

The relevance of criminological inquiry on research misconduct

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What is criminology?

- Empirical social science
 - Closely connected with law as well as with other sciences – interdisciplinary
 - Study of criminal phenomena: crime/deviance, the criminal/deviant, social control systems and structures (incl. law, the police, courts, prisons) and victims
 - Practical uses: counseling, evaluation of programs, forensic analysis, compliance programs, risk assessment, etc. – evidence based
- Why do (some) people fail to comply with social rules and (criminal) laws?
 - How are rules and laws negotiated in complex societies; what makes a deviant behavior/person and how are such labels applied?
 - What are the effects of formal and informal punishment: stigmatization, deterrence, continuing of criminal career, no effects?

From research integrity to research misconduct

- Behaviours
- Norms and values
- Socialization processes and subcultures
- Organisations and institutions
- Enactment and enforcement of rules
- Detection and sanction
- Structural, economic and political contexts

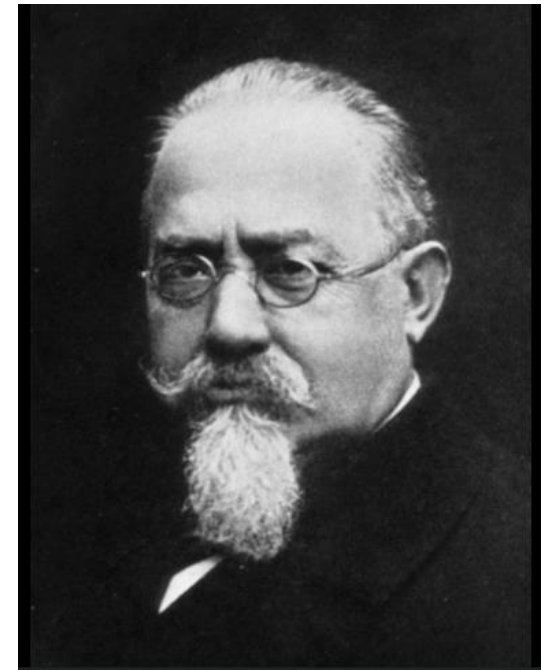
- Individual, group, organisational dimensions
- Victims – the missing link



Athenian Silver Tetradrachm
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My experience at the 2015 WCRI

- People commit RM because they are intrinsically bad and should be severely sanctioned, eventually expelled from the community because they have failed to comply with the community ethos
- People commit RM because rules and formal detection and sanctioning mechanisms are not good enough and fail in deterring misbehaviour
- Discussions at the birth of criminology since the 19th century



My contribution to the field

- Research misconduct as a form of white-collar and organisational crime
- **Occupational crime/deviance:**
 - committed by professionals in the course of their occupation;
 - opportunities, pressures, sub-cultural norms and deterrence generated in the context of the scientific profession;
 - in legitimate and relevant organisations – in this case, dedicated to research and science;
 - in specific political, economic and social contexts;
 - offenders do not exhibit risk factors for conventional crime (substance abuse, unemployment, low education, etc.), use complicated neutralization techniques, formal social control systems are not as well prepared to deal with such situations, and considered "victimless crimes"



RESEARCH MISCONDUCT AS WHITE-COLLAR CRIME

A Criminological
Approach

RITA FARIA



Knowledge on causes, processes and structures

- Evidence-based knowledge
- Variety of behaviors being described, from FFP, to QRP to Col
- Social structures (values, pressure, reward system, external demands, etc.) at work within organizations that make that (some) people accepted or felt pressured to engage with – RM as a potential course of action
- People decide differently but there are consequences on how they position themselves
- Regulatory context being set: norms, values, statements being enacted and communicated – debate: more and better self-regulation or acceptance of external control?
- Goal: to assure trustworthy science in academic transnational capitalism where big money is involved and informal social control is no longer enough

Training on RCR: an evaluation research

- Support from the Research Integrity Advisor and the Doctoral Schools from Ghent University
- Independent, external assessment of implementation and effectiveness of a training delivered to PhD students: does it work? does it have an impact?
- Mixed method approach (interviews, surveys, classroom observation)
- Specific goals:
 1. Diagnosis of the implementation process: to describe existing practices and contents of the RCR training;
 2. An *ex ante* and *ex post* semi-experimental approach allowing to assess trainees' knowledge, perceptions, behaviors and attitudes towards RI and RM incl. FFP and QRP);
 3. To describe and understand former trainees' awareness on the impact of the training on their behavior and experiences towards RI and RCR.

Deterrence and monitoring mechanisms

- Adams and Pimple 2005; Ben-Yehuda 1986; Ben-Yehuda and Oliver-Lumerman 2017; Zuckerman 1977
- Opportunities for offenses = motivated offender + desirable target – effective guardianship
- RM happens when there is no effective guardianship: formal and informal social control
- Monitoring and supervision – but who guards the guards? What is known about effectiveness and impartiality of RIO, Ombudsperson, etc? What is know about procedures?
- Deterrence: how effective are formal (e.g. disciplinary measures) and informal (e.g. stigmatization, shaming) sanctions? What are the stated goals and sanctioning mechanisms? (e.g. Klausser & Leclerc)

Predatory publishing practices and impact on evaluation practices

- Dimity Stephen, Martin Reinhart & Emmanuel Kulczycki
- "Moral panics" phenomena about the impact of predatory publishing practices on the science system
- Need for empirical substantiation considering the complex geopolitical relations, researchers' motivations, and centre-periphery narrative inherent in the predatory publishing debate
- How have publishing practices in different national settings emerged? How do academic communities define and react to predatory publishing practices? And how do evaluation systems influence (predatory) publishing practices?
- Labelling; social construction of a problem; moral entrepreneurs; rule enactment and rule enforcement; resistance to norms; sensibility to cultural and geographic contexts incl. colonialism
- Paper tigers or actual threats?



Thank you!

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