

Falsified Academic Research

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Agenda

- What is falsified academic research?
 - What makes this topic important?
 - How are companies and consumers affected?
 - Real Life Case
 - Motive: Why do people do what they do?
 - Relevant Careers and Companies
-

“Fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results”

- Office of Research Integrity (ORI), DHHS

What Is The Importance?

- Integrity crucial to progress
 - Need for trust
- People believe what they read
 - Danger to society
 - Can't trust blindly
 - Low replication rates
- Prominent = PLoS One Survey:
 - 1.97% scientists admit to having falsified research
 - 33.7% admit to questionable research practices
 - 14.12% believe a colleague has falsified research
 - 72% believe colleague has had questionable research practices



How Companies & Consumers Are Affected

- Wasted funding money
 - Money to other research
 - Dong Pyou Han - HIV/Rabbit Blood
- Time being wasted
 - Instead of duplicating false research, could be discovering something else
- In medicine...
 - Delays creation of life saving treatments
 - Prolongs use of ineffective/dangerous therapies

Leading Fraudulent Researchers

1.Yoshitaka Fujii (183 Retractions)


2.Joachim Boldt (92 Retractions)

3.Peter Chen (60 Retractions)

4.Diederik Stapel (55 Retractions)

5.Adrian Maxim (48 Retractions)

Source: RetractionWatch.com Retraction Leaderboard <http://retractionwatch.com/retraction-watch-leaderboard/>



Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

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Hardly thinking about others: On cognitive business and target similarity in social comparison effects

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Abstract

Two studies were undertaken to investigate the impact of other-self comparison on the outcome of social comparison effects when people are cognitively busy versus more-busy. Results demonstrate that when perceivers are able to devote sufficient cognitive resources to the comparison process, extremely similar others lead to a relative self-devaluation, whereas moderately similar others lead to comparative self-evaluation and dissimilar others lead to null effects. When perceivers are cognitively busy, however, both extremely similar and moderately similar others yield assimilation effects, whereas dissimilar others yield contrast effects.

Keywords: Social comparison; Self-similarity; Cognitive busyness; Self-evaluation

Social comparisons are primarily made on the basis of perceived similarity between the target and the self (Wood, 1999). Indeed, over 50 years since Festinger's (1954) countless experiments have been conducted on the outcomes of the cognitive processes. These experiments have shown that social comparison has a profound impact on the self-evaluation process (Tesser, 1994). Because my sister won the Pulitzer prize as well as all effects I do not feel less attracted to her. In addition, I am a psychologist.

Reviews of the relevant literature have identified a number of moderators of social comparison effects, including the contrast or assimilation (for reviews see e.g., Mussweiler & Strack, 2000; Stapel & Suls, 2004).

Interestingly, even though studies on the self-evaluative consequences of social comparisons abound, the vast majority of these studies have focused on the impact of social comparison in situations that allow for relative self-evaluation. In other words, the studies have been conducted in situations that allow for relative self-evaluation (e.g., Mussweiler, 2003; Suls & Wheeler, 2000; Taylor & Lobel, 1989). Only recently have studies been published that explicitly investigate and compare more versus less controllable social comparison effects (e.g., Gilbert, Giesler, & Morris, 1995; Pelham & Wachsmuth, 1995; Stapel & Baumeister, 2004). Hence, we do not know much about the impact of social comparison in situations that allow for relative self-evaluation when people are cognitively busy, and when people (can) hardly think about the social comparison information. Some have argued that when people are cognitively busy, assimilation is more likely (e.g., Pelham & Wachsmuth, 1995), whereas others have shown that contrast is more likely in such situations (e.g.,

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Real Life Case



Source: TEDxBrainTrain, September 1st, 2013
“What I Lost: The importance of being connected.”



Real Life Case

- 55 retracted papers
- Most Notorious Retractions:
 - Vegetarians are less selfish
 - Littered environment increases discrimination
 - Female job applicants who took husband's name are less likely to be hired



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to info ▾

Oct 9 (3 days ago) ☆



Good afternoon Mr. Stapel,

My name is Alexander Dfouni and I am in a Marketing Research class at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. Our group is doing a presentation on Falsified Academic Research we would love share your experiences with this phenomenon with our peers. Here are a few questions/topic we believe you would be able to touch upon, feel free to acknowledge as many or as little as you prefer. We hope to share your side of the stories that mention your name.

- Who does Falsified Academic Research affect the most?
- What are the largest motives that lead one to committing Falsified Academic Research?
- What are one of the largest misunderstandings about you as a researcher?

Hopefully we will hear from you soon.

Kindest regards,
Alexander Dfouni



Diederik Stapel

to me ▾

Oct 10 (2 days ago)



hi alexander,
good luck with your interesting project. the answers to tour questions, i think, can be found in my book "faking science"
that is freely available on the internet. google nick brown faking science and you will find it.

bye,

diederik

written on my atari

www.diederikstapel.com





Alexander Dfouni <dfouni.a@husky.neu.edu>
to Diederik ▾

Oct 10 (2 days ago) ☆



Hi Mr. Stapel,

Thank you for your fast response. We have already researched your book Faking Science. However, we would love to receive a response from you as primary data to our research rather than secondary data from your book. We already have so much research on you, is there anything that you would tell us that we can quote in our presentation?

Is there any general advice that you would give anyone anyone performing advanced research under pressure?

Thank you very much,
Alexander Dfouni





Diederik Stapel

to me ▾

Oct 10 (2 days ago) ☆



advice?

don't be afraid to tell on people when you suspect something fishy is going on

dare to criticize your superiors

trust your own intuitions

try to avoid working alone, always work in teams and make sure you are accountable as a team

never believe anyone who thinks or says that science is business. it is not. science is science. it has become a business and that is now destroying it.

take serious the fact that more than 50 percent of psychological findings cannot be reproduced (see the reproducibility project): psychology has a big, big problem. its status as proper science is questionable. psychologists who do proper science should be able to produce reproducible findings. what does it mean that they cannot reproduce their own findings? this is a big, big problem.

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What's The Motive?

- Career Pressure
 - “Publish or perish”
 - The need to stand out
- Ease of fabrication
 - Difficult for accurate reproductions
 - Hard to get caught
- Decreasing government funds
- Desire for spotlight



"Just once I'd like to cross
the road without anyone
questioning my motives."

Source: <http://www.holypal.com/profiles/blogs/the-why-check-by-ovie-ukochowwera>

Relevant Careers & Leading Companies

- The Office of Research Integrity (ORI)
 - Department of Health and Human Services
 - Fabrication, falsification, plagiarism
- Federal Government
 - Government grant money -> fraud
 - Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Plagiarism detection sites
 - Turnitin, Elsevier, Springer
- Fake review detection
 - Cornell Algorithm



Questions?

Works Cited

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