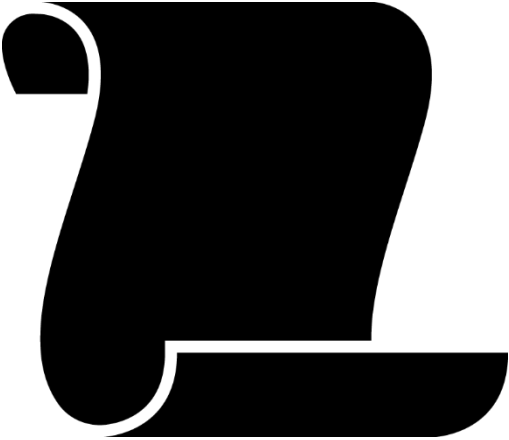# *The Paper, the Publishers, the Protagonist, and The Academic Setting*
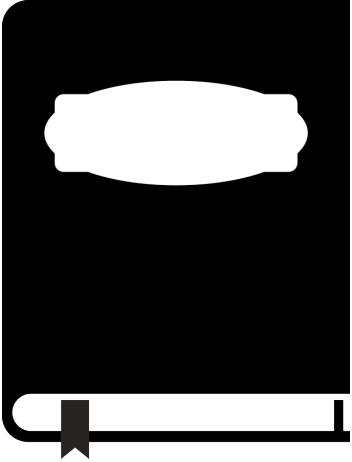
Dr Jane Jacobs, Director Office Research Ethics and Integrity

Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane

QUT

The Paper

The Publishers

The Protagonist

The Academic Setting

"Academic research, including the task of publishing its findings, takes place in a highly complex socio-technical system (CSS), which involves several dynamically interacting agents (e.g. authors, publishers, reviewers, regulators, funding agencies, subjects of the research, and Universities, among others)."

Tarcisio Abreu Saurin, 2016

Queensland University of Technology | The prism of today's presentation

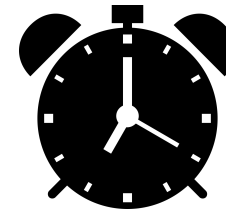**Top 300** universities globally
2016 Academic Ranking of World Universities (Shanghai Jiao Tong)

8 Rhodes scholars since 1998; 5 since 2010

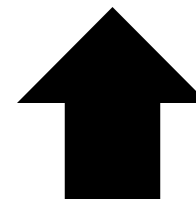**7th** in Australia for QS Graduate Employability

Average PhD completion time **less than 4 years**

Top 50 of universities under 50 years old
Times Higher Education 150 Under 50

International HDR enrolments **risen 5%** between 2011 and 2016

QUT: a university with aspirations

- Biomedical engineering and health technologies

- Biomolecular science

- Chronic disease intervention

- Creating and capturing value from new technology

- Data science, computational modelling and simulation science

- Digital media

- Education for better outcomes

- Health systems

- Injury prevention and management

- Materials science and engineering

- Plant biotechnology

- Robotics and computer vision

- Technology, regulation and society

Responsible research practice in Australia

- The system is generally self regulating

- Self reporting essential under funding agreement conditions when misconduct in research practices (including publication issues) are confirmed

- The two major national funding agencies issue guidance and policy for RRP

- Institutions and universities are responsible for initiating and conducting investigations

- The funding agencies take no role in training and education. This is left to organisations

- Research misconduct is not reported in the public domain, but de-identified reporting is encouraged

The Paper

Institutions are reliant on:

- Self reporting of publication error/s

- Reporting by others, i.e. researchers, co-authors, other institutions and or community members

- Reporting on Blog sites such as Retraction Watch or PubPeer

- Funding agencies who receive a complaint or information about a 'questionable paper'.

The source in effect dictates institutional process

The Protagonist

- The literature gives us some useful pointers - hints about the characteristics of those researchers more likely to submit a 'questionable publication'

- We understand the pressures to publish, although this notion is more likely to be confounded by situational and or cultural factors

- We understand the demand for greater transparency and accountability to ensure that researchers practice their craft with integrity

- We know that the emerging emphasis on trans-disciplinary research challenges researchers that don't have a tradition of trans-disciplinary collaboration

- We know errors can genuinely occur for a range of reasons, other then deliberate, negligent or reckless intention.

The Publisher

- Diversity of publishing practices across disciplines and journals

- A hierarchy of contact points that can be difficult to navigate which from time to feels deliberately impenetrable!

- There are international standards for editors which look and feel good!

- When it comes to correcting the public record our respective processes may from time to time rub in opposite directions

The Academic Setting

- Cultural narrative on publication ethics, lead from the front
- Guidelines crafted around responsible research practices
- Online resources to accommodate different media usage
- Post publication responsibilities – and why it matters
- Publication and authorship training
- Encouraging use of originality software prior to publication
- Bespoke training post-integrity events
- Monitoring of research approved by an ethics committee
- Do some targeted "stuff" when needed

Authorship and Publication

QUT Library and Office of Research Ethics & Integrity

QUT

Conflicts of Interest line 01

ORCID line 02

Writing line 04

Contributor line 05

Get Orcid ID

Disclose conflicts of interest

Agree Authors

Decide to publish

Review data management plan

Data line 03

Consider pre-prints

Shortlist journals

Feedback line 06

Consider benefits of open access

Write First Draft

Review CRediT taxonomy

Check reporting guidelines

Ensure all contributors included

Draft tables, figures & legends

Write abstract

Feedback line 06

Feedback from co-authors

Feedback from other academics

Celebrate

Ongoing responsibility

Use plagiarism detection software

Revise paper

Check proofs

Publish

Review and agree authorship

Promote

Review publishing agreement

ePrints & Data Finder

Revise and resubmit

Collect and review COIs

Acceptance

Decide journal

Editorial decision

Acknowledge funding

Report COIs

Write cover letter

Pre-prints

Finalise manuscript

Submit manuscript

Peer review decision

Journal line 07

Rejection line 08

LEGEND - MORE INFORMATION

LINE	ISSUE	HYPERLINKS
01	Conflicts of interest	QUT COI Policy / QUT Research COI guidance / NHMRC guidance
02	ORCID	ORCID website / QUT Library - Researcher Profiles
03	Data management	QUT Policy / Australian National Data Service / NHMRC Statement on Data Sharing
04	Writing & open access	ThinkCheckSubmit / Australasian Open Access Strategy Group / EQUATOR network
05	Contributors & authors	QUT Authorship Policy / CASRAI CRediT
06	Feedback	
07	Journal & peer review	QUT Peer Review Policy / QUT ePrints / COPE Peer Review Guidelines
08	Rejection	Thesis Whisperer: coping with rejection

About this map

This map has been created to complement QUT's Authorship & Publication training. It provides a framework to help explain and discuss the complex world of academic publication.

Of course, this map is only a tool. In reality, the issues and connections are both more numerous and more tangled than what is represented here. Our hope, however, is that this document is a useful tool for researchers who want an overview of a very complex and important topic.

In the legend on the right-hand-side you will find hyperlinks to resources and tools.

Much more information can be found on the Library and OREI websites:

www.library.qut.edu.au/research/

www.orei.qut.edu.au

Updated April 2016

The Academic Setting – Priorities

- Post-investigation, correction of the public record is an imperative.

  - from an institutional perspective – reputation, integrity of reported research, and trust by funders

  - Needs to occur in the timely manner, to avoid ongoing re-agitation of publication issues

- Managing the privacy and confidentiality of respondents – often at odds to the demands of complaints and or in providing the details of an investigation outcome to publishers

- Collateral damage management for co-authors which might include early career researchers, HDR students, collaborators and funders.

How might we collectively change the future of publication ethics?

We want the same thing:
publication integrity

How might we collectively change the future of publication ethics?

The new COPE and institutional membership arrangement presents an opportunity to develop and road test a cooperative workflow model which identifies key decision points and processes.

We want the same thing:

This could extend to an international collaboration with institutional members and integrity organisations *publication integrity* (national or organisation based – i.e. ORI, ARIC, Tri-Agency, UKRIO).

Develop a joint statement of standards for managing publication, retractions and corrections.