

Making Sense of Prosocial Explanations for Violations of Academic Integrity

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Presentation Overview

- Prosocial behaviours
- Context for current work
- Case examples
- Wrap-up

Student Arrested After Crawling Into a Duct to Steal an Exam

By CHRISTOPHER MELE MAY 4, 2017



Prosocial Behaviours

- Actions intended to benefit one or more persons other than oneself
- Theoretical explanations for engaging in prosocial behaviours:
 - Social learning
 - Tension reduction
 - Norms
 - Exchange or equity

Facilitation vs. Collaboration

- Facilitation – enabling another’s breach of academic integrity
 - making information available to another student
 - knowingly allowing one’s work to be copied by someone else
- Collaboration – working together to achieve a desired result
 - “unauthorized collaboration”

Setting the Scene

- Business school
- Collaboration as a curricular component
- Strong emphasis on community



Case #1: Passing the torch

- Collections of old assignments and tests are passed from student to student
 - E.g. sibling to sibling, orientation leader to first year student
- Limited access
 - Not everyone receives the collections
- How this case plays out...

Case #2: A friend in need

- A student, recognizing a friend is having a rough time, offers to help
- How this case plays out...

Common Elements



Engaged in
with best of
intentions



No direct
personal
benefit

Student Motivations

Peer pressures



Reciprocity



Conformity



Fomo

Institutional Concerns

A close-up photograph of a person's hand held up, palm facing forward, in a universal gesture for 'stop' or 'halt'. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a person in a white lab coat.

Policing

A photograph showing several hands of different people pulling on a thick, braided rope. The hands are positioned at different points along the rope, suggesting a team effort or a struggle against a common force.

**Faculty
resistance**

“Big Picture” Concerns

*us versus
them*



Addressing the concerns...

- Role of education
- Buy-in from all parties
- Access to resources (e.g. mental health support)
- Persistence

Questions? Comments?

Thanks!



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