Utah Valley University

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Ethics in Publishing: Professional Development Workshop

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Panelists: Jennifer M. Collins, Acquisition Editor, Pearson Prentice Hall
          Publishing
           Alan Sturmer, Senior Acquisitions Editor, Edward Elgar
           Publishing
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           Roy J. Lewicki, AMLE, Former Editor, Ohio State University
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Abstract (up to 250 words):

This PDW is all about “The Questions We Ask?” In fact, it is also about “The Questions We Should Ask!” With the fairly recent and highly publicized breaches of ethics among members of the business community, there is a need to re-examine specific strategies employed in all kinds of organizations. Many business faculty are comfortable teaching ethics in the classroom, but are we (as scholars and educators) appropriately challenging our own ethical practices? Ethics in publishing is one of the areas that many disciplines have recently been addressing. This workshop will provide faculty, administrators, and doctoral students the forum to listen to panelists (book/journal editors) and then discuss current issues and challenges related to ethical decision-making and behavior of researchers and scholars. It will also provide the attendees the opportunity to challenge behaviors and practices commonly seen and held. This ethics event will be divided into three segments. First, facilitators will briefly highlight reasons for their interest in organizing this session and then introduce the five panelists. Each panelists will then take five minutes to outline and discuss some of the current issues and trends related to ethics in publishing. Second, participants will be asked to meet in small groups to discuss the issues that surfaced from the panelists’ presentations. Groups will be encouraged to identify their top three issues or questions to ask to the panalists. Finally, the remaining time will be devoted to a highly interactive Q&A session with engaging dialogue between panelists and attendees.
ETHICS IN PUBLISHING

1) Introduction and Justification

The theme of the 2008 Academy of Management conference in Anaheim is “The Questions We Ask.” This proposed session, titled “Ethics in Publishing,” is all about “The Questions We Ask.” In fact, it is also about “The Questions We Should Ask!” With fairly recent and highly publicized breaches of ethics among members of the business community (e.g., Enron, WorldCom, Adelphia, Global Crossing, and Tyco), there is a growing need to re-examine the ethics of specific strategies employed in all kinds of organizations throughout the U.S. and abroad. Many business faculty members are comfortable teaching ethics in the classroom when it focuses on corporate ethics, but are we (as scholars and educators) appropriately challenging our own ethical practices within the higher educational arena? Interestingly, these kinds of questions are likely the most personal and therefore most difficult questions we can ask ourselves and others. We argue that it is time to do just that!

To begin raising awareness of these concerns within the AOM, we (Davis and Madsen) have been facilitating PDW workshops for the last few years on topics of ethics within higher education. We are the first Academy members (that we are aware of) to focus our discussions on challenging our own ethics, particularly as faculty members in our various roles. Most of the ethics-related PDW and symposium sessions at this annual conference typically center on either teaching ethics or research and theory looking at the ethics of employees, managers, and leaders in various organizations (e.g., industry, government, nonprofit.). Although the AOM has an ethical code for its membership and has offered a few venues for dialogue, there is more that needs to be done. We argue that this PDW can heighten the Academy’s ethical awareness and focus by bringing to light the importance of ethics in this one critical area within the Academy—ethics in publishing.

This topic is one that many Academy members discuss and question informally. This session would be designed so that participants can ask the tough questions that need to be asked in an organized forum. This will help them “dig deep” and challenge themselves at a personal and professional level. Through this reflective progress we can become better researchers and scholars, which will in turn directly and indirectly influence others (e.g., students, colleagues, readers). Interestingly, through the years we have observed that the best scholars and educators are those who persistently ask questions that help them continuously improve their practices. It is through this type of constant inquiry awareness is raised, excellence can be attained, and ethics can be maintained.

Because this topic relates to all members of the Academy, we would like to have one division be the primarily sponsor but a number of others be co-sponsors (e.g., ODC, HR, OB, SIM, ENT, IM, MED, CAR, PNP).

2) Session Purpose

This workshop (with a panel discussion) will provide faculty, administrators, and doctoral students the forum to listen to panelists and then discuss current issues and challenges related
to the ethical decision-making and behavior of researchers and scholars as it relates to publishing. It will provide the attendees the opportunity to challenge behaviors and practices commonly seen and held.

3) Format and Structure

We are proposing a two-hour PDW that will be divided into three primary segments:

a. **Segment 1 (40 minutes)**: Facilitators will briefly highlight reasons for their interest in organizing this session and then introduce the five panelists (book and journal editors). Each of the panelists will be asked to discuss some of the current issues and trends they have seen related to ethics in publishing (five minutes each). They may also address some commonly asked ethical questions from authors. Topics and issues that may emerge include, but are not limited to, the following:

*Authors:*

- Authorship
- Conflicts of interest
- Plagiarism/citing
- Ethical approval
- Research design
- Redundant publications
- Misconduct
- Accuracy
- Personal criticism of others

*Reviewers and Editors:*

- Unbiased
- Speed/timeliness
- Accuracy
- Responsibility
- Objectivity
- Confidentiality
- Conflicts of interest

For example, a few of the related questions that have surfaced through the years in PDW sessions or conversations with colleagues are as follows:

- Why is Jim Collins the only author on the book “Good to Great” when an entire research team did the research behind it? He does give the team credit in the book, but when is it okay to do it this way?
- When is it ethical for professors to use their students’ research data and then write about it without including the student as a co-author? When is it ethical to “acknowledge” versus “co-author”? When is it ethical for committee chairs to publish with doctoral students?
- What are the ethical issues surrounding the use of ghostwriters?
• As misrepresentation and plagiarism are critical issues for professorial research, what standard is appropriate for the citation of the work of others?
• What is intellectual property in terms of scholarship?
• Is a faculty member held responsible for plagiarism in a student’s piece if it is published?
• When there is a breach of ethics—who is ultimately the judge and jury? Is it the Academy or the institution?
• Is it ethical of an institution to look the other way when a famous scholar plagiarizes (e.g., Doris Kearns Goodwin at Harvard)?

b. **Segment 2 (15 minutes):** Participants will be asked to gather in small groups (4-8 attendees) to discuss the issues that surfaced from the panelists’ presentations. They will be encouraged to identify the top three ethical issues or questions their group has for the panelists.

c. **Segment 3 (45-55 minutes):** During the final segment, groups and individuals will be invited to ask questions to the panelists for a highly interactive Q&A session. Panelists will also be encouraged to ask questions to participants as well so the session can remain interactive and interesting. During the last few minutes each presenter will be asked to offer their final advice to participants (one-minute each). We will then thank the panelists and conclude with a few suggestions for next steps. An email list will be circulated for those interested in receiving the notes and ideas from the session and/or continuing the conversation online. This is the “Question We Ask!”

4) **Panelists**

   See title page for list of panelists.

5) **Conclusion**

   This session will not only help support goals of the Academy, but it will be an interesting, interactive, and enjoyable session for conference participants to attend. By providing forums for scholarly discussion on academic ethics, we can assist the Academy’s membership in challenging their own choices and behaviors. This type of self-reflection can often lead to a deeper commitment toward personal and professional integrity. Shouldn’t that be a major part of what this conference is about?

6) **Statement**

   We have received emailed statements/confirmations from all intended participants agreeing to participate for the entire workshop, and confirm that these participants are not in violation of the “Rule of Three + Three).

   James H. Davis and Susan R. Madsen