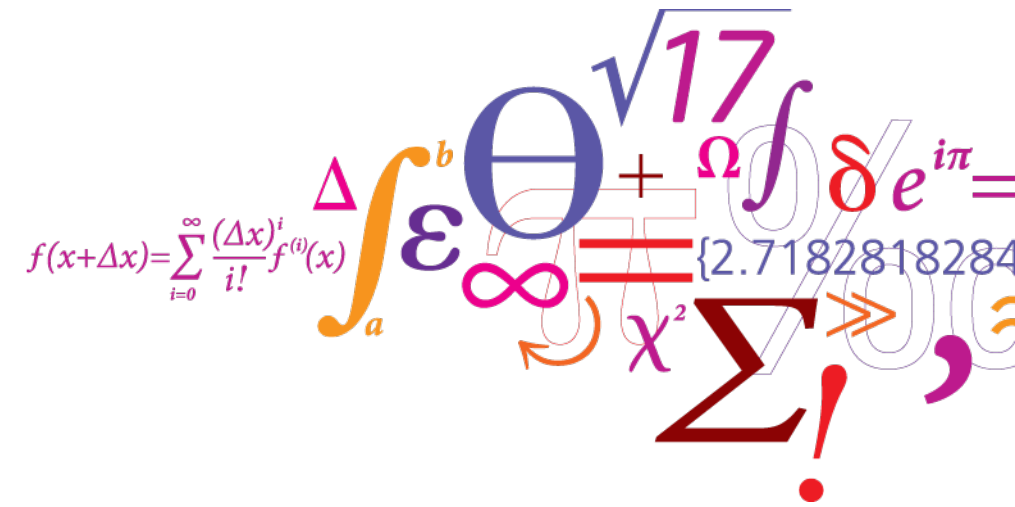


Integrating Integrity in Research

Initiatives at the Technical University of Denmark

Kathrine Bjerregaard Nielsen
Research Integrity Officer, PhD



Brief overview

- DTU Code of Conduct
- Continuing education in research integrity
- Coordination of research integrity

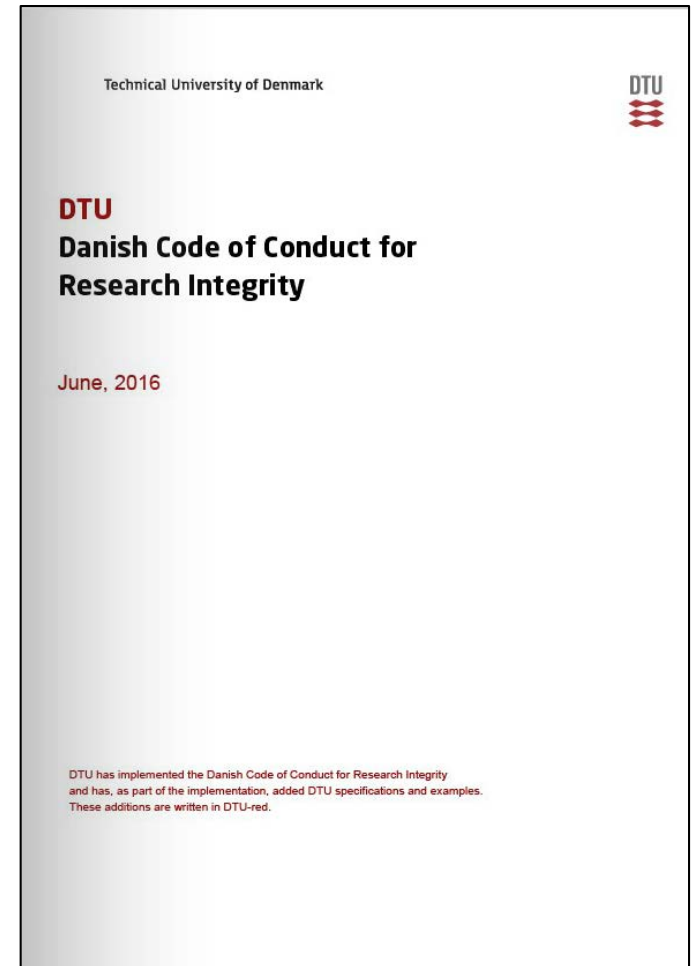
INTEGRITY AND ETHICS IN RESEARCH - CHERRY ON TOP OR PART OF THE MIXTURE?



Patrick Hochstenbach, Ghent University

DTU Code of Conduct


- Established in 2016
- Aims to contextualise and elaborate on content in the Danish Code of Conduct
- Devised as a collaboration between management, administrators and researchers from various fields and seniorities
 - Professors
 - Assistant and associate professors
 - PhD students
 - Legal consultants
 - Administrators
 - Academic council



Additions and examples in DTU red text

IV. Research misconduct and breaches of responsible conduct of research

The Danish Code of Conduct on Research Integrity outlines the responsibility for addressing research misconduct and breaches of responsible conduct of research and presents recommendations for a basic institutional platform.

 The Danish Code of Conduct on Research integrity has not been updated since the new law on scientific misconduct (law no. 382 of 26/04/2017) went into effect on the 1st of July 2017. The DTU guidelines for handling of breaches of responsible conduct of research are available [here](#).

The standards for responsible conduct of research in this document are not legally binding regulations. As a consequence, breaches of those standards will not *per se* result in legal sanctions.

Authorship conflicts: PhD student and supervisor(s)

A PhD student has three supervisors: A main supervisor and two co-supervisors. The different supervisors ask the PhD student to perform different research studies. Input and suggestions are shared by the PhD student and all supervisors at the weekly PhD meetings. During the temporary absence of the main supervisor, substantial progress is made on a research topic that eventually leads to a paper. In agreement with one co-supervisor, it is decided by the PhD student not to include the main supervisor as a co-author. The main supervisor is instead acknowledged in the paper. A conflict is initiated with several arguments including one from the main supervisor that the project is funded entirely by his grant. However, it should be noted that funding in itself is not a valid argument for co-authorship according to the Vancouver guidelines.

Continuing education – ensuring collective understanding

- A university-wide initiative to establish a collective understanding of research integrity
- Consisting of 4 modules in two different formats
 1. Introduction to Responsible Conduct of Research
 2. Guidelines on legal issues, intellectual property and patents
 3. Data management
 4. Publication, communication and authorship

Modules 1 & 2 delivered as lectures with embedded discussions

Modules 3 & 4 delivered as train the trainer workshops, attended by representatives from each department, who subsequently taught the material to peers at their home department

Challenges and successes

Challenges

- Experienced researchers convinced that they do not need to be there (attendance and attitudes)
- Different research fields subject to a variety of conventions – one size does not fit all
- Striking a balance between consequence and relatability



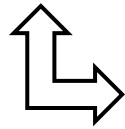
Successes

- Same researchers often leave admitting to having learnt something
- Researchers from different fields are able to discuss and become informed on varying practices
- We are constantly learning

Coordination of research integrity

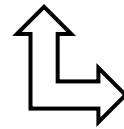
Dean of Research

- Main authority
- Representation



Research Integrity Officer

- Central point of contact
- Advice
- Teaching
- Case handling



Research Integrity Coordinators

- Local point of contact
- Dissemination of information

Upsides to the DTU structure

- Availability
 - Urgent problems can be dealt with quickly and efficiently
 - The nature of a problem can be assessed informally and independently before it is escalated
 - Quick processing of new policies/regulations
- Expertise
 - Knowledge of rules, legal framework and other processes in one, accessible place
 - Streamlined conflict- and case handling
- Translation
 - Policy → Guidelines → Action
 - Interpersonal/inter-scientific
 - Management ↔ Researchers

Questions?

Coordination of research integrity

Research Integrity Officer, responsible for...

- Advising researchers and students on existing rules and guidelines
- Processing new regulations, developing guidelines and communicating these to researchers
- Handling cases of scientific misconduct and questionable research practice
- Facilitating courses on good scientific practice

Main authority lies with Dean of Research, Katrine Krogh Andersen

