Time as a predictor for plagiarism in Romanian academia

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Abstract:
Until now, irrespective of the scientific discipline, less attention has been paid to academic dishonesty pertaining to doctoral training. In this paper, a qualitative exploratory analysis was performed on the time budget of a specific category of PhD candidates: 22 people enrolled as full-time doctoral students while holding official positions in public administration (i.e. secret services, justice, police, politics and business). Purposive sampling technique (i.e. paradigmatic case sampling) was deployed to select the group. Also, the institutional arrangements governing doctoral studies as well as work, in Romania, were examined. Secondary data analysis was used to inspect whether the two seemingly conflicting statuses (employee and full time doctoral student) were triggering either academic or workplace dishonesty. Results show, in the case of the sampled Romanian doctoral students, that time and legal provisions are indicative for academic dishonesty (including plagiarism). Moreover, the empirical findings have implications for a better understanding of academic dishonesty across various higher education systems. And, at the same time, it emphasizes the impact that time budgets as well as the nature of work tasks have on academic behavior.

Keywords: Academic integrity, plagiarism, Romania, time budget.