



## The COPE Case Taxonomy: reclassification and analysis of COPE's publication ethics cases

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@COPE

COPE European Seminar, Brussels, 14 March 2014

# Credits

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<http://www.peerreviewcongress.org/2013/Plenary-Session-Abstracts-9-8.pdf> (p.20)

Submit a Case

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*

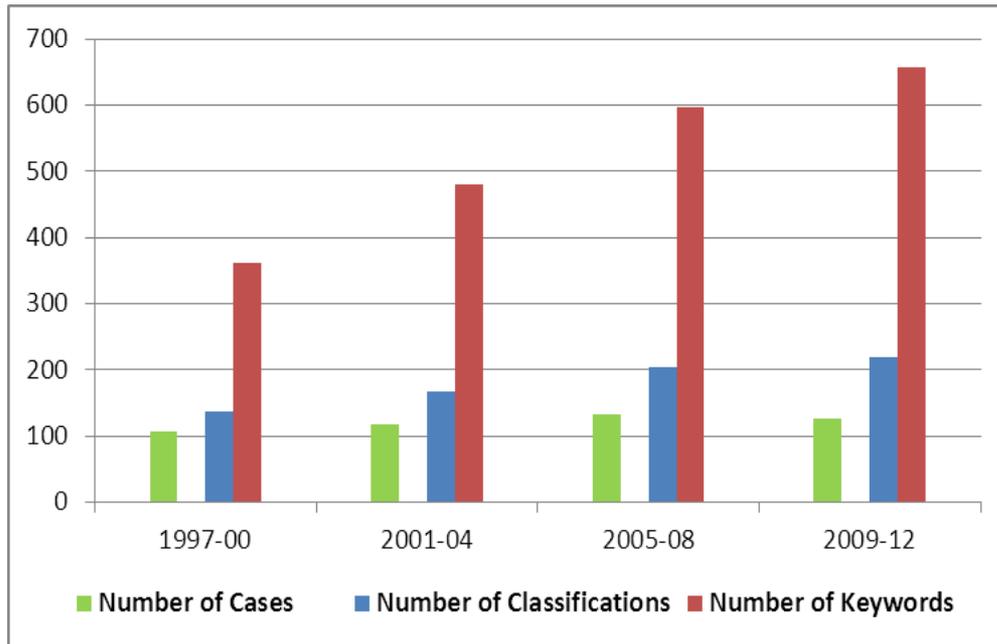
# The COPE Case Taxonomy

COPE Case CLASSIFICATIONS & Keywords	DESCRIPTION			
<b>AUTHORSHIP</b>	<b>Involves any aspect of authorship</b>			
Authorship	Involves any aspect of authorship			
Changes in authorship	When changes to the authorship list are requested or made, after either submission or publication.			
Disputed authorship	When there is disagreement about any aspect of authorship, e.g. who should be listed and order of listing.			
Ghost authorship	When someone who should/deserves to be listed as an author is omitted on a submission or publication.			
Gift authorship	When someone who has made little/no contribution to a research project/manuscript is included as an author on a sub			
Questionable authorship practice	Dubious behaviour, e.g. making inclusion as an author dependent on something not linked to the project, depriving som			
<b>CONFLICT OF INTEREST</b>	<b>The existence of factors, situations or relationships that might inappropriately influence (bias), positively or nega</b>			
Conflict of interest	The existence of factors, situations or relationships that might inappropriately influence (bias), positively or negatively,			
Conflict of interest (author)				
Conflict of interest (editor)	Includes any person with high-level editorial and decision-making responsibilities.			
Conflict of interest (journal)	Includes (1) journal-associated individuals and staff, and (2) when journals don't have appropriate systems for ensurin			
Conflict of interest (reviewer)				
<b>CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION</b>	<b>Permission/lack of to publish variety of things (personal details, other information, data, case report, article).</b>			
Consent for publication	Permission/lack of to publish variety of things (e.g. personal details, other information, data, case reports, articles).			
Consent for publication (author)				
Consent for publication (institution)				
Consent for publication (participant)				
Consent for publication (supervisor)				

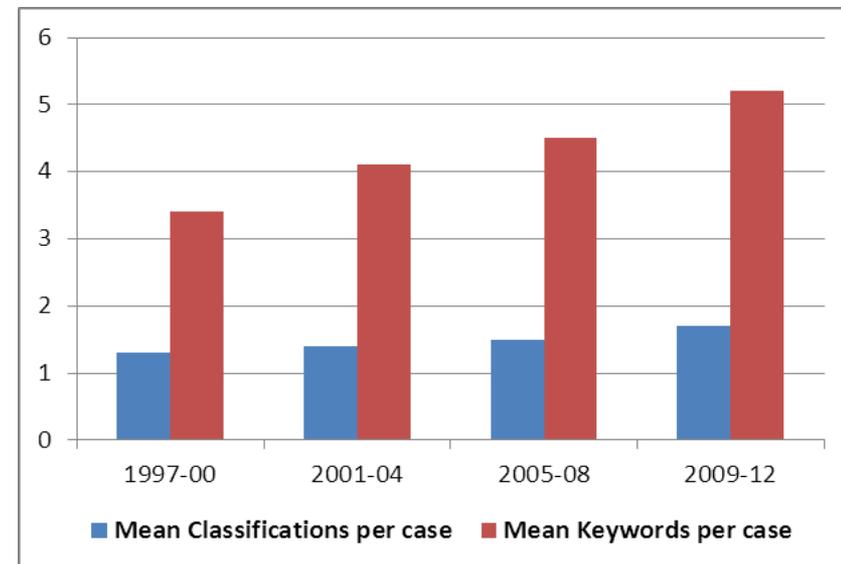
being launched soon ...

# Cases, Classifications & Keywords, 1997-2012

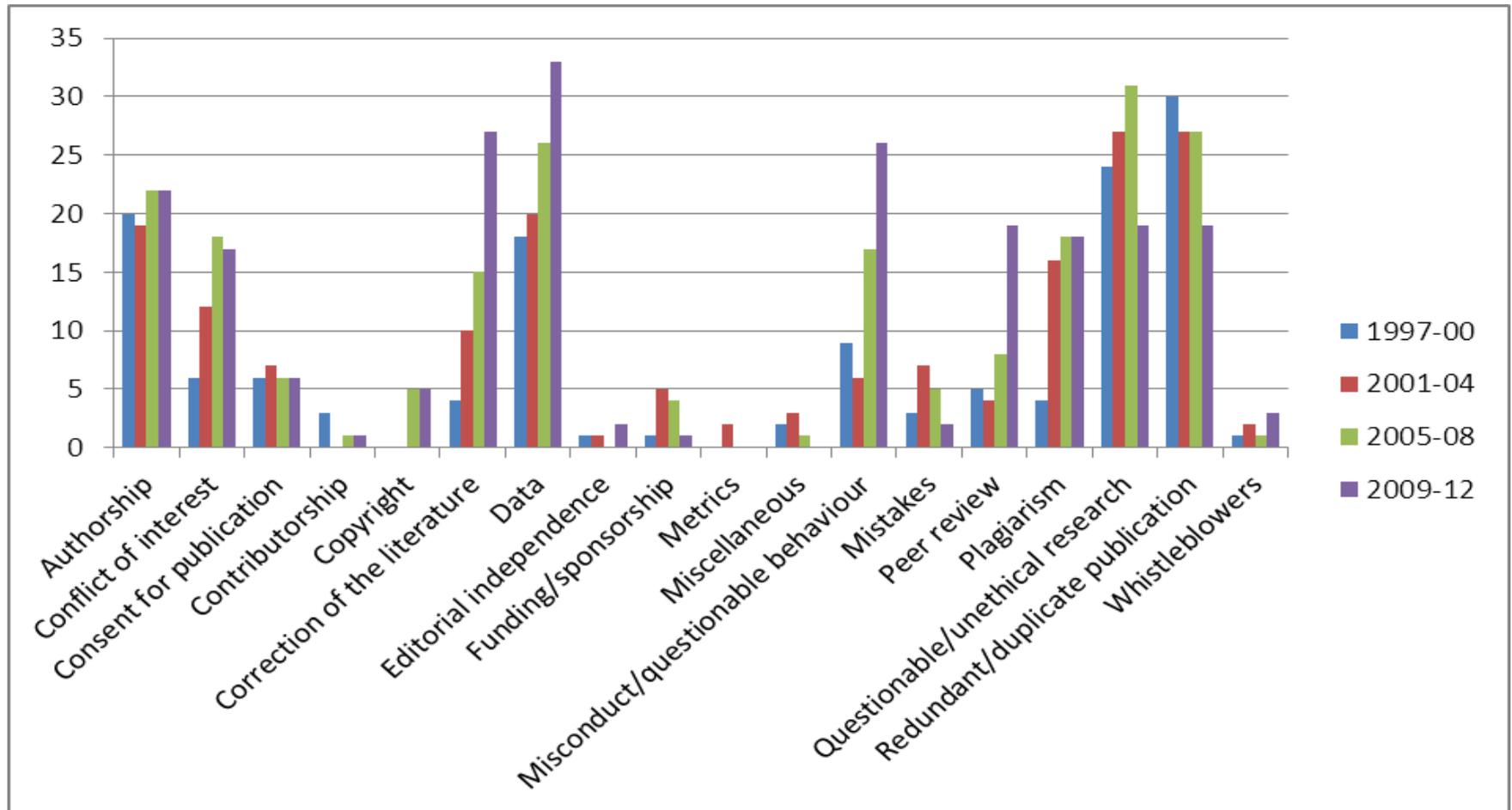
## Number



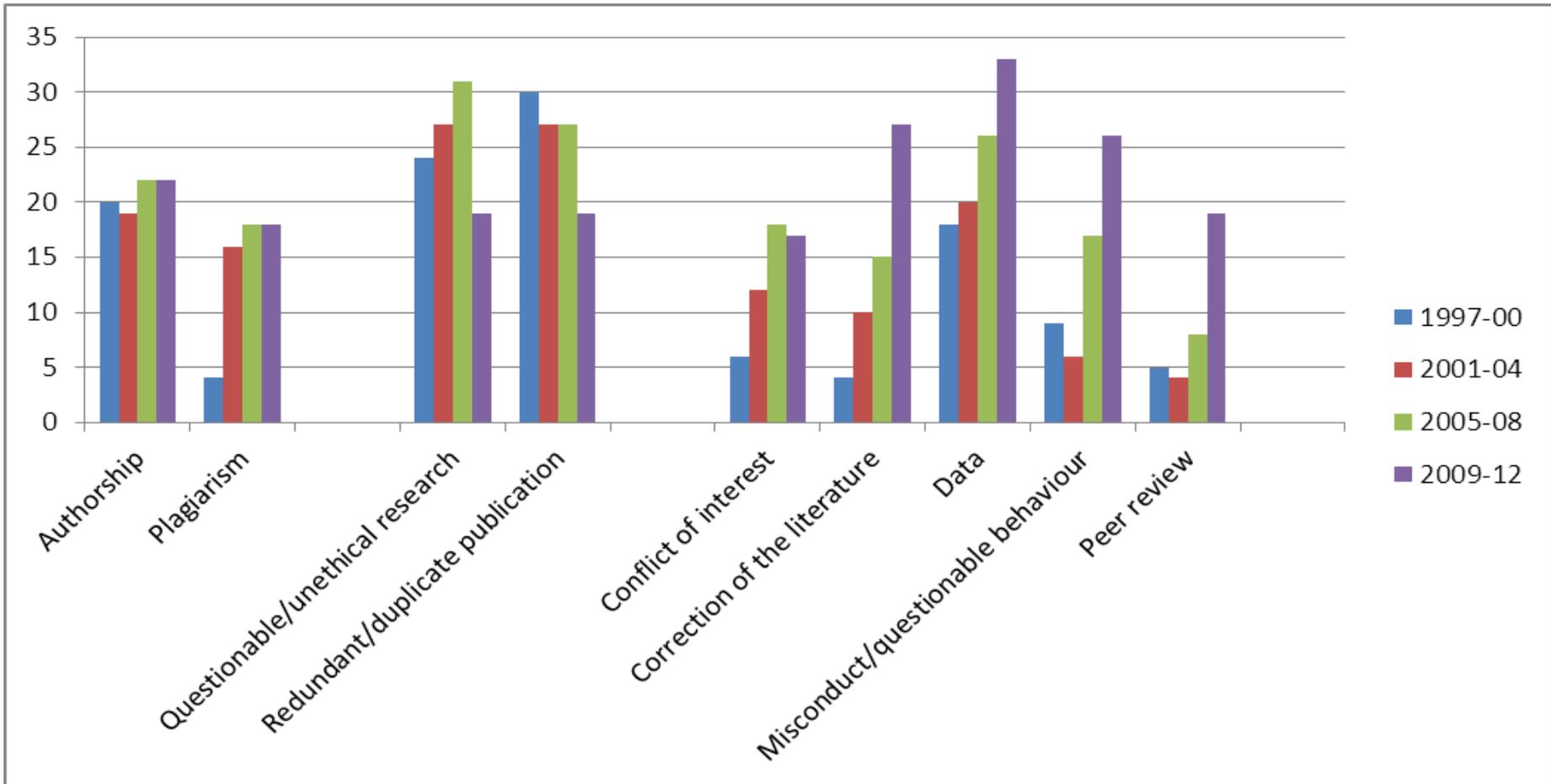
## Mean



# Classification of COPE cases, 1997-2012



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



# Keyword analysis Group 1: have been and remain major topics

## Authorship

- disputed 45%
- changes 34%
- gift 10%
- ghost 9%

## Plagiarism (~70% occurred 2005-12)

- in published article 52%
- in submitted article 38%
- text recycling 10% (most 2009-12)

# Keyword analysis Group 2: high incidence, decreasing

## Questionable/unethical research

- decreases: ethical review/approval, participant consent, participant confidentiality, protection of subject
- most frequent 2005-08 and 2009-12: research integrity/ethics investigations

## Redundant/duplicate publication

- redundant/duplicate publication 65%
- multiple submissions 29%
- involving translations 5%
- prior publication 1%

# Keyword analysis Group 3: increasing

## Conflict of interest

- author 46%, reviewer 32%, editor 22%

## Correction of the literature

- retractions 47%, corrections 27%, expressions of concern 11%, disputes 9%, corrigenda & errata 6%

## Data

- top: over 16yr - fabrication 17%, selective/misleading reporting/interpretation 13%; 2009-12 – unauthorized use & image manip.

## Misconduct/questionable behaviour

- author 60%, reviewer 27%, editor 11%, instit. 1%, soc/jrnl owner 1%

## Peer review

- editorial decisions 50%, process 50%

# Informing guideline development ...



COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION ETHICS

## COPE Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers

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

Peer review in all its form 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
- not use information obtained during the peer-review process for their own or any other person's or organization's advantage, or to disadvantage or discredit others
- declare all potential conflicting interests, seeking advice from the journal if they are unsure whether something constitutes a relevant interest

**‘COPE’s new Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers: background, issues, and evolution’,**

ISMTE, *EON* May 2013, Vol6, issue4,

[http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.ismte.org/resource/resmgr/eon/cope%27s\\_new\\_ethical\\_guideline.pdf](http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.ismte.org/resource/resmgr/eon/cope%27s_new_ethical_guideline.pdf)

# The traditional COPE Forum



# Making the Forum accessible to more members



## COPE Forum 4 March 2014: join us

### Discussion topic, agenda and materials and Webinar invite

The COPE Forum will be held virtually via webinar, on Tuesday 4 March 2014 (3–5pm GMT). The invitation to join the webinar is below. We can accommodate up to 100 attendees, so please register quickly if you wish to join in the discussion. Links to the agenda and materials, and discussion topic are below.

### Agenda and materials

The agenda and materials are now available to download from the COPE website (<http://publicationethics.org/news/cope-forum-agenda-and-materials-4-march-2014-meeting>). All COPE members are welcome to participate, whether or not they are presenting a case.

### Events

#### COPE European Seminar 2014

**Friday 14 March 2014**

The seminar will take place at the Representation of the State of Hessen to the European Union, Rue Montoyer 21, 1000 Brussels, Belgium. For details and to register:

<http://publicationethics.org/cope-european-seminar-2014>

**CSE's 2014 Annual Conference, 2-5 May 2014, San Antonio,**

# Thank you ... questions?

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