FAKE SCIENCE AND PREDATORY PUBLISHING

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CONTENT

- Introduction
- Characteristics of dubious publishers and journals
- Consequences of Predatory Publishing
- Relevance of Predatory Publishing for Universities and Research Institutions
- Tools to avoid Fake Science

EXAMPLE 1

- Article with data from a EU research project
- Submission by project partner in predatory journal

EXAMPLE 2

- Fake Conference Invitation

EXAMPLE 3
Intended similarity to serious journals, through a professional website or specific elements, or by a similar sounding name of a well-known journal

Cover letter/ Invitation to publish:
- Very general form of address ("Dear esteemed author/ professor etc.")
- Journal does not fit into your area of expertise
- Suspicious contact details (Post address, email)

Journal itself:
- Very general title (eg International, World, Global, etc)
- Title often very similar to a well-known journal
- ISSN or DOI does not exist or can be faked (sometimes additional APCs may be charged)
- Impact Factor is faked or invented
- Very broad scope of topics
- Substandard layout of articles

Website:
- Grammar and layout of site are badly done
- Website does only address authors, not readers
- Suspicious contact data (Post address does not exist; email addresses from free providers)
- Texts and downloadable material often copied from reputable journals

Manuscript submission:
- Submission by mail instead of online system
- Very short time span between submission and publication
- No exact information regarding peer review and article processing charges

Scopus
Web of Science
Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA)
Quality Open Access Market (QOAM)

Nota bene: Be aware that fake journals may try to imitate or infiltrate quality criteria

Call for Papers (Journals, Conferences)
Call for Editors, Call for Reviewers
Unasked mentioning as Editor (Journals) or Keynote Speaker (Conferences)
Use of fake journals to spread contestable theories
### What are the main problems of predatory publishing?
- Lack of quality control
- Low visibility and trackability of articles
- Longterm availability of articles is not guaranteed
- Risk and damage for one's own scientific career and reputation

### Consequences of predatory publishing I
- Damage of university’s reputation
- Support of illicit business models and practices
- Insecurity of the reliability of research results

### Tools to avoid fake science traps
- Think-Check-Act-Submit
  - Think
  - Check
  - Submit
  - [https://thinkchecksubmit.org/](https://thinkchecksubmit.org/)

### Links and further hints
- [https://www.scopus.com](https://www.scopus.com)
- [https://webknowledge.com/WOS](https://webknowledge.com/WOS)
- [https://orcid.org](https://orcid.org)
- [https://_roi.org](https://roi.org)
- [https://www.ceph.eu](https://www.ceph.eu)
- [http://www.oapen.org](http://www.oapen.org)
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### Questions?
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