

Tuesday late morning session Track D, Tuesday, Sep 23 2025, 11:30-13:00

Location: Seminar 3

Session: Publication and Authorship

Chair: Hjördis Czesnick

OR-20

Epistemological Issues Relating to the Fabrication of Research Results

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Fabrication of research results is predominantly discussed primarily as a gross violation of research integrity, while the main focus is usually given to the issue how to adequately sanction the perpetrator and what kind of ramifications such a misdemeanour should require. When discussing larger social context in which fabrication of research results takes place, usually two issues are tackled: the push effect of the ever more severe “publish or perish” norm, and the pull effect of predatory journals with low peer-review scrutiny. In contrast, this paper examines the issue of research result fabrication through an epistemological lens, addressing the following questions: (1) How does fabrication conducted by an individual influence knowledge production within a research discipline as a whole? (2) How do methods that require the anonymisation of sources or respondents contribute to fabrication practices? (3) What measures can be implemented to prevent the reproduction of false or fabricated knowledge or facts? By examining a case of a proven and sanctioned case of a Slovene researcher, renowned both in local public and international academia, this paper analyses the long-term effects of fabricated results on knowledge production in a certain disciplinary field. The paper thus argues how (inadequate) sanctioning that focuses on disciplinary actions against the perpetrator leaves room for reproduction of false/fabricated knowledge/facts in international academic arena. The paper further proposes that sanctioning strategies should evolve beyond the mere disciplining of the individual, to foster integrity in knowledge production at both the global and national levels.