Paper mills: The long game

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https://cos.io/

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Increasingly inconvenient for doing misconduct

Increasingly easy for detecting misconduct

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Increasingly **inconvenient** for doing misconduct

Increasingly easy for **detecting** misconduct

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Detection methods only treat the symptoms.

The underlying cause is the reward system.

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Researcher needs to publish

Researcher has...
- resources
- time
- training
- a scholarly community
- institutional supports (IRB, space)

Conducts rigorous research

YES

NO

???

Publishes

Predatory journals
Paper mills
Motivations…
Money/Job
Reputation
Contribution
Belonging

Universities
Publishers
Societies
Funders

Researchers

Change the motivations?
Change how to earn the rewards?
Motivations…
Money
Reputation
Contribution
Belonging

Motivations…
Money/Job
Reputation
Contribution
Belonging

University Policies
Ranking Systems
Universities
Publishers
Societies
Funders

Researchers
Approach

Today  Detection, make misconduct more inconvenient

Medium-Term  Change what is needed to achieve publication

Long-term  Change stakeholders’ incentives strategies

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Medium-Term Crazy Idea

The Journal of Unscholarship

“We publish everything, for free.”