

From: Brenda Torney
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2018 9:39 AM
To: Faculty
Subject: TLC News - dealing with the snarly plagiarism issue

Dear Colleagues,

The issue of plagiarism came up during our TLC lunch last Wednesday, and, along with “fake news”, we’ve been dwelling on it ever since...

The primary concern was one of detection, in particular the system that allows model essays that students might wish to download to sit behind a *captchas* that they can’t be detected by professors using Google or other search engines. These systems can affect plagiarism prevention services like SafeAssign as well.

While we were contemplating how to deal with this snarly detection issue, our colleague, Geoff Gilbert, sent us an astonishing article by Ole Bjørn Rekdal published in the journal *Social Studies of Science* that describes how we came to believe that spinach was a good source of iron (based on what may have been a decimal point error over a hundred years ago), but also how careless citation led us to repeat and agree on a story (or myth) about what that error was.

The author’s focus, it turns out, is academic “shortcuts” and citation: “In this article, I will limit my focus to one specific type of situation that seems to cause problems for a large number of researchers and students and that provides a breeding ground for a wide variety of academic shortcuts. The situation of interest is one that all writing academics will encounter numerous times during their career...” (639).

You can read the full story here:

<http://journals.sagepub.com.proxy.aup.fr/doi/full/10.1177/0306312714535679>

Geoff concludes his e-mail (and we agree), “I thought that this piece about citation was a more interesting argument for teaching good practice than the ways I have been teaching about plagiarism”. A conversation to be continued...

Other TLC News

TLC lunches

Wednesdays 12:15-1:15 in the **ARC** iSpace (Grenelle, ground floor):

3 October, 7 and 21 November

Themes to be announced.

Course/Syllabus Design Workshop

Scheduled for Wed. 17 Oct., this all-day workshop on course/syllabus design will be facilitated by Suzanna Klaf, Associate Director of Faculty Programs and Services at the Columbia University Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), New York City. Suzanna holds a Ph.D. in

Geography from The Ohio State University. We'll be sending out a message this week with more information; space will be limited.

Mellon Seminars/Workshops

Plans are currently in progress. Dates, times, locations, themes and facilitators will be announced soon.

Have a good week!

Your TLC

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