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

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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

Policing

Faculty resistance
“Big Picture” Concerns
Addressing the concerns...

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

Thanks!