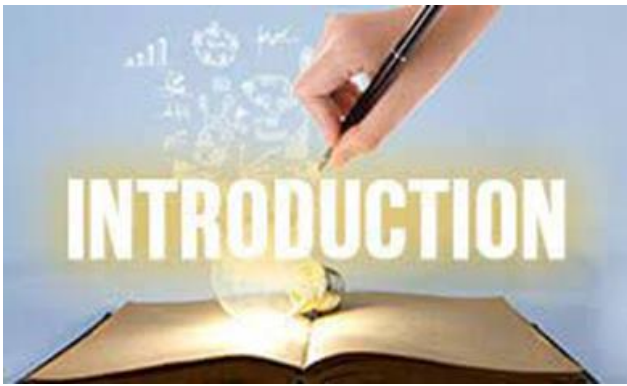


# The Blur of Academic Integrity and Research Integrity – The Complementary Link

Interconnected Puzzle Pieces

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- Research – Interesting Position – Remit of academic integrity and research integrity
- Translate research into trustworthy innovation and policy
- Research should be undertaken with robust academic integrity and research integrity principles
- Comparison of 2 Higher Educational Institutions
  - UK / European – University of Bristol
  - African – University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg / Wits University



# Academic Integrity (AI) vs Research Integrity (RI)

- a. Principles Relied On - Ideally do
- b. Practices – Actually do – Best Practices
- c. Misconceptions – Academic Integrity and Research Integrity
  - i. Academic Integrity and Research Integrity are used interchangeable – Creates ambiguity
  - ii. Siloed practices which is not the case
  - iii. Blurring lines – e.g. plagiarism, authorship etc.



# Principles



Academic Integrity	Research Integrity
Honesty	Objectivity
Attribution	Transparency
Originality	Accuracy
Fairness	Confidentiality
Respect	Accountability
Responsibility	Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research

# Best Practices



## Academic Integrity

Citation and Referencing

Original Work

Collaboration

Honesty in Examinations

Respect for Academic Standards

Reporting Violations

## Research Integrity

Ethical Research Design

Data Collection and Management

Analytical Integrity

Ethics - Publication

Peer Review Process

Authorship

# Case Study – Plagiarism - Turnitin



## i. Plagiarism – Academic Integrity

- i. Considered to be part of Academic Integrity
- ii. Terms used interchangeably
- iii. Plagiarism - Act of academic dishonesty and academic misconduct = Not entirely of academic integrity
- iv. Plagiarism – *“aspect of academic integrity in that using another's ideas, words, theories, illustrations or graphics, opinions or facts without giving credit is dishonest”*

## ii. Plagiarism - Research Integrity

- i. Scientific / Research misconduct - unacceptable research practice
- ii. Undermine the trustworthiness of the research

For the above explanation, people would think that plagiarism is one in the same in Academic Integrity and Research Integrity but in fact it has *a similar meaning but different outcome* as Research Integrity is the handle of the Academic Integrity Umbrella



# Academic Integrity

Foundational of all  
Higher Educational Institutions

# Research Integrity

Complementary component  
that underpins research outputs  
to progress into trustworthy  
policy and innovation

# South African Case of Bezwoda



- Dr. William Bezwoda – SA Oncologist - Involved in a highly publicized case of research misconduct in 1990s
- Research focused on the treatment of breast cancer
- Use of high-dose chemotherapy followed by bone marrow transplantation
- Gained international attention for his claims that this aggressive treatment approach could significantly improve survival rates for advanced breast cancer patients
- Scrutiny of numerous aspects of Dr. Bezwoda's research and the clinical trials that took place
- Allegedly fabricated and manipulated patient data to support claims of treatment success
- Investigations revealed discrepancies and inconsistencies in the reported outcomes of the clinical trials
- No adequate informed consent was obtained patients during the clinical trials – Patients not informed of risks associated with the experimental treatments
- Ethical oversight was called into question – Including REC / IRB approvals and monitoring of patients' safety during clinical trials

Academic Integrity and Research Integrity breaches but this terminology was used interchangeably which caused confusion



# AI vs RI in terms of Bezwoda Case



Research Integrity	Academic Integrity
Data fabrication	Questioned accuracy of reporting of research findings
Inadequate informed consent	Adherence to ethical standards in academic publications
Constituted serious breaches of research integrity	Failure to uphold these principles undermined trust in the academic and scientific community
Compromised the scientific validity of findings	
Potentially putting patients at risk by promoting an unproven therapy	

# Comparison: Policies, Procedure, and Other Tools

Analysed to determine what is currently in place and how robust research integrity policies can cover these gaps

Bristol (UK / European)		Wits (African)	
AI	RI	AI	RI
<u>University Policy on Academic Integrity</u>	<u>Research Governance and Integrity Policy</u>	Student Academic Misconduct Policy	National 2015 Guidelines
<u>Plagiarism</u>	<u>Regulations on Research Misconduct</u>	Guidelines on Authorship	Research Integrity Policy
<u>Collusion</u>	<u>Annual Statement on Research Integrity</u>	Student Plagiarism Policy	Code of Conduct
<u>Contract Cheating</u>	<u>Due diligence process (Research)</u>	POPIA Policy	Terms of Reference
		Rules for Student Discipline	Standard Operating Procedures

# Link to Translating Research into Trustworthy Policy and Innovation

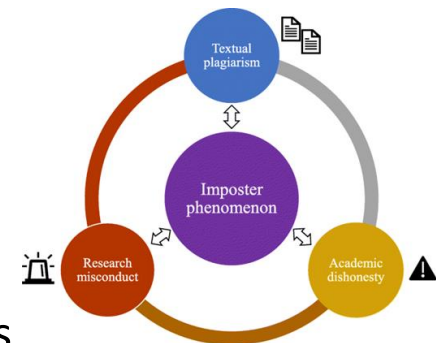
- Innovation and Technology Transfer is knowledge transfer for the public good
- Public Engagement and Trust Earned
- Collaboration between Policymakers and Researchers
- Informed Decision Making
- Evidence Based Policy Making
- Evaluation and Impact Assessment



# Interrogate Overlap of AI & RI



- Interrogate overlap of integrity to identify how to manage issues that may arise between the gaps that neither covers
  - Terminology, definitions and boundaries need to be identified and clarified
  - Guidelines between Academic Integrity and Research Integrity need to be developed to avoid ambiguity – Monitor, Review and Evaluate continuously
  - Regulations Regarding Safeguards
  - Training, Education, Supervision and Mentoring
  - Access to Resources to ensure optimal practices
  - Support Research Environment
  - Collaboration between academic and research realms
  - Communication between academic and research realms
  - Identify scenarios of overlap between Academic Integrity and Research Integrity
  - E.g. Student – Research Misconduct (i.e. plagiarism) - Results in academic side being affected with a “penalty” of a deduction of marks



# Lessons Learnt and Way Forward



- Create an enabling environment that nurtures integrity in both academic and research
- Collaboration and Communication
- Best practice
- Sharing of education and training programs
- HEIs can ensure consistency in the implementation of the Singapore Statement to the Cape Town Statement to the Athens Statement on Research Integrity
- Establish the foundation of trustworthy and innovative research and policy



# Conclusion

- Interlinking of academic and research integrity
- Ensure trust for research to inform policy and to address societal issues
- Academic and Research Integrity remain complementary as tools to promote research undertaken ethically and for researchers to demonstrate the integrity of their work
- Public trust, that robust governance of academic and research integrity processes are in place in facilitating ground-breaking research that stands up to public scrutiny for trustworthy innovation and policy



# Conclusion



In conclusion, the ancient Greeks left many great ideas that we still use in modern life today, such as democracy and mathematical discoveries. It is interesting to learn about the writing & language, food and roles in society of these ancient people.

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