



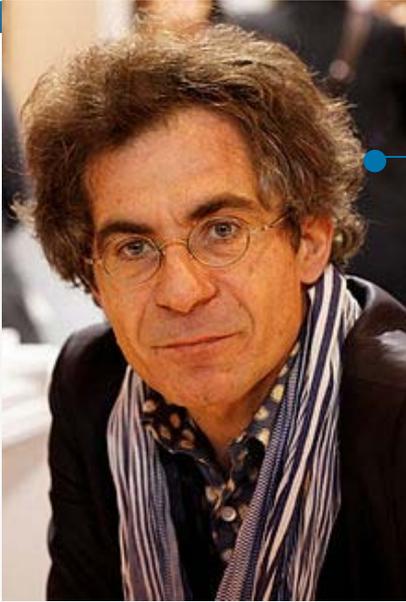
# Perceptions of Plagiarism by Biomedical Researchers

— An Online Survey in Europe and China

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## Etienne Klein

- Popular French physicist
- PLAGIARISM reported by *Science* (12/2016)

## Fernando Suárez

- Ex-rector of the Rey Juan Carlos University (Madrid)
- PLAGIARISM in a series of articles and book chapters (12/2016)



# Background



## Ying Liang

- Ex-professor of Nanjing University
- Ex-Changjiang (Yangtze River) Scholar
- PLAGIARISM in her earlier publications

## Tianlin Zhai

- Chinese famous actor
- PLAGIARISM in his doctoral thesis (02/2019)



KU LEUVEN



## Research question:

- How is plagiarism understood by biomedical researchers?
- Is plagiarism already clearly defined?
- Does understanding of plagiarism depend on the cultural background?

## Respondents

Biomedical researchers:

- Professors
- Associate professors
- Assistant professors
- Postdoctoral researchers

University selection:

- Europe (N=13)  
*LERU members*
- China (N=33)  
*Class A Universities of the Double First Class University*

## Questionnaire

Section 1

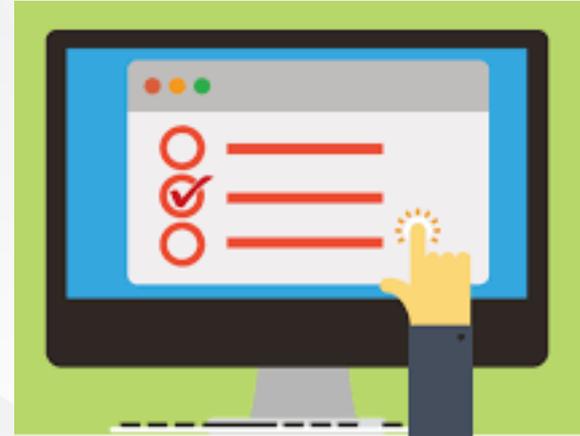
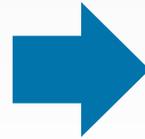
General views about plagiarism

- Factors deciding plagiarism
- etc.

Section 2

Understanding of plagiarism

- A list of statements  
-> plagiarism or not ?



# Methods



1,030 responses (response rate=4.2%)



Q: Have you ever been unsure whether you are plagiarizing?

A: Yes – 31% (Europe 34% VS. China 18%)

Statement: Copying **text** from someone else's publication without crediting the source.

Yes – 98%

Statement: Copying an **image** from someone else's publication without crediting the source.

Yes – 96%

Statement: Using **idea(s)** from someone else's publication without crediting the source.

Yes – 67%

Statement: Copying text from someone else's **publication** without crediting the source.

Yes – 98%

Statement: Copying text from an **online source** without crediting the source.

Yes – 96%

Statement: Copying text from an **online source that has no list of authors**, and without crediting the source.

Yes – 79%

Statement: **Paying** someone else to write a paper without granting authorship.

Yes – 37% (Europe 34% VS. China 52%)

Statement: Having someone else to write a paper **for free** without granting authorship.

Yes – 50% (Europe 40% VS. China 64%)

Statement: Republishing one's own work **in another language** without crediting the source.

Yes – 64% (Europe 68% VS. China 50%)

## Plagiarism is not clearly understood

- > Obvious types
- > Subtle types

## Comparison between China & Europe

No great difference, except for a few practices.

## Limitations

- > Low response rate (more privacy & credibility)
- > Selected respondents

## Development of plagiarism definition

-> Copy & paste

-> More types (plagiarism of ideas, self-plagiarism)

-> In the future

Avoiding plagiarism

≠

No copying!

*Thank you for your attention!*

