

# FAKE SCIENCE AND PREDATORY PUBLISHING

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# EXAMPLE 1

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

**INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF FLUIDS AND HEAT TRANSFER** Volume 1 Issue 1  
March 2016

## Health Impacts of the Urban Climate and Air Quality under Two Different IPCC Scenarios

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|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Research Interest ⓘ | 2.7      |
| Citations           | 0        |
| Recommendations     | 0 new 0  |
| Reads ⓘ             | 0 new 96 |

# EXAMPLE 2

## › Fake Conference Invitation

The screenshot shows an email interface with the following elements:

- Sender:** prof.ebony <prof.ebony@vip.163.com> (circled in red)
- Date:** Fr, 01.05.2020 10:05
- Subject:** Sie
- Header:** CCNT 2020 (circled in red) and <http://www.ccnt2020.org> (circled in red)
- Image:** A graphic showing a hand typing on a keyboard with a shield and padlock icon, symbolizing security or technology.
- Text:** 2020 2nd International Conference on Computer, Communication and Network Technology will be held in Chengdu, China during June 29-30, 2020. The conference committee invites submissions of applied or theoretical research as well as of application-oriented papers on all the topics of CCNT2020. Papers submitted to CCNT2020 will be subject to a double-blind peer review based on originality, contributions, presentation, relevance to conference, etc.
- Footer:** [EI核心+Scopus检索] 2020年第二届计算机, 通信和网络技术国际学术会议 (CCNT2020) 将于2020年6月29日至30日在中国成都举行。本会议旨在为世界各地的计算机, 通信和网络技术相关领域的研究人员, 工程师, 学者, 以及行业专业人士提供一个交流的平台。欢迎广大专家学者投稿参会。

# EXAMPLE 3

all journal scopus paper

farman.ali@rvti.ac.k  
Do 14.05.2020 08:05

We invite Private and Governem  
various educational institutions, i  
manuscripts with us.  
PAPER SUBMISSION DEADLINE  
**NOTIFICATION AND ACCEPTA  
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|        |       |
|--------|-------|
| 16,387 | 2,222 |
| 10,370 | 2,098 |
| 5,673  | 1,775 |
| 4,530  | 1,626 |
| 3,091  | 1,557 |

FLAG Counter

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# CHARACTERISTICS OF FAKE PUBLISHERS AND JOURNALS I

- 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)

# CHARACTERISTICS OF FAKE PUBLISHERS AND JOURNALS II

## 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

# CHARACTERISTICS OF FAKE PUBLISHERS AND JOURNALS III

## 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



# CHARACTERISTICS OF FAKE PUBLISHERS AND JOURNALS IV

## 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

# POSSIBILITIES TO CHECK RELIABILITY

- › Scopus
- › Web of Science
- › Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
- › Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA)
- › Quality Open Access Market (QOAM)
- › Online search or journal may find valuable discussions
- › **Nota bene: Be aware that fake journals may try to imitate or infiltrate quality criteria**

# OTHER PHENOMENA OF PREDATORY PUBLISHING

- › Call for Papers (Journals, Conferences)
- › Call for Editors, Call for Reviewers
- › Unmasked mentioning as Editor (Journals) or Keynote Speaker (Conferences)
- › Use of fake journals to spread contestable theories

# CONSEQUENCES OF PREDATORY PUBLISHING I

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 II

- › 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://thinkcheckattend.org/> (conferences)

# LINKS AND REFERENCES

- › <https://www.scopus.com>
- › <https://webofknowledge.com/WOS>
- › <https://doaj.org>
- › <https://oaspa.org>
- › <https://www.qoam.eu>
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