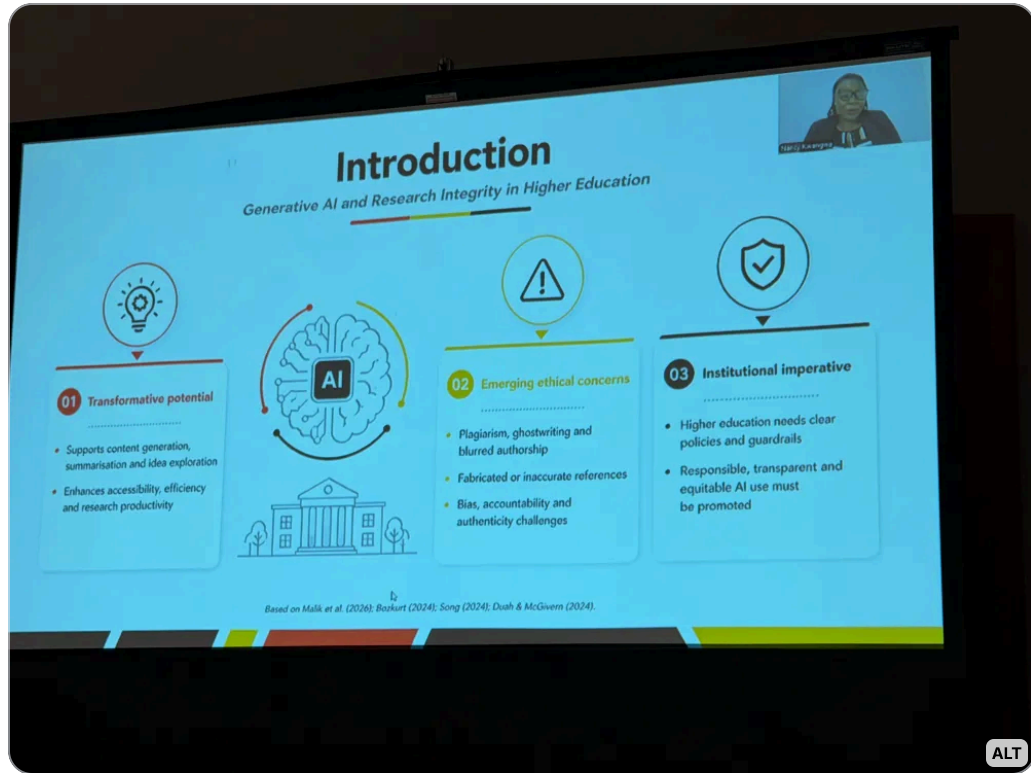




**Elisabeth Bik** ✓ @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 15d

Next, we split up into several parallel sessions - I am currently in session 4D, with "Demystifying Invisible Authorship: Ethical Use of Generative AI to Uphold Research Integrity in Higher Education" - Nancy Kwangwa, Women's University In Africa (presenting remotely/recorded) [#WCRI2026](#)



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**Elisabeth Bik** ✓ @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 15d

NK: Can genAI tools be authors? No, humans are accountable for research.  
We interviewed 12 participants (6 staff, 4 students, 2 admin).  
Most did not declare how AI was used, RI was not seen as daily research practice, limited knowledge about RI beyond plagiarism. Lack of guidelines.  
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**Elisabeth Bik** @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 15d

NK: A practical AI-disclosure standard:

Purpose: why AI was used

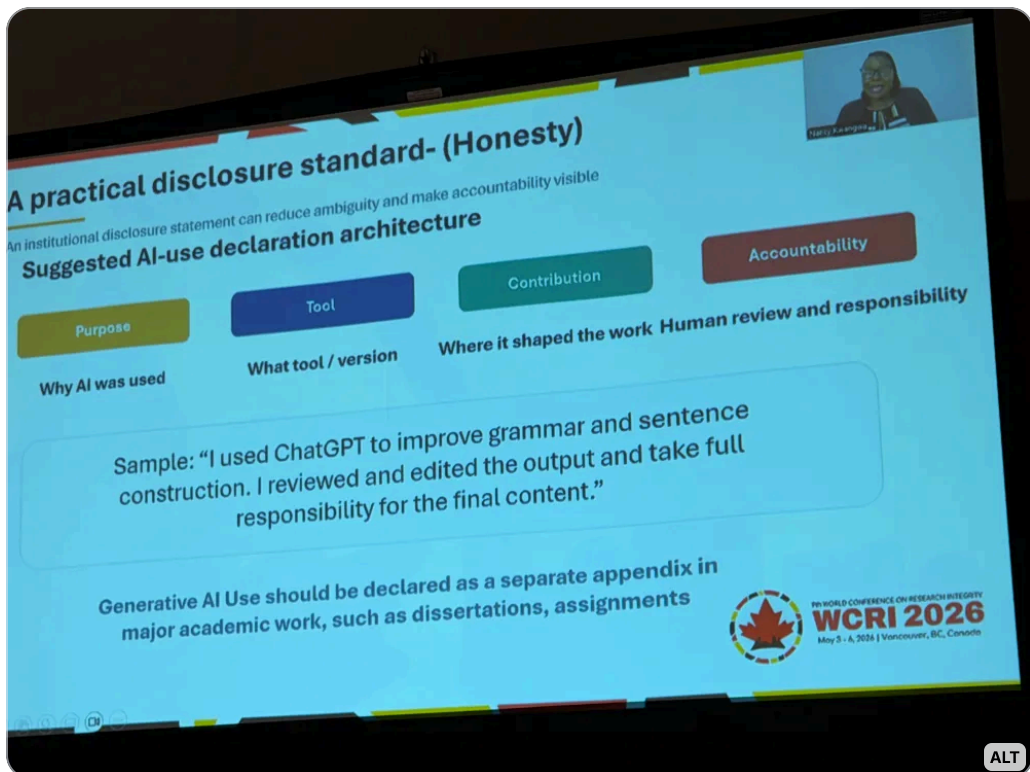
Tool; What tool/version

Contribution: where it shaped the work

Accountability: Human review and responsibility.

"I used ChatGPT to improve grammar and sentence construction. I take full responsibility for final content"

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**Elisabeth Bik** @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 15d

Next: Svetlana Kleiner @springernature.com with "Are Edited Volumes the New Special Issues?"

Investigations of book-related cases are on the rise - we get alerts from both the outside as well as internally.



In recent years, much more computer-assisted writing (tortured phrases, AI).

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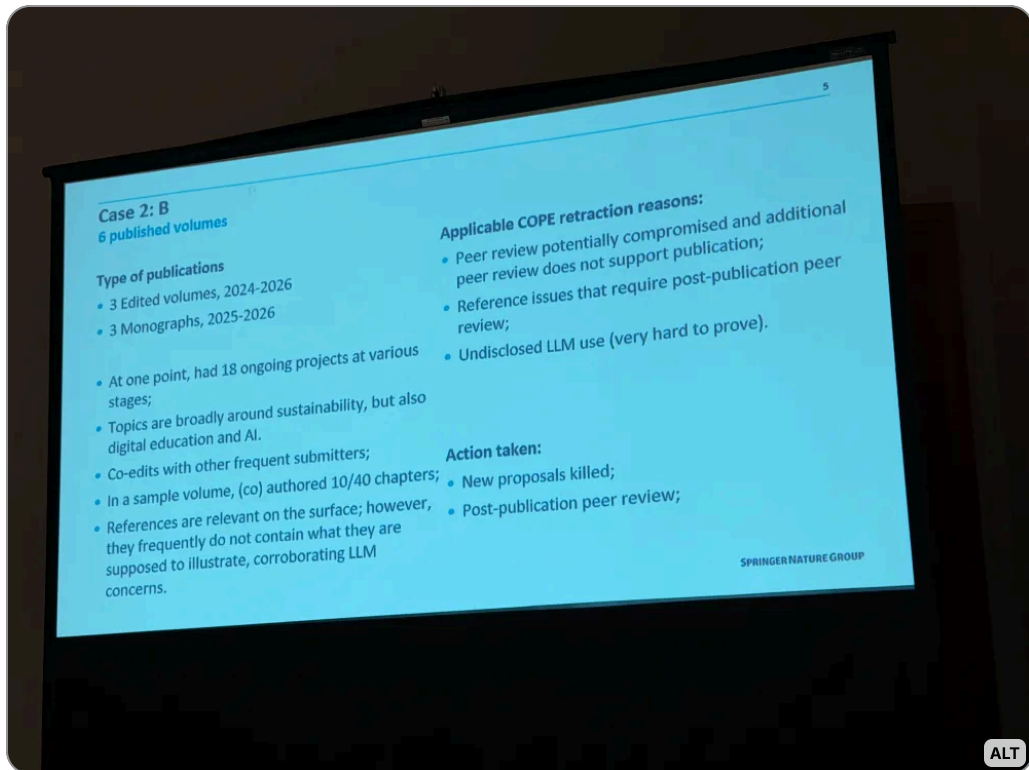
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**Elisabeth Bik** @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 15d

SK: Case 1: 57 published volumes - possible compromised peer review  
Case 2: 3 edited volumes and 3 monographs in the past 2 years, and 18 ongoing projects (book ideas) - possible undisclosed LLM use but hard to prove.  
Case 3: tortured phrases --> retraction possible.

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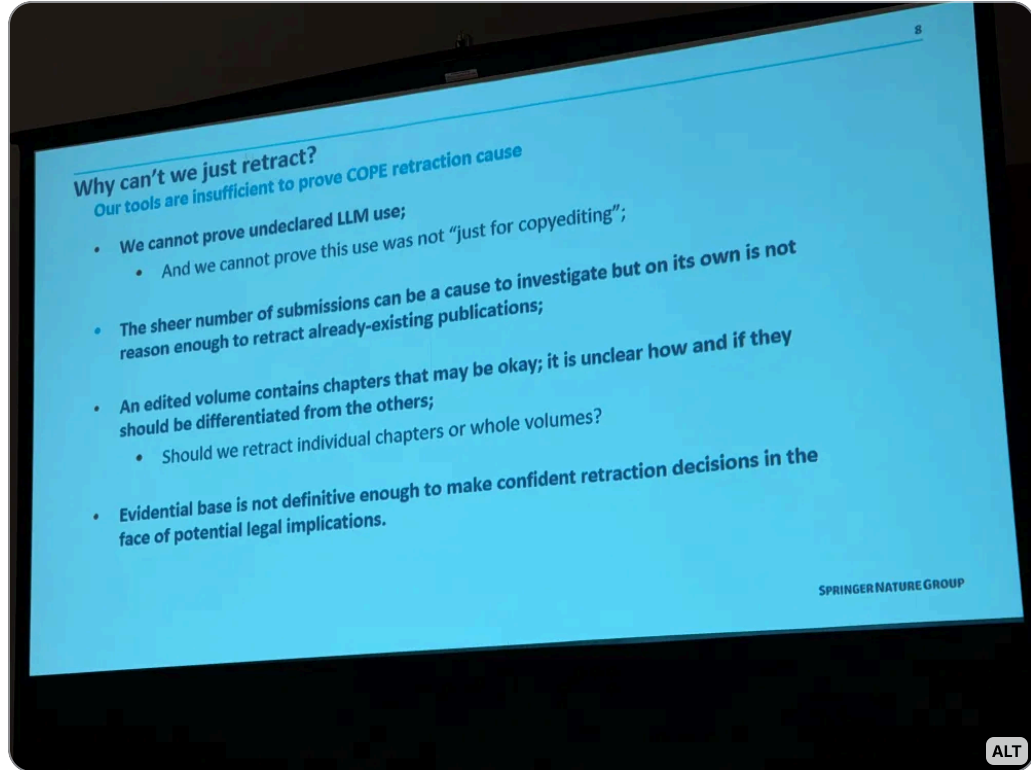
**Elisabeth Bik** ✓ @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 15d

SK: Most attention has been on journals, less awareness on issues with books.

We need more people working on these cases and trust authors WAY less.

Often, we cannot prove that LLMs were used, so we cannot retract just because an author is super productive. Vibes alone are not enough!

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**Elisabeth Bik** ✓ @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 15d

SK: Edited volumes typically contain unaffected chapters. We can retract whole books or individual chapters.

But it is often hard to prove misconduct definitively.

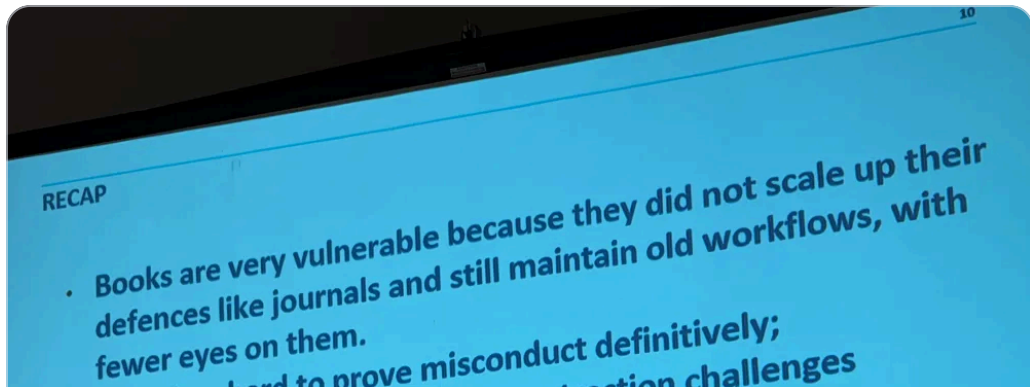
We need more people in the loop and trust less.

We recently introduced Expression of Concern for books.

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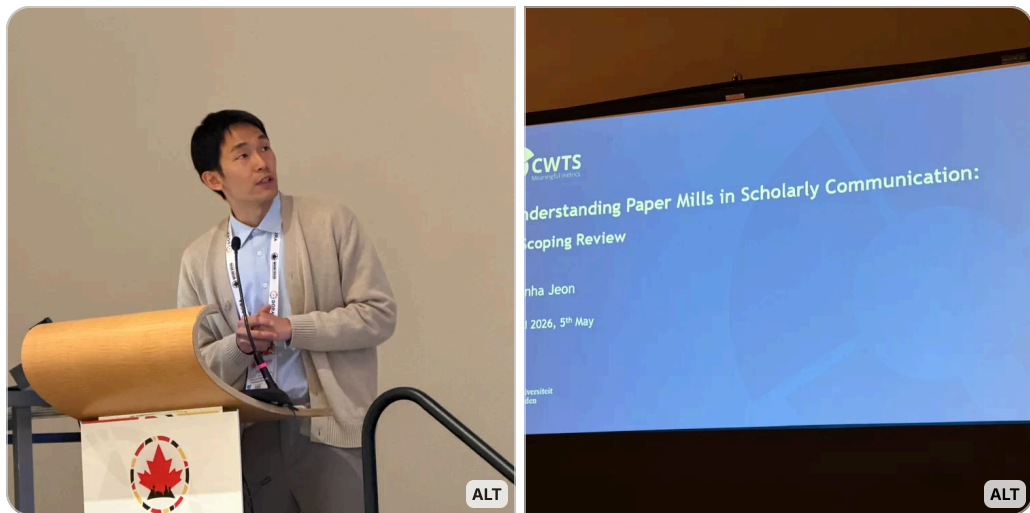


**Elisabeth Bik** ✓ @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 15d

Next: "Understanding Paper Mills in Scholarly Communication: A Scoping Review of Current Evidence and Research" by Joonha Jeon, CSTS Leiden [sponsored by Wiley]

Paper mills: fake/low quality papers, manipulation of the publication process, authorship for sale.

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**Elisabeth Bik** ✓ @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 15d

JJ: Paper mills shift focus from individual misconduct to organized, systematic manipulation. Working group United2Act let to a call for research

[journals.plos.org/plosbiology/...](https://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/)

My research: identification of records via bibliography and databases.

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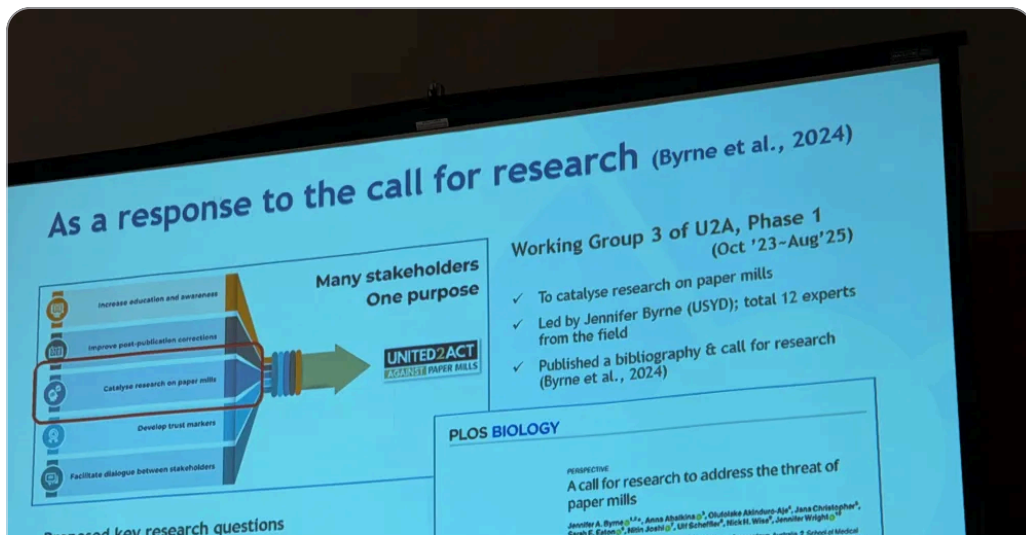
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**Elisabeth Bik** @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 15d

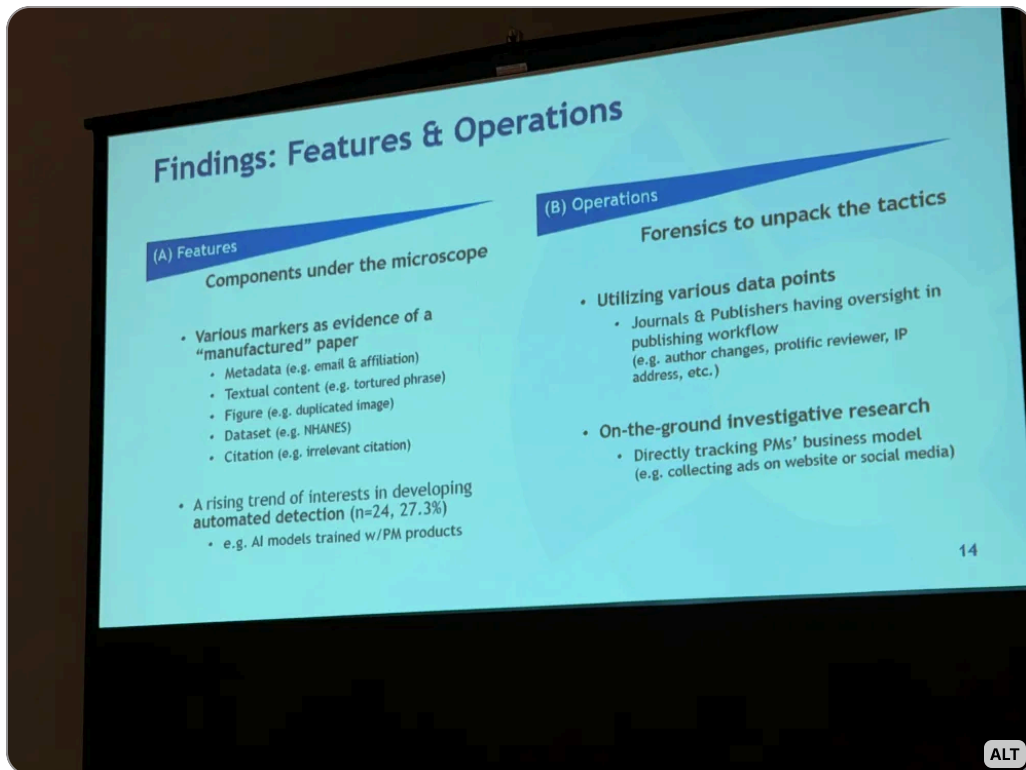
JJ: Features: markers as evidence of a manufactured paper (textual, duplicated images, NHANES dataset, citations)

[I am not sure I can follow his methodology]

"Paper mills" is used as a buzzword

Beyond Us vs. Them - paper mills are a moving target. Collective actions are needed, but hard.

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2



2



**Elisabeth Bik** @elisabethbik.bsky.social

Next: Sarah Jenkins, Elsevier, with: "Identifying, Mapping, and Investigating Network Behaviours to Safeguard Research Integrity and



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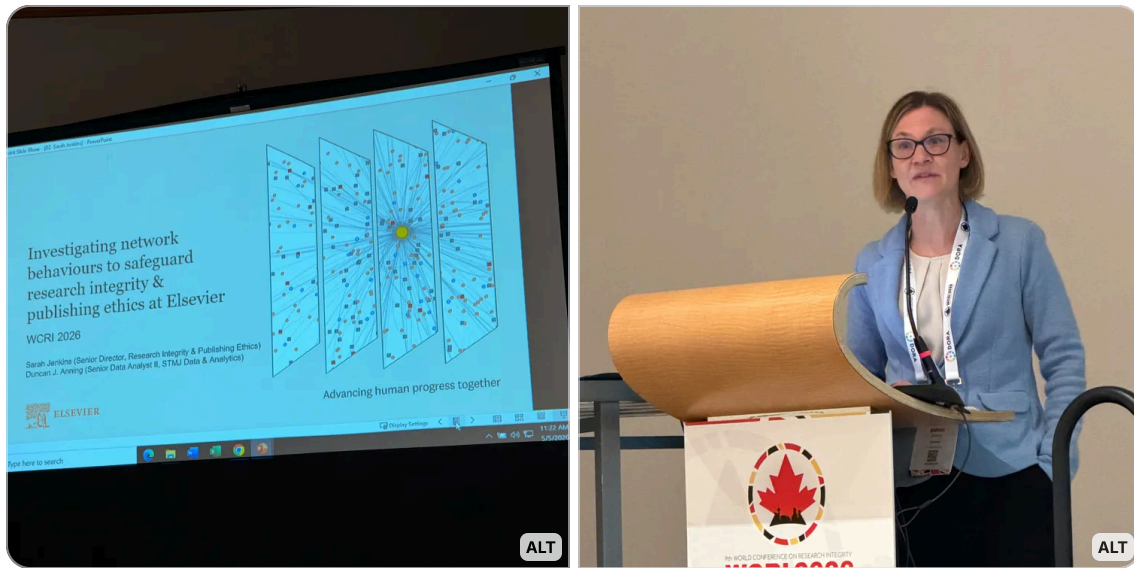
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## Publishing Ethics at Elsevier"

Picture is becoming evermore complex. Citations are being manipulated/sold. Bad actors attempt to infiltrate editorial roles.

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11:24 AM · May 5, 2026

4 likes



Write your reply



**Elisabeth Bik** @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 15d

SJ: A single prolific bad actor network may impact many journals - we need to protect the wider journal portfolio by anticipating the network's patterns in other journals.

In 2025, Elsevier built a Python library to integrate signals into reporting and visualization.

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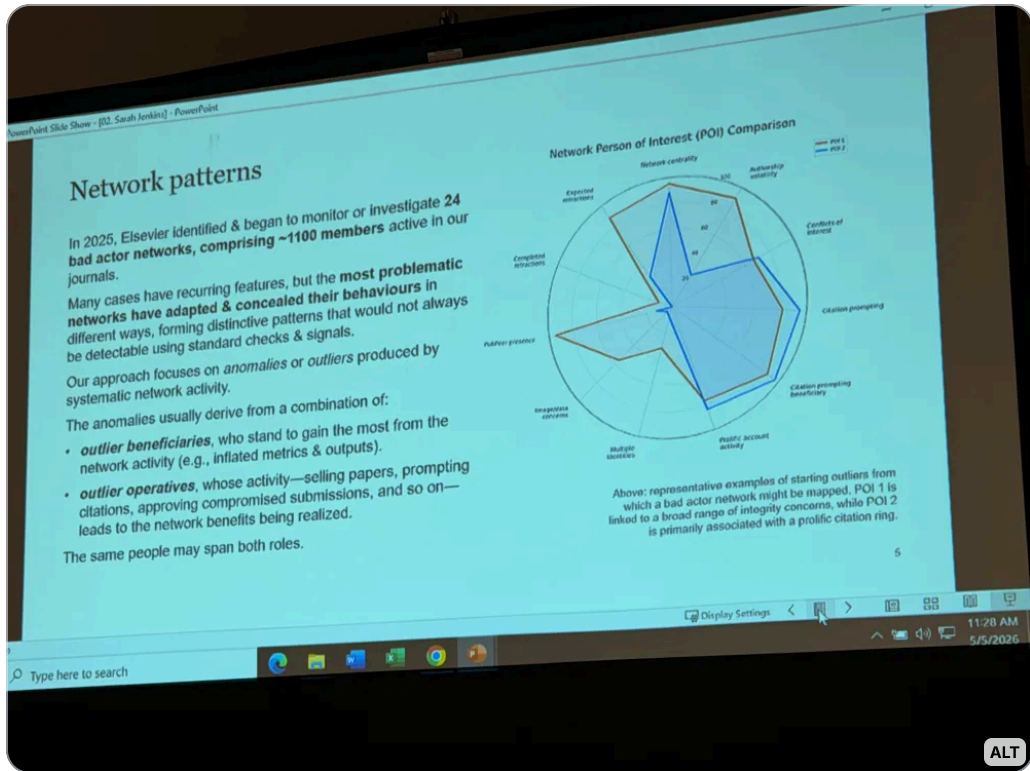
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**Elisabeth Bik** @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 15d

SJ: We investigated 24 bad-actor networks, comprising 1100 members active in our journals. They profit by inflated metrics and outputs. Case study: citation mill diagnostics. New authors suddenly getting lots of citations, but network also contained established authors (some unaware).

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**Elisabeth Bik** @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 15d

SJ: These bad-actor networks are adaptive. They might jump from one journal to another one, after they got caught. We are working on detecting these networks before they enter the peer-review system. But these networks will always quickly move to somewhere else.

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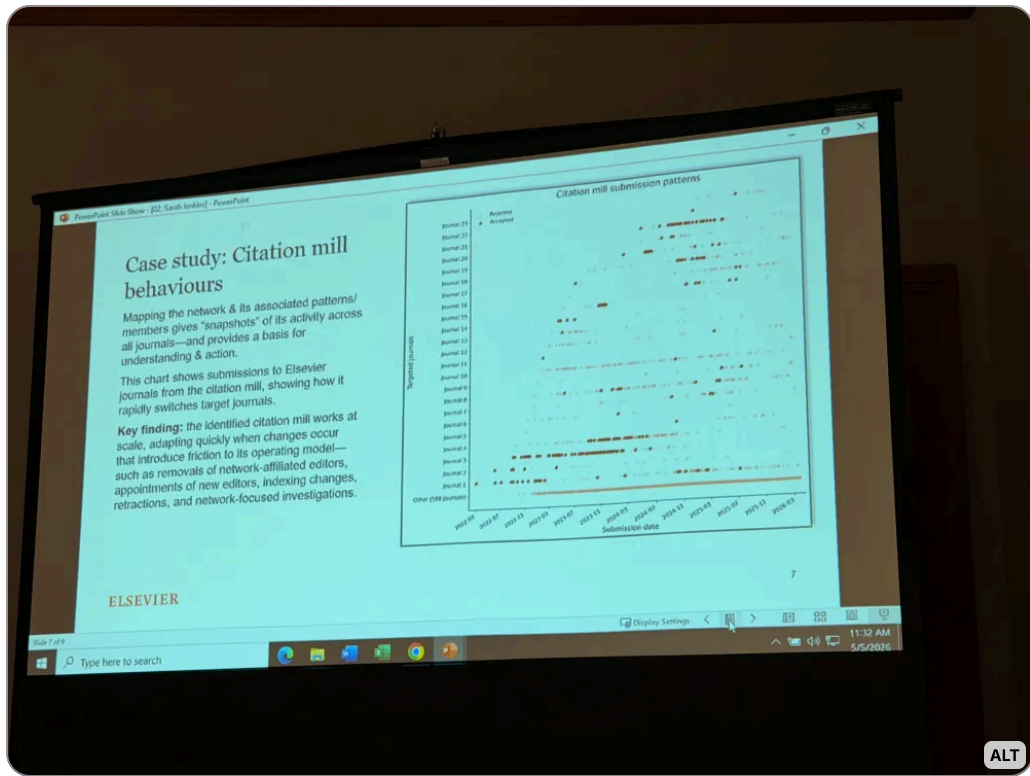
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**Elisabeth Bik** @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 15d

Critical questions from the audience: why was Elsevier so late in detecting these problems? Elsevier has lots of resources. SJ gives a shout-out to the STM Integrity Hub: [stm-assoc.org/what-we-do/s...](http://stm-assoc.org/what-we-do/s...) #WCRI2026

**STM Integrity Hub - STM Association**

STM Integrity Hub

[stm-assoc.org](http://stm-assoc.org)

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**Elisabeth Bik** @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 15d

Next: "Navigating Research Integrity in Doctoral Education: A Study of Misconduct in Doctoral Defence Practices in Mongolia" by Orkhon Gantogtokh, University of British Columbia. Mongolia has the highest number of universities per capita, with high enrollment rates.

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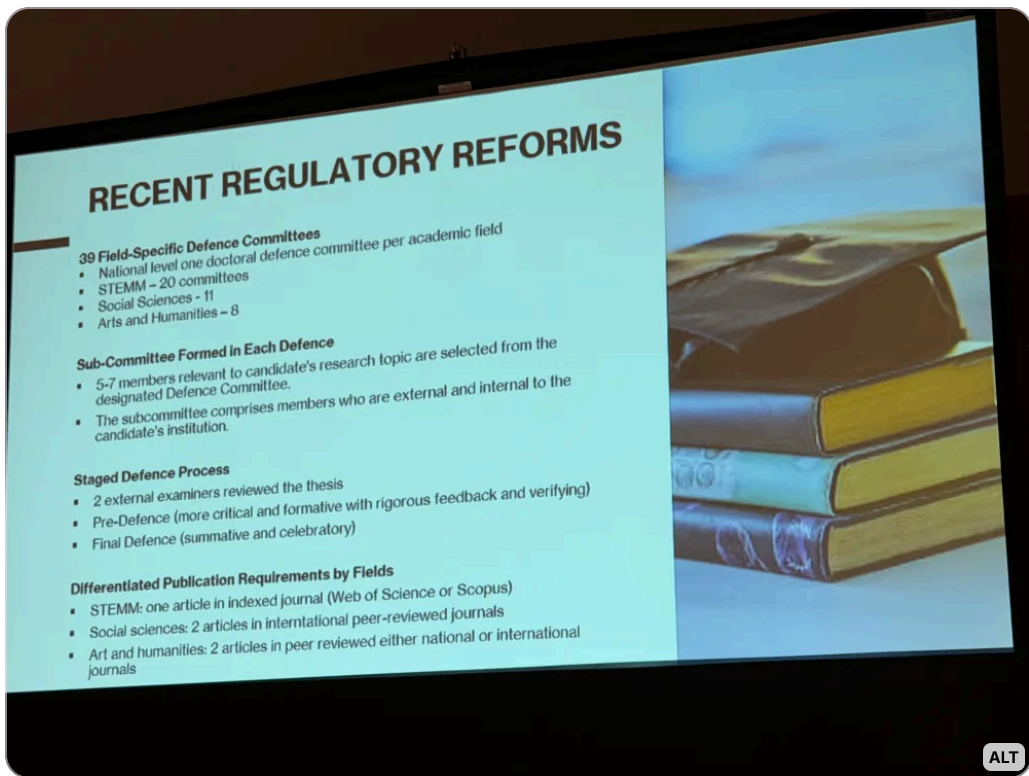
**Elisabeth Bik** @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 15d

OG: We studied specific misconduct and problems in doctoral defenses in Mongolia. In Mongolia, defenses are not institutional but through national committees.

STEMM: 1 article required. Social sciences: 2 articles.

Issues: favoritism, misconduct, informal payments to committee members 🙄

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**Elisabeth Bik** @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 15d

OG: In Mongolia's current system, competing interests overshadow the true purpose of doctoral education. The core purpose of doctoral education should be recentered on the student, with academic integrity as its foundation.



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Research done around 2024 - paper mills might now be active?  
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**Elisabeth Bik** ✓ @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 15d








Next: Habtamu Hailu, Ethiopian Defence University, with "Magnitude and Factors Associated with Research Misconduct at a Public University in Ethiopia: a Cross-Sectional Survey"

Misconduct is pervasive and everywhere. Is it higher in Africa?

[pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40026541/](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40026541/)

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**Elisabeth Bik** @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 15d

HH: 2025 Article: Ethiopia has highest rate of scientific paper retraction  
[@dalmeet.bsky.social  
pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/...](https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/...)

We studied magnitude, attitudes, and factors associated with misconduct.

37.7% of participants admitted to wrongdoing.

Publish or perish mentality.

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Cont'd

Misconduct Composite	Present study n (%)	Middle East n (%)	Kenya n (%)	Nigeria n (%)
Plagiarism	65 (26.6)	26 (11.6)	18 (22.0)	12 (9.2)
<b>Fabrication and Falsification</b>	<b>99 (40.6)</b>	<b>64 (28.6)</b>	<b>37 (22.7)</b>	<b>56 (42.2)</b>
Authorship Issues	116 (47.5)	46 (20.5)	26 (31.7)	48 (36.4)
Conflict of Interest	62 (25.4)	13 (5.8)	-	12 (9.3)
Overall Misconduct (any misconduct within any composite)	92 ( <b>37.7</b> )	133 ( <b>59.4</b> )	56 ( <b>68.3</b> )	91 ( <b>68.9</b> )

**WCRI 2026**  
May 2 - 4, 2026 | Vancouver, BC, Canada



**Elisabeth Bik** @elisabethbik.bsky.social · 15d

HH: This study found substantial research misconduct and QRPs. Self-reported involvement varies by academic rank, experience, and publication pressure. Ethics training shows mixed impact on misconduct. [having trouble airdropping the conclusion slide]

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**Black Forest Cyclist** @blackforestcyclist.bsky.social · 15d

Elsevier is investing in research integrity? Honestly, I'm surprised. Let's hope they keep up the effort.



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