

# The Threat of Research Integrity in the Net-Browsing Generation: When There is Nothing Left to Plagiarize.

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# The Rise of Asia's Universities

**President Richard C. Levin**

The Royal Society, London, England (Feb. 1, 2010)

- In the Gulf States, hundreds of millions of dollars are being spent to open branches of top U.S. and European universities such as Cornell in Qatar and the Sorbonne in Abu Dhabi.
  - This past autumn, the new King Abdullah University of Science and Technology opened in Saudi Arabia. Its \$10 billion endowment exceeds that of all but five American universities.
  - In Singapore, planning is underway to build a new public university of Technology and Design, and a new American-style liberal arts college affiliated with the National University.
  - In China, the nine universities that receive the most supplemental government funding to enhance their global competitiveness recently self-identified as the C9 – China's Ivy League.
  - In India, the Education Ministry recently announced its intention to build 14 new comprehensive universities of "world-class" stature.
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- In Taiwan, where I came from, MOE just declared another five-year term of funding for excellent universities and researcher centers, with flexible salary scale for recruiting top researchers.

# The Threats of RI Due to the Rapid Changing Contexts for Science in Society

The followings are modified version from Pugwash conference announcement

High-tech “knowledge societies” and the socio-economic divide between the rich and the poor. The rich comes suddenly and the divide widens quickly without evolution

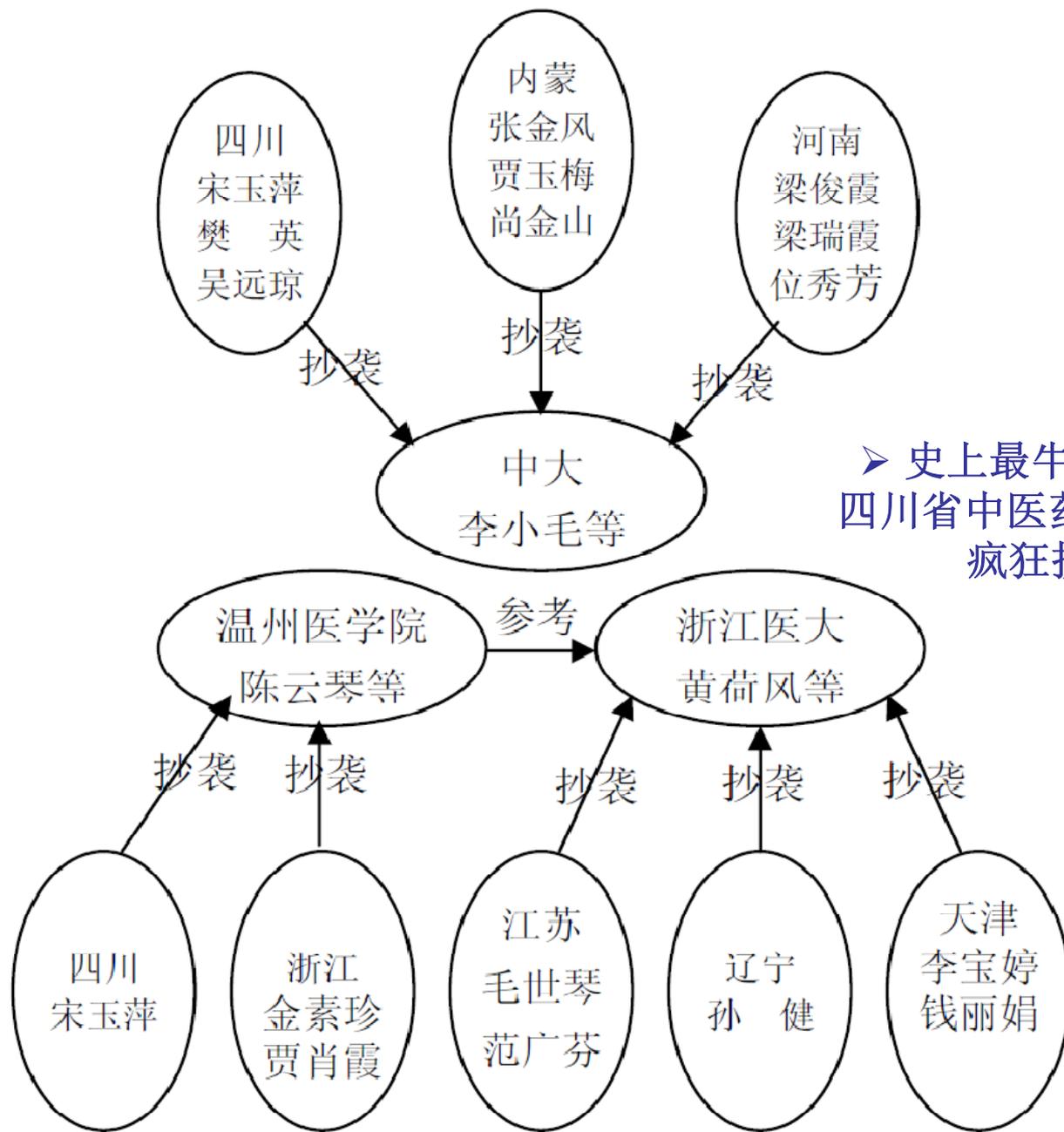
Capacity of science and technology to intervene adversely in various dimensions of human life--including its origin, ending, and its physical and social environment.

Political context for doing science has changed—privatization and stronger governmental control, research ethic and integrity

Information society—www and role of media, a new network browsing generation

- Sharp Competition for Limited Resource
- Immediate Rewards and Social Recognition
- Vague Institutional Regulations
- Uncovering the fraud is difficult due to the attitude of social orientation (collective honor)
- In Evaluating Performance, Numbers (SCI, SSCI, EI, HCI, HIFI, are easy to count but Quality is hard to decide, especially in the areas of humanities and some social studies.
- Google translation is everywhere





➤ 史上最牛连环抄袭门，震惊中国  
 四川省中医药科学院宋玉萍等**60**多人  
 疯狂抄袭造假触目惊心  
 /中大学子

两篇文章引来的疯狂围抄袭





# Originality vs. Authenticity

## A new value system for the Y generation?

- Posner's Plagiarized report provoked sharp criticisms and resulted in the resignation of the reporter.

But,

- Hegemann's Best-selling Novel was considered for a prestigious book award despite allegations of plagiarism. She defend her "borrowing" by claiming that "she is simply representative of a new era of Gen Y writers, from whom we can presumably expect more unattributed borrowing in the name of art.
- The danger is: There will be nothing original left to be plagiarized
- Mixing without acknowledgement is simply cheating.

# Cleaning the Polluted River Before It is too Late Requires Both Top-Down and Bottom-Up Effort at a National Level

- Workshops organized by Both NSC and MOE with intensive discussions over real cases of research misconducts
- UST (Tsing Hua, Chiao Tung, Central and Yang Ming Universities) set up special courses on Research Ethics in Sciences, Engineering, Environmental protection, and Medicine, respectively and model mentors are selected to create the course contents and lead the discussions

# Two Very Practical and Useful Tips

- For the net browsing generation, every rookie research assistant requires to pass a network RI course in order to be granted a certificate before he/she is allowed to enter a research lab. The aim is to foster RI thru net related experience.
- Constant reminding RI concepts by hanging RI posters on the lab wall. The MIT experiments showed this general reminding can work effectively.

In addition, try to

- Establish a feasible Sunshine law for research PIs