

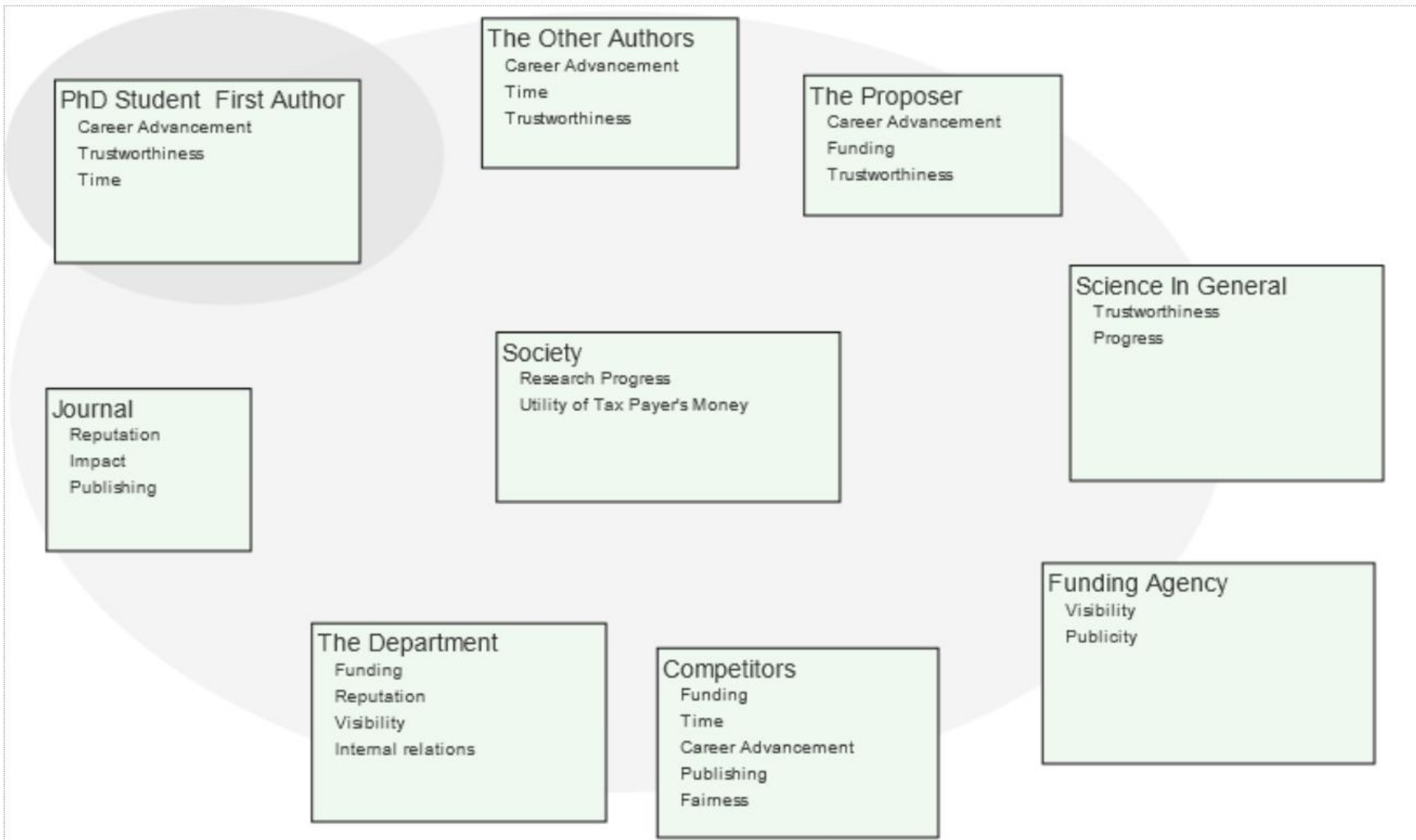
# Ethics Project: Republishing/self plagiarism

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# Problem

- A PhD student has published a paper in a journal (first author).
- The supervisor (co-author) now wants the PhD student to publish the same material in a different journal with only a minor extension/rewriting.
- **What should the PhD student do?**

# ColLab - network



# Stakeholders

- The first author
- The other authors
- The proposer
- The department/university
- Science in general
- Research competitors
- The funding agencies
- The journal (previous and new)
- Society.

# Evaluation

		Republisan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not republisan <input type="checkbox"/>	Extend the paper further <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cite the old paper and leave it for the editor to decide <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non scientific publication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PhD Student First Author	Career Advancement	Positive: Higher number of publications would favor career advancement. Negative: High get a bad reputation which may impede career advancement. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Negative: Fewer publications <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: More publications and with less chance of getting a bad reputation. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: May get more publications. Negative: The paper may be rejected <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: More visible, more publications (also some non-scientific) and no choice problems <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Trustworthiness	May be reduced <input type="checkbox"/>	No impact <input type="checkbox"/>	No impact <input type="checkbox"/>	May be reduced <input type="checkbox"/>	No impact <input type="checkbox"/>
	Time	No impact <input type="checkbox"/>	No impact <input type="checkbox"/>	May need to spend soem time to rewrite the new draft <input type="checkbox"/>	No impact <input type="checkbox"/>	May need to spend soem time to rewrite the new draft <input type="checkbox"/>
The Other Authors	Career Advancement	Positive: They would get more publications, although as secondary authors publications are not as important for them. <input type="checkbox"/>	Not significant positive or negative impact since they are not the primary authors <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: More publications as secondary authors <input type="checkbox"/>	No significant impact <input type="checkbox"/>	No significant impact as secondary authors of a non-mainstream and non-scientific publication would not count as much <input type="checkbox"/>
	Time	No significant impact since as secondary authors they would not be required to any major editing changes as ways <input type="checkbox"/>	No significant impact since as secondary authors they would not be required to any major editing changes as ways <input type="checkbox"/>	No significant impact since as secondary authors they would not be required to any major editing changes as ways <input type="checkbox"/>	No significant impact since as secondary authors they would not be required to any major editing changes as ways <input type="checkbox"/>	No significant impact since as secondary authors they would not be required to any major editing changes as ways <input type="checkbox"/>
	Trustworthiness	May get reduced <input type="checkbox"/>	No impact <input type="checkbox"/>	No impact <input type="checkbox"/>	No impact <input type="checkbox"/>	No impact <input type="checkbox"/>
The Proposer	Career Advancement	Potential positive impact due to higher publications at the same time. potential negative impact due to bad reputation <input type="checkbox"/>	No impact <input type="checkbox"/>	Same positive impact and less negative impact than the Republish option <input type="checkbox"/>	Same positive impact but less negative than the Republish option <input type="checkbox"/>	Low positive impact but no negative impact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Funding	May be able to leverage the additional publication to have a better chance at getting a funding grant <input type="checkbox"/>	No significant positive impact but fewer number of publications may impact the funding requests negatively <input type="checkbox"/>	May be able to leverage the additional publication to have a better chance at getting a funding grant <input type="checkbox"/>	May be able to leverage the additional publication to have a better chance at getting a funding grant <input type="checkbox"/>	No significant positive impact but fewer number of publications may impact the funding requests negatively <input type="checkbox"/>
	Trustworthiness	May get reduced <input type="checkbox"/>	No impact <input type="checkbox"/>	No impact <input type="checkbox"/>	May get reduced <input type="checkbox"/>	No impact <input type="checkbox"/>
Competitors	Funding	Negative: Getting published might reduce funding of competitors due to limited total funding available. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: Might get published instead, which can lead to grants <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: Might publish first -> more money. Negative: Paper not as good -> less share of money <input type="checkbox"/>	No change <input type="checkbox"/>	Negative: might get less attention. Positive: Could get published in scientific journal <input type="checkbox"/>
	Time	Negative: Have to wait longer for publication, have to spend time reading a paper that I don't have already read, or at least looking through it to realize the I don't have already read it. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: faster publication <input type="checkbox"/>	No change <input type="checkbox"/>	No change <input type="checkbox"/>	No change <input type="checkbox"/>
	Career Advancement	Positive: If republication is deemed unethical -> better reputation in relation. Negative: Less publications -> bad for career <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: Publication -> good for career <input type="checkbox"/>	Negative: Worse paper in comparison. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: If rejected. Negative: If accepted. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: If published in scientific journal <input type="checkbox"/>
The Department	Publishing	Negative: Less space to publish in <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: More space to publish in. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: More space at the moment. Negative: Less space later. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: if rejected. Negative: if accepted. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: More space in scientific journals. <input type="checkbox"/>
	Fairness	Positive: if republishing is punished. Negative: Less space to publish in. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: Gives space to publish novel results <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Positive: Actual productivity rewarded <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: Eternal reviewers should be fair. Negative: Might be unfair. <input type="checkbox"/>	No change <input type="checkbox"/>
	Funding	Positive: More publications -> more money. Negative: If deemed unethical -> less money <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: No risk for LOSING money. Negative: Less publications. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: More publications -> more money <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Positive: if accepted. Negative: if rejected. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: Attention to the department. Negative: Do not add to the number of scientific publications. <input type="checkbox"/>
The Department	Reputation	Negative: If deemed unethical. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Positive: good paper more papers published. <input type="checkbox"/>	Negative: If editor decides to publish and it is still seen as self-plagiarism <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: Attention to the department <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: Attention to the department <input type="checkbox"/>
	Visibility	Positive: Research in the department seen by more people. <input type="checkbox"/>	Negative: Research in the department seen by less people. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: Research in the department seen by more people <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: if published. Negative: if not published <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: Research in the department seen by more people. <input type="checkbox"/>
	Internal relations	Positive: The conflict is resolved if the PhD student follows the supervisor's instruction. Negative: If an employee can't work the PhD student is republish, or if the PhD student is angry with the supervisor for having them not be republish. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Negative: There will be a conflict between the PhD student and the supervisor. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: Both options are taken into consideration. Negative: If the supervisor orders republication immediately, or if other employees find it unethical to republish even with motivations. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: The PhD student follows the supervisor's instruction. Negative: If other employees find it responsible to leave the decision to the editor, or if the editor doesn't republish and the supervisor gets disappointed. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: The supervisor's instructions to republish is followed. No one can get angry making the results publicly available. Negative: The supervisor wants scientific publication and gets upset for the eventual manipulation of publishing. <input type="checkbox"/>
Journal	Reputation	Negative: Might seem like the review process is failing somehow. <input type="checkbox"/>	No change <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: if paper is good. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: if needed, the journal shows good morals. Negative: if accepted, peer judgement, might not be correct. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Positive: even brings more attention to the original journal publication. <input type="checkbox"/>
	Impact	Negative: reduced impact for publishing known results. <input type="checkbox"/>	No change <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: publishing new results. <input type="checkbox"/>	Negative: reduced impact for publishing known results. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: even brings more attention to the original journal publication. <input type="checkbox"/>
	Publishing	Positive: More material to publish. <input type="checkbox"/>	Negative: Less material to publish. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: More material to publish. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: if editor decides to publish. Negative: if editor rejects. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: More material to publish. <input type="checkbox"/>
Society	Research Progress	Positive: Easier to find (and thereby build on) the results. Negative: Less journal space for other results. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Positive: More journal space for other results. Negative: harder to find (and thereby build on) the results. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: More information is provided to other researchers. Better and more "full" information as it includes the paper. Negative: Less space for other papers. <input type="checkbox"/>	Negative: as time increases it is spent on reading a paper that is already published. Other aspects depend on the editor's decision. <input type="checkbox"/>	No impact, but peoples awareness may eventually have positive impact on the amount of research funding. <input type="checkbox"/>
	Utility of Tax Payer's Money	Negative: The researcher has to spend unnecessary writing and publishing expenses. The amount of published research results becomes smaller as the paper requires space in other journals. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: The researcher's time is saved by no doing unnecessary writing. The amount of available research results becomes larger as there is space for other papers in the journal. <input type="checkbox"/>	Negative: Time is spent on publishing duplicated information. <input type="checkbox"/>	Depends on the editor's decision. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: Research results are communicated to the general public. Negative: Time is spent on writing the results in a "less clear" way instead of trying to obtain new knowledge. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Funding Agency	Visibility	Positive: Results seen by more. <input type="checkbox"/>	Negative: Results seen by fewer. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: The results are seen by more. <input type="checkbox"/>	Depends on the editor's decision. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: Seen by many more. <input type="checkbox"/>
	Publicity	Positive: Seen by more. Negative: if someone sees both publications. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: Do not support researchers who republish their results. Negative: Seen by fewer. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: Seen by more. Negative: if someone sees both publications and consider them supporting self plagiarism. <input type="checkbox"/>	Depends on the editor's decision. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: The general public can understand which research the funding agency supports. <input type="checkbox"/>
Science In General	Trustworthiness	Negative: Useless to spend time on doing the same thing several times, may cause bad reputation. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: We spend our time in a better way, and can make new discoveries. <input type="checkbox"/>	Negative: Useless to spend time on doing the same thing several times, may cause bad reputation. <input type="checkbox"/>	Negative: Inappropriate to try to "trick" the editor to republish. Other aspects depend on the editor's decision. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Positive: People get more insight in ongoing research. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Progress	Positive: More researchers see, and can build on the results. Negative: The expert journaling can be spent better on other papers. The space used in the second journal could be used for other authors. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: The expert by republishing can be spent better on other papers. The space in the second journal can be used for other authors. <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive: More researchers see, and can build on the results. More results are made public. Negative: The expert journaling can be spent better on other papers. The space used in the second journal could be used for other authors. <input type="checkbox"/>	Negative: Editor's time can be better spent on work on publishing new results. Other aspects depend on the editor's decision. <input type="checkbox"/>	Negative: The expert writing the non-scientific paper could be spent on research. Positive: There is a clear awareness may eventually give funding possibilities. <input type="checkbox"/>

# Values

- Money (the department, competitors)
- Career possibilities (authors, competitors)
- Trustworthiness (science, authors, department)
- Time (authors and readers)
- Opportunity cost (competitors -alternative novel publication)
- Availability of our results (new journal, other researchers, science, funding agency)
- Visibility (funding agency, department)
- Progress in science (society, science)
- Fairness (researchers).

# Important points

PhD Student First Author in scenario: Republish	Positive: Higher number of publications would favor career advancement Negative: Might get a bad reputation which may impede career advancement.
Interest Career Advancement	
PhD Student First Author in scenario: Non scientific publication	Positive: More visibility, more publications (albeit some non-scientific) and no ethics problems
Interest Career Advancement	
The Proposer in scenario: Non scientific publication	Low positive impact but no negative impact
Interest Career Advancement	
Competitors in scenario: Not republish	Positive: Gives space to publish novel results
Interest Fairness	
The Department in scenario: Extend the paper further	Positive: More publications -> more money
Interest Funding	
The Department in scenario: Republish	Negative: If deemed unethical.
Interest Reputation	
The Department in scenario: Republish	Positive: The conflict is avoided if the PhD student follows the supervisor's instruction. Negative: If other employees don't want the PhD student to republish, or if the PhD student is angry with the supervisor for having made him/her republish.
Interest Internal relations	
Journal in scenario: Cite the old paper and leave it for the editor to decide	Positive: If rejected, the journal shows good morals. Negative: If accepted, poor judgement, might even breach copyright laws.
Interest Reputation	
Society in scenario: Republish	Positive: Easier to find (and thereby build on) the results. Negative: Less journal space for other results.
Interest Research Progress	
Society in scenario: Non scientific publication	Positive: Research results are communicated to the general public. Negative: Time is spent on expressing the results in an "easier" way instead of trying to obtain new knowledge.
Interest Utility of Tax Payer's Money	
Science In General in scenario: Cite the old paper and leave it for the editor to decide	Negative: Irresponsible to try to "mislead" the editor to republish. Other aspects depend on the editor's decision.
Interest Trustworthiness	
Science In General in scenario: Non scientific publication	Positive: People get more insight in ongoing research.
Interest Trustworthiness	

# Conclusion

- Republishing the same material (especially without citation) is not moral.
- Biggest issues: Trust, reputation, Fairness
- Most positive effects:
  - republishing the results in a non-scientific context (e.g. as a tutorial or as a popular article in the daily newspaper)
  - or extending the paper further prior to scientific publication.