

Department of Psychology
University of Cape Town
Plagiarism and its consequences

The University takes plagiarism very seriously, as it is theft of intellectual property. It has no place in any work you do at the University of Cape Town. Please see the following website for a comprehensive overview of University policy:

http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/uct.ac.za/about/policies/plagiarism_students.pdf

Please note that no work will be marked unless accompanied by a signed plagiarism declaration.

If you hand in your work electronically, please type your name into the space provided for the signature; we will treat this as a signature.

In view of the University policy, the Department of Psychology has agreed to the following standard responses to plagiarism:

1. A student who copies the work of another student or of any other author (as a whole or in part) will be sent directly to the University Court, and the procedures outlined below will not apply. Court sentences may include expulsion, rustication for a period (not being allowed to come back to UCT for a defined period, such as a semester or a year), and/or community service. Statements of guilt are put permanently on student transcripts, if the Court finds the student guilty; this sentence therefore has lifelong consequences that may affect employability.
2. We also recognise that there is “unwitting” plagiarism – an action which is technically plagiarism, but which indicates a poor understanding of referencing, rather than deliberate theft of intellectual property. The remedy for this is educational, at least in the first instance, and the Department’s policy is based on the following training that we routinely provide:

In the first semester of the first year (PSY1004F or PSY1006F), every Psychology student completes a tutorial which clearly explains what plagiarism is and how to reference; plenty of practice in referencing is also given during those courses. Thereafter, every student in the Department of Psychology has access to this document, which similarly makes explicit what plagiarism is (see below). Therefore, no student has any excuse for plagiarism. In consequence, the following applies to PSY1005S, PSY1007S, and all senior courses in the Department of Psychology:

- a. The first time a student commits unwitting plagiarism they will receive a warning, and should meet with the course convenor so that the convenor can explain clearly where they went wrong, and how to avoid this in future. Their names and student numbers will also be placed on a Plagiarism Register, available to all staff members in the Department of Psychology.
 - b. The second time a student commits plagiarism, it can no longer be regarded as unwitting due to procedures followed in (a), above. Therefore a 50% penalty will apply to the assignment in which plagiarism was committed. This will also be recorded on the Departmental Plagiarism Register.
 - c. The third time a student commits plagiarism, it also cannot be considered unwitting, and the offence will be seen in a graver light. S/he will be sent directly to the University Court and under University rules will receive zero for the relevant assignment.
3. Please note that the University does not allow you to hand in the same work for different courses. In the instance where you are repeating a course and the assignments remain the same, handing in the same work you did last year constitutes self-plagiarism. Self-plagiarism will be treated as unwitting plagiarism but no warning will be given; penalties will be

applied as in (2) above, with a 50% penalty the first time, and a zero and a Court charge the second time. If, however, you revise and improve on the work you handed in earlier, you will not be regarded as having committed self-plagiarism.

What is plagiarism?

The passages below include various examples of attempts to transfer information from an original piece of writing into introductions for an essay. Each of them is an example of plagiarism; with one exception, the examples are all taken from Neville's (2007) very helpful guide to avoiding plagiarism. The last example comes from actual student work.

Original extract:

For thousands of years, outsiders have regarded China as a xenophobic country. However, the stereotypes have been changing since China opened up its economy in 1979. Now, the encouragement of foreign direct investment (FDI) and international technology transfer (ITT) lies at the heart of economic relations between foreign countries and China. The international flows of capital, information and technology facilitate the economic growth of China and the influence of multinational enterprises (MNEs). The boom in FDI and ITT has brought to the fore the issue of intellectual property rights (IPRs) as a major topic in the economic development of China. Although a historical review shows that the germination of the concept of IPRs in China goes back more than 100 years, in reality no effective system of intellectual property protection (IPP) existed until very recent times.

Source: Yang and Clarke (2004, p. 12).

Plagiarised passage	Details of why it is plagiarism
<p>This essay is about intellectual property (IP) in general and about the situation in China today, and about China's relationship with the West in relation to this issue. For thousands of years, outsiders have regarded China as a xenophobic country. But since China opened up its economy in 1979, and with the encouragement of foreign direct investment (FDI) and international technology transfer (ITT), economic relations between foreign countries and China have improved. The international flows of capital, information and technology now facilitate the economic growth of China and the influence of multinational enterprises (MNEs). The boom in FDI and ITT has brought to the fore the issue of intellectual property rights (IPRs) as a major topic in the economic development of China. Although history shows that the germination of the concept of IPRs in China goes back more than 100 years, in reality no effective system of intellectual property protection (IPP) existed until very recent times.</p>	<p>No citation of the source at all. Many of the phrases are taken directly from Yang and Clarke (2004), but there is no indication that they are quotations.</p>
<p>This essay is about intellectual property (IP) in general and about the situation in China today, and about China's relationship with the West in relation to this issue. Outsiders have long regarded China as a xenophobic country. However, the stereotypes have been changing since China opened up its economy in 1979. Yang and Clarke (2004) argue that now the encouragement of foreign direct investment (FDI) and international technology transfer (ITT) lies at the heart of economic relations between foreign countries and China. They state</p> <p>The international flows of capital, information and</p>	<p>ALL the ideas come from Yang and Clarke (2004), but it is presented as if only some ideas come from that source. EVERY idea that comes from Yang and Clarke (2004) needs to be referenced as such.</p>

<p>technology facilitate the economic growth of China and the influence of multinational enterprises (MNEs). The boom in FDI and ITT has brought to the fore the issue of intellectual property rights (IPRs) as a major topic in the economic development of China (p.12).</p> <p>Although a historical review shows that the germination of the concept of IPRs in China goes back more than 100 years, in reality no effective system of intellectual property protection (IPP) existed until very recent times.</p>	
<p>This essay is about intellectual property (IP) in general and about the situation in China today, and about China's relationship with the West in relation to this issue. China has long been regarded as a closed and rather xenophobic country. But things have been changing fast since China opened up its economy in 1979. Some commentators, like Yang and Clarke (2004) argue that the encouragement of foreign direct investment (FDI) and international technology transfer (ITT) lie at the heart of economic relations between foreign countries and China. The flow of capital, information and technology between countries has pushed the economic growth of China forward. Also, the influence of multinational enterprises (MNEs) and boom in FDI and ITT has focused attention on the issue of intellectual property rights (IPRs), and this is now seen as a major topic in the economic development of China. Although the idea of IPRs in China goes back more than 100 years, in reality no effective system of intellectual property protection (IPP) existed until recently.</p>	<p>ALL the ideas come from Yang and Clarke (2004), but it is presented as if only some ideas come from that source. EVERY idea that comes from Yang and Clarke (2004) needs to be referenced as such</p>
<p>This essay is about intellectual property (IP) in general and about the situation in China today, and about China's relationship with the West in relation to this issue. For centuries China has been regarded by the outside world as a rather closed and insular country. However, Yang and Clarke (2004) argue that now things are changing, and particularly so since 1979, when China decided to open up its economy. Since then, foreign direct investment (FDI) and international technology transfer (ITT) are important connecting links between China and the rest of the world. Now the flows of capital, information, technology and the influence of multinational enterprises MNEs have stimulated the Chinese economy. But these developments have also caused attention to focus on the issue of intellectual property rights (IPR). Although the concept of IPR goes back more than a hundred years, there has been no effective system of intellectual property protection (IPP) until recently.</p>	<p>ALL the ideas come from Yang and Clarke (2004), but it is presented as if only some ideas come from that source. EVERY idea that comes from Yang and Clarke (2004) needs to be referenced as such</p>
<p>This essay is about intellectual property (IP) in general and about the situation in China today, and about China's relationship with the West in relation to this issue. For centuries China has been regarded by the outside world as a rather closed and xenophobic country. However things are changing. Since 1979, China has loosened and stimulated its economy by foreign direct investment (FDI), international technology transfer (ITT), and from the</p>	<p>No citation of the source at all. Many of the phrases are taken directly from Yang and Clarke (2004), but there is no indication that they are quotations.</p>

<p>influence of multinational enterprises (MNEs). However, these developments have also focused attention on the issue of intellectual property rights (IPR) and until recently in China there has been no effective system of intellectual property protection (IPP).</p>	
<p>This passage does not relate to Yang and Clarke (2004), but nonetheless illustrates how plagiarism can occur:</p> <p>Without proper consideration of relevant individual level information in the analysis, neighbourhood level variables are likely to act partly or entirely as proxies for individual attributes, and as such a partition of the respective contributions to the health outcome of depression becomes impossible (Pickett & Pearl, 2001).</p>	<p>The chosen words are too close to the original – changing a few words here and there does NOT avoid a plagiarism charge. Compare the student work on the left with the original below:</p> <p>Finally, without controlling for individual-level SES, "neighbourhood level variables may act partially or entirely as proxies for individual attributes and a partition of the contribution of each to the chosen health outcome is impossible" (Pickett and Pearl 2001) (Tables 3 and 4).</p>

References

Neville, C. (2007). *The complete guide to referencing and avoiding plagiarism*. Maidenhead, NY: Open University Press.

Pickett, K.E., & Pearl, M. (2001). Multilevel analyses of neighbourhood socioeconomic context and health outcomes: a critical review. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, 55*, 111-122.

Yang, D. and Clarke, P. (2004). Review of the current intellectual property system in China. *International Journal of Technology Transfer and Commercialisation, 3*, 12-37.