

Forms of solidarity in the context of academic integrity: Perceptions of students and lecturers

*Jolanta Bieliauskaitė & Natalija Valavičienė
Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania*

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Abstract:

This paper aims to reveal forms of solidarity in an academic community and their impact on the maintenance of academic integrity. In order to achieve this purpose scientific literature and empirical data collected from focus groups with students and individual semi-structured interviews with lecturers of one of Lithuanian universities are analysed. Based on theoretical data, the study distinguishes the broad and the narrow sense of academic solidarity and focuses on the latter one – solidarity of particular academic community. Applying theoretical model of solidarity to analyse the practices of students and lecturers in the context of academic integrity, fragmentary and integral as well as positive and negative forms of academic solidarity were identified. The results of the survey reveal that both students and lecturers perceive academic integrity as an important academic value that inter alia requires collaborative actions, i.e. integral positive solidarity. However, solidarity may be relevant for cheating as well. This paradox could be explained by the fragmentary negative form of solidarity that prevails in some cases of misconduct. This understanding of the role and forms of solidarity not only raises awareness, but also allows choosing adequate measures for strengthening the maintenance of academic integrity in academia.

Keywords: Academic community, academic integrity, misconduct, solidarity.