



Publication Ethics: 16 years of COPE

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Promoting integrity in research publication

COPE is a forum for editors and publishers of peer reviewed journals to discuss all aspects of publication ethics. It also advises editors on how to handle cases of research and publication misconduct. [Read more about COPE...](#)

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What are the benefits of COPE membership?

FEATURED

FORUM DISCUSSION TOPIC: Sharing of information among editors-in-chief regarding possible misconduct

The Forum discussion topic on Wednesday 4 September is "Sharing of information among editors-in-chief regarding possible misconduct". Click below to learn more and leave your comments.

Learn more

NEWS & OPINION view all ▶

News / COPE's eLearning course relaunched

27/8/2013 7.50am

COPE is delighted to announce the relaunch of the eLearning programme on the COPE website. COPE members can now access the programme directly on the COPE website <http://publicationethics.org/resources/elearning> once they have logged in.

News / Clarification of COPE advice to editors on Geopolitical intrusions on editorial decisions

1/8/2013 6.11am

There has been much discussion recently on government, specifically US government, sanctions against Iran, the potential effect on Iranian researchers and some publishers have cautioned editors and reviewers about handling papers from Iran.

Home /



Cases

All the cases COPE has discussed since its inception in 1997 have been entered into a searchable database. This database now contains over 400 cases together with the advice given by COPE. For more recent cases, the database also includes follow-up information about outcome. We hope this

RECENT CASES

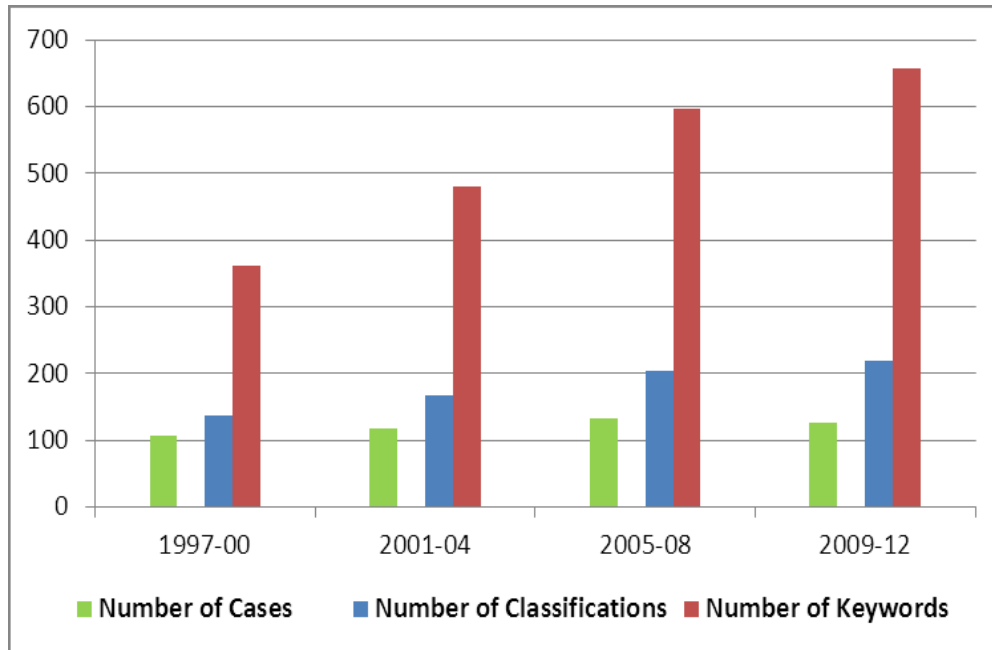
[Authorship dispute](#)

- Cases database
- Updated classification scheme needed
- New scheme - 18 main Classifications, up to 2 per case
 - 99 Keywords, up to 10 per case
 - descriptive, not judgemental
- The coding exercise

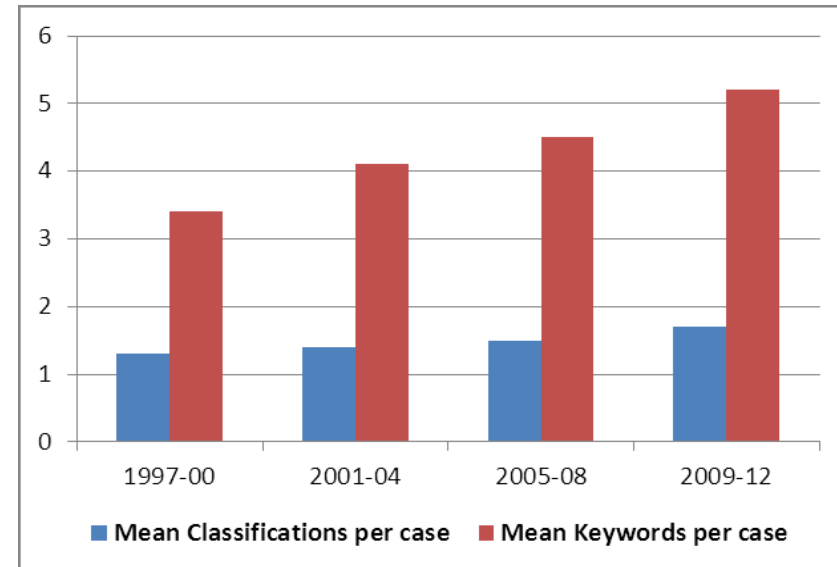
Classifications and Keywords indicate the topics discussed, not that a particular form of misconduct had occurred

Cases, Classifications & Keywords, 1997-2012

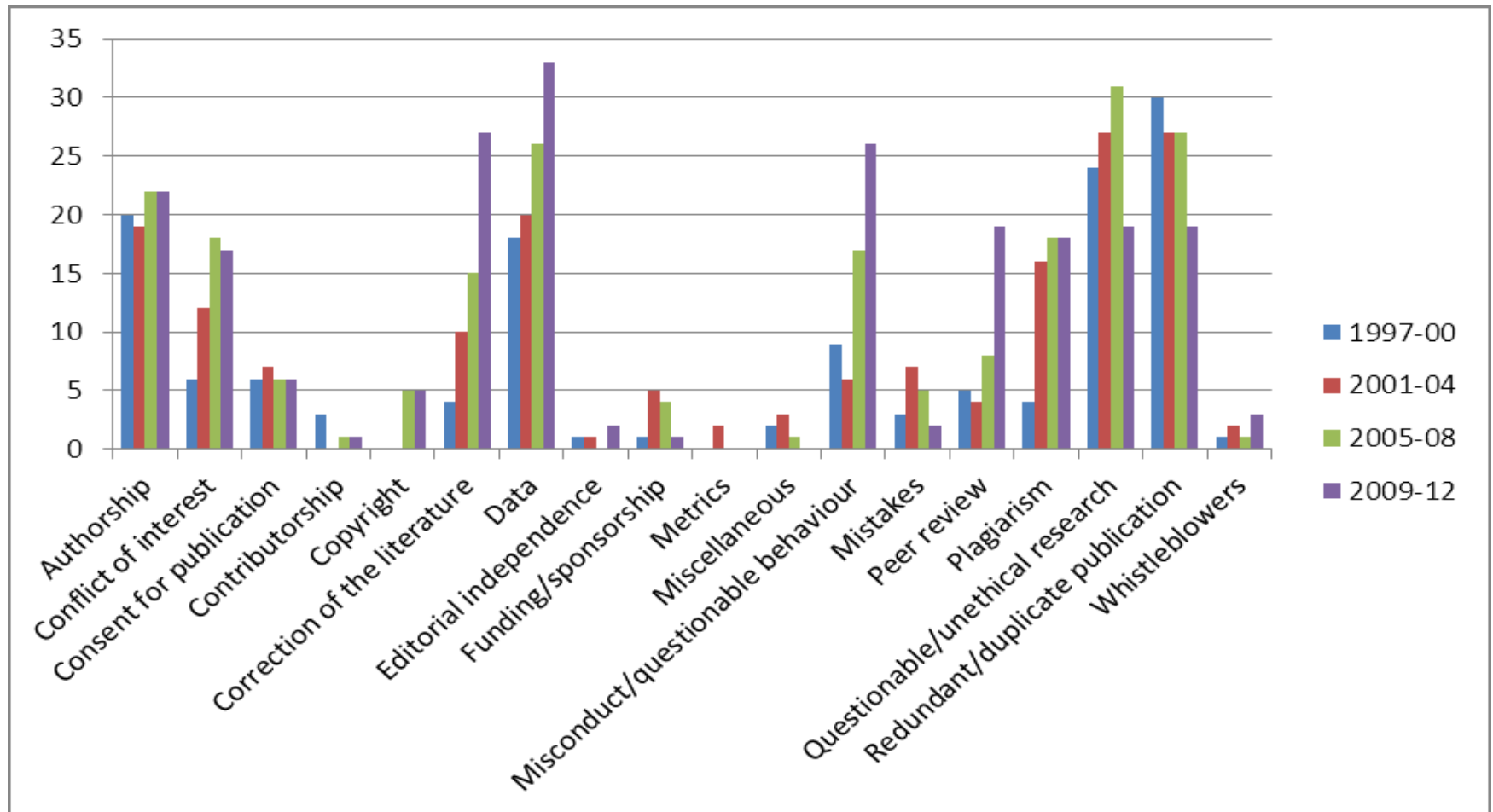
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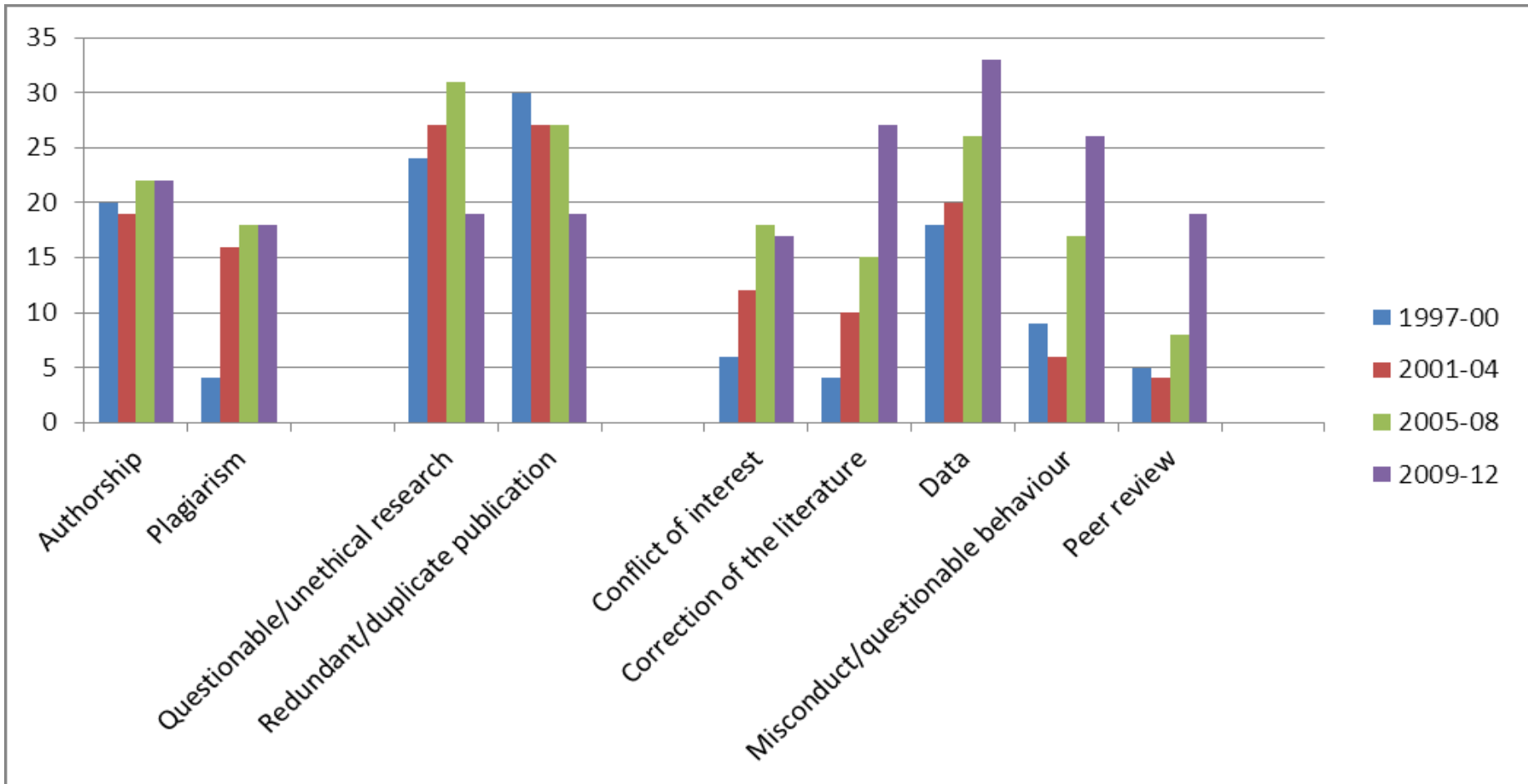
Mean



Classification of COPE cases, 1997-2012



Classification of COPE cases, 1997-2012, categories with >7 instances in a 4-year period



COPE resource development

- *eLearning modules re-launched 2013*: Introduction to publication ethics, Plagiarism, Data falsification, Data fabrication, Conflict of interest, Authorship
- *eLearning modules in development*: Editor misconduct, Reviewer misconduct, Redundant publication, Selective reporting, Unethical research
- *Discussion documents in preparation*: Corrections (expanding on Retraction Guidelines), Authorship, and Text recycling
- New and enhanced *Flowcharts* planned
- New *Guidelines* ... on peer review ...

'Fake reviewer' cases

Retraction Watch

Tracking retraction process

Retraction count grows to 35 for scientist who faked emails to do his own peer review

with 9 comments

[Hyung-In Moon](#), the South Korean plant compound researcher who [made up email addresses so he could do his own peer review](#), is now up to 35 retractions.

The four new retractions are of the papers in the *Journal of Enzyme Inhibition and Medicinal Chemistry* that initially led to suspicions when all the reviews came back within 24 hours. Here's the [notice](#), which includes the same language as Moon's 24 other retractions of studies published in Informa Healthcare journals:



“ The corresponding author and publisher hereby retract the following articles from publication in *Journal of Enzyme Inhibition and Medicinal Chemistry*.

Effect of betaine on the hepatic damage from orotic acid-induced fatty liver development in rats

Jae-Young Cha, Hyeong-Soo Kim, Hyung-In Moon, and Young-Su Cho

Journal of Enzyme Inhibition and Medicinal Chemistry [epub ahead of print], 2012, doi: 10.3109/14756366.2011.641014

'For his part, Moon acknowledged suggesting his friends and colleagues as reviewers, telling Retraction Watch that the results "can be mistaken for fake reviews." But he said it wasn't only his mistake: The editors, Moon said, invited those reviews without confirming the identity of the reviewers.'

COPE Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers

*Irene Hames on behalf of COPE Council
March 2013, v.1*

Peer review in all its forms plays an important role in ensuring the integrity of the scholarly record. The process depends to a large extent on trust, and requires that everyone involved behaves responsibly and ethically. Peer reviewers play a central and critical part in the peer-review process, but too often come to the role without any guidance and may be unaware of their ethical obligations. The COPE Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers set out the basic principles and standards to which all peer reviewers should adhere during the peer-review process. It is hoped they will provide helpful guidance to researchers, be a reference for journals and editors in guiding their reviewers, and act as an educational resource for institutions in training their students and researchers.

Basic principles to which peer reviewers should adhere

Peer reviewers should:

- only agree to review manuscripts for which they have the subject expertise required to carry out a proper assessment and which they can assess in a timely manner
- respect the confidentiality of peer review and not reveal any details of a manuscript or its review, during or after the peer-review process, beyond those that are released by the journal

‘COPE’s new Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers: background, issues, and evolution’,
ISMTE, *EON* May 2013, Vol6, issue4, http://www.ismte.org/Shared_Articles-COPEs_new_Ethical_Guidelines_for_Peer_Reviewers_background_issues_and_evolution/

'Promoting integrity in research publication'

- Education as well as guidance and advice
- Making the Forum accessible to more members, more often, in more ways

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