

Leading by example: Reflecting on our own academic practice

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Academic integrity is a relatively new field of enquiry, with some of the earliest research on student cheating by Don McCabe and colleagues in the 1990s. In the intervening three decades, much progress has been made. We now understand that student cheating is a symptom of much wider systemic issues, and not simply the result of personal motivations or morals. Furthermore, academic misconduct is not confined to students, but can be found in all aspects and stakeholders of the academic community. As the field has matured, it is now time for academic integrity researchers and practitioners to take a good, hard look at our own academic practices. Do we demonstrate outstanding scholarship, characterised by generous and accurate acknowledgement of others' contributions to our own achievements? Do we place our own career aspirations ahead of reliable and trustworthy research, or worse, ahead of our relationships with students and colleagues? This keynote presentation will challenge audience members to reflect on their own practices – as teachers, scholars, researchers, collaborators, colleagues, supervisors, authors, editors, reviewers, presenters, conference convenors, grant applicants/assessors and social media commentators – and really consider whether we are 'leading by example'. It's time we stopped focussing exclusively on students' poor academic practices and started to take responsibility for being genuine champions of academic integrity.