

Who Defends Democracy and Decency? Let's Maintain Standards for Maintaining Standards

Carl Taswell

Brain Health Alliance, Ladera Ranch CA, USA

BHAVI Guardians online 9 October 2025



Brain Health Requires Democratic Health

- Brain health requires individual, family, and community health
- Community health requires public health and safety
- Public health and safety require social and societal health
- Social and societal health require healthy open societies
- Healthy open societies require democracy, not autocracy
- Brain health requires democratic health

Civility, Courtesy, Tolerance, and Respect

- People talking to people, scholars listening to scholars politicians negotiating with politicians
- People, scholars and politicians should hear each other
- Scholars should practice citational justice and refrain from ghosting other scholars with willful disregard
- Politicians should practice representational justice and refrain from ghosting other politicians with willful disregard
- Ad hominem personal insults, lies, and attacks against others should be prohibited from both academics and politics
- Academicians and politicians should bear a duty and responsibility to serve as role models and safety officers for their communities if they wish to serve as leaders of those communities

Leadership Requires Integrity

- “The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army, or in an office.”
— Dwight D. Eisenhower
- “The fish rots (stinks) first from the head.” also “Piscis primum a capite foetet.” Wiktionary attributes source to Adages of Erasmus. Other sources attribute to diverse origins.
- Leaders who fail to maintain truth and integrity fail as leaders because sooner or later they betray, corrupt, or lose their followers.

Darvomanic Denialism and Duplicity

- DDD as “*Defending Democracy and Decency*” for the good of the people, by the people, for the people
- DDD as “*Darvomanic Denialism and Duplicity*” from the authoritarian’s playbook for exploiting the people and grafting from them to enrich further those with most of the power and money
- At Guardians 2022, Taswell discussed “lying, liars, and lies”, the dangers of the malevolent propaganda and lies in information wars, and the “global pandemic of darvomania” as a public health hazard
- Darvomania was defined as a term by “combining the acronym *DARVO* for the phrase *Deny, Attack, Reverse Victim and Offender* (from the published work of Dr. Jennifer Freyd) with the word *mania* well-known to lay persons, citizen scientists, and professional clinicians and medical doctors”
- The pandemic of darvomania has worsened since 2022, infects many spheres of life, not just politics but also academics, and threatens to destroy decency in both politics and academics

Darvomanic Misconduct in Politics

- American democracy is broken by darvomanic misconduct and must be fixed if the American people want it to survive another 250 years
- Political leadership should be earned, not purchased; Citizens United and Trump v US must be reversed and rescinded; Presidents are not Kings or Queens, and no person should be exempt from the rule of law
- Political leaders should be required to adhere to same standards as required for all safety officers serving our communities in America
- Department of Justice can no longer be administered by the Executive Branch; DoJ should be administered by consensus coalition of independent Inspectors General and/or the Judicial Branch if/when Justices are held accountable for standards of ethical legal practice
- Court Justices must be subject to term limits, and earn their positions by impartial judicial service to their communities
- Citizens should be required to vote in elections similar to their duty and responsibility for paying their taxes; elections should NOT be subject to political partisan manipulations about who can vote

Darvomanic Misconduct in Academics

- Prototype example of darvomanic misconduct in academics: the largest case of plagiarism and ghosting in modern history of science against research work that has been publicly, freely and openly accessible online since 2007 at the [PORTAL-DOORS Project](#)
- Documented and described in detail in a series of numerous reports and proven with item-by-item mapping analysis in the Craig et al 2019 report “[DREAM Principles and FAIR Metrics](#) from the PORTAL-DOORS Project for the Semantic Web”
- “Unfairness by the FAIR Principles Promoters” report series: 1) “A Case Study on the [Absence of Accountability for Integrity](#) in Research Publishing”, also [BHA-2019-16](#); 2) “A Case Study on Misconduct by [Complaint Investigators Who Aid and Abet Plagiarists](#)”, also [BHA-2020-16](#); 3) “[Falsifying the Historical Record of Scientific Reports](#) in Knowledge Engineering versus Maintaining Standards for Objective Truth in Publicly Funded Research”, also [BHA-2025-17](#);

Impossible to 'Have It Both Ways' (cf)

- FORCE11, Go-FAIR, RDA, MCBK, AMIA, IEEE, and other organizations and conferences that promote the propagating plagiarism of the Wilkinson et al 2016 FAIR Principles plagiarism cannot 'have it both ways' while claiming 'fairness' at same time
- A logical self-contradiction exists when promoting the FAIR principles while ironically hypocritically and unfairly contradicting those principles by propagating the plagiarism of Wilkinson et al 2016 and simultaneously ghosting the original work of Taswell 2007
- Why have the plagiarists refused for 16 years since 2009 to engage in public debate about the historical record of the published literature?
- Why have they failed to cite and discuss this published literature, instead promoting themselves as 'distinguished professors' while refusing to do their *due diligence*, instead engaging in *willful disregard* of an extensive body of scholarly research that has been available open access to the public without any paywalls since 2007?

Morals, Ethics, Integrity, and Character Matter (cf)

- “Many people say that it is the intellect which makes a great scientist. They are wrong: it is character.” – Albert Einstein
- Quoted in “Integrity in Scientific Research: Creating an Environment That Promotes Responsible Conduct”, 2002, US National Academies Press, available at www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK208712
- For more information and resources on ethical standards in scholarly research and publishing, refer to the work of COPE (the Committee on Publishing Ethics) at publicationethics.org and other organizations that promote integrity including [Academic Integrity](#), [Coalition for Integrity](#), [Transparency International](#), [Global Integrity](#)
- For inspiration from the satirist and mathematician [Tom Lehrer](#), watch the videos 1953 Lobachevsky aka Plagiarize (with lyrics) youtu.be/gXlfXirQF3A and 2023 Epic Song Compilation youtu.be/9p5kY4UjGdk

Plague of Prevalent Plagiarism by Protected Professors (cf)

- Controlling and curing the plague of prevalent plagiarism by professors with power and money in academia, who are protected as tenured faculty without fair due process for their victims, will require courage on the part of all participants who wish to promote moral ethical teaching, education, and research with true scholarship
- Some have excused their silence and inaction by pleading that they do not wish to be the 'science police'. Many have engaged in one or more of the four forms of non-response to complaints about abuses of power: *the silent treatment, the pass-the-buck treatment, the sham investigation, and the kangaroo court investigation* (C. Taswell 2024)
- But what is the meaning, relevance, or value of any professional code of ethics and conduct if it is never enforced due to the presence of willful disregard and the absence of accountability? Investigations should be conducted openly by independent organizations devoid of any financial conflict of interest (C. Taswell 2023) which necessarily excludes the academic universities

Retraction of Wilkinson et al FAIR Principles for Plagiarism

- Wilkinson et al FAIR Principles 2016 and 2018 should be retracted for their plagiarism of Taswell 2007 and 2010 and their continued ghosting of an entire body of work from the original author easily findable and freely accessible at [PORTALDOORS.org](https://portaldoors.org)
- Musen et al 2020 and 2022 should be retracted for their propagating plagiarism of Taswell 2007 and 2010, and their continued attempts to falsify the historical record of published literature with their collusion ring that has operated as a plagiarism cartel ghosting other authors
- Investigators who wish to cite the relevant concepts, ideas and vision of fairness should cite the original collection of PDP Principles from Taswell 2007 doi: [10.1109/TITB.2007.905861](https://doi.org/10.1109/TITB.2007.905861), Taswell 2010 doi: [10.3390/FI2020156](https://doi.org/10.3390/FI2020156), re-named as the DREAM collection of principles in Craig et al 2019 doi: [10.1109/ECAI46879.2019.9042003](https://doi.org/10.1109/ECAI46879.2019.9042003)
- This slide adapted from Taswell 2025 HICSS-58-8336, "A Case Study on Misconduct by [Complaint Investigators Who Aid and Abet Plagiarists](#)", cf HICSS-58-8336 [slides](#)

Archaic Laws No Longer Serve the Planet's People

- We now live in an era of rapidly spreading global pandemics — infectious diseases do not respect geographic jurisdictions or government borders
- We now live in an era of information wars with darvomania funded and fueled by oligarchs — politicians and election campaigns do not respect geographic jurisdictions or government borders
- Academic publishers engage in instantaneous worldwide publishing while exploiting archaic laws based on local geographic jurisdictions enabling them to avoid responsibility and accountability for addressing complaints about darvomanic misconduct in scientific research
- Coalitions of nonprofit and humanitarian organizations must join together in cooperation and collaboration to incentivize better adherence to codes of conduct — because without enforcement of these codes of conduct they will continue to be rejected with willful disregard by those who reject truth in science and integrity in research

How to Maintain Standards for Maintaining Standards?

- Behavior using the malevolent strategy and tactics of darvomanic misconduct is disturbingly similar in both politics and academics
- Darvomanic misconduct in politics destroys democracy and decency
- Darvomanic misconduct in academics destroys truth in science and integrity in research
- How bad will it get before things get better again? Must it improve in politics before it improves in academics? Or vice versa?
- Darvomanic misconduct must be prohibited
- When it occurs, darvomanic misconduct should be reported
- Research published by darvomanic misconduct should be retracted

References

- C. Taswell (2007) DOORS to the Semantic Web and Grid with a PORTAL for Biomedical Computing
- C. Taswell (2010) A Distributed Infrastructure for Metadata about Metadata: HDMM Architectural Style and PORTAL-DOORS System
- Craig et al. (2019) DREAM Principles and FAIR Metrics from the PORTAL-DOORS Project for the Semantic Web
- S. K. Taswell, Trigg, et al. (2020) The Hitchhiker's Guide to Scholarly Research Integrity
- Athreya et al. (2020) The Essential Enquiry 'Equal or Equivalent Entities?' About Two Things as Same, Similar, Related, or Different
- S. K. Taswell, Athreya, et al. (2021) Truth in Science
- C. Taswell (2024) Unfairness by FAIR Principles Promoters: Case Study on Absence of Accountability for Integrity in Publishing

Contact Info for Guardians

- guardians@bhavi.us
- guardians.BHAVI.us
- www.BHAVI.us
- www.BrainiacsJournal.org
- www.BrainHealthAlliance.org

References



Athreya, Anousha et al. (Dec. 30, 2020). "The Essential Enquiry 'Equal or Equivalent Entities?' About Two Things as Same, Similar, Related, or Different". In: *Brainiacs Journal of Brain Imaging And Computing Sciences* 1.1, PEDADC885 (1), pp. 1–7. DOI: [10.48085/PEDADC885](https://doi.org/10.48085/PEDADC885).



Craig, Adam et al. (June 2019). "DREAM Principles and FAIR Metrics from the PORTAL-DOORS Project for the Semantic Web". In: *2019 IEEE 11th International Conference on Electronics, Computers and Artificial Intelligence (ECAI)* (June 28, 2019). Pitesti, Romania: IEEE, pp. 1–8. DOI: [10.1109/ECAI46879.2019.9042003](https://doi.org/10.1109/ECAI46879.2019.9042003). URL: <https://portalddoors.org/pub/docs/ECAI2019DREAMFAIR0612.pdf>.



Taswell, Carl (Mar. 2007). "DOORS to the Semantic Web and Grid with a PORTAL for Biomedical Computing". In: *IEEE Transactions on Information Technology in Biomedicine* 12.2 (2). In the Special Section on Bio-Grid published online 3 Aug. 2007, pp. 191–204. ISSN: 1089-7771. DOI: [10.1109/TITB.2007.905861](https://doi.org/10.1109/TITB.2007.905861).



— (2010). "A Distributed Infrastructure for Metadata about Metadata: The HDMM Architectural Style and PORTAL-DOORS System". In: *Future Internet* 2.2, pp. 156–189. ISSN: 1999-5903. DOI: [10.3390/FI2020156](https://doi.org/10.3390/FI2020156). URL: <https://www.mdpi.com/1999-5903/2/2/156/>.



— (Dec. 31, 2023). "Reproducibility, Validity, and Integrity in Scholarly Research: What Accountability for Willful Disregard?" In: *Brainiacs Journal of Brain Imaging And Computing Sciences* 4.2. DOI: [10.48085/L3570F30F](https://doi.org/10.48085/L3570F30F).



— (May 3, 2024). "Unfairness by the FAIR Principles Promoters: A Case Study on the Absence of Accountability for Integrity in Research Publishing". In: *Proceedings of the ICATES 2024 Conference*. URL: <https://www.portalddoors.org/pub/docs/ICATES2024PWT29CT240404twocol.pdf>.



Taswell, S. Koby, Anousha Athreya, et al. (Dec. 31, 2021). "Truth in Science". In: *Brainiacs Journal of Brain Imaging and Computing Sciences* 2.1 (1), pp. 1–9. DOI: [10.48085/M85EC99EE](https://doi.org/10.48085/M85EC99EE).



Taswell, S. Koby, Christopher Trigg, et al. (2020). "The Hitchhiker's Guide to Scholarly Research Integrity". In: *2020 ASIS&T 83rd Annual Meeting* (Oct. 22, 2020). Vol. 57. Wiley, e223. DOI: [10.1002/pr2.223](https://doi.org/10.1002/pr2.223). URL: <https://asistdl.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/pr2.223>.