

Eleventh Ethical Forum of the University Foundation,

11 rue d'Egmontstraat, 1000 Brussels

Thursday 29 November 2012, 2-6pm

11th Ethical Forum of the University Foundation

“Scientific Fraud: How it is done, why it is done, and what can be done about it.”

There are few issues more important to universities than scientific fraud and its prevention. Integrity and truthfulness are the cornerstones of academic research. If universities are unable to guarantee honest, objective and accurate research, they lose their reason to exist. We would then be deprived of institutions in which research results are free of any commercial, political, religious or ideological manipulation.

If integrity is so crucial to universities, why are researchers sometimes compelled to manipulate their data or plagiarize the work of their colleagues? What do we know about the scale of academic fraud in modern universities? Is it true that academic institutions are eager to combat plagiarism among their students but reluctant to do the same among their staff? Why do some academics feel compelled to cheat? Is achievement pressure detrimental? Do we need to lower academic achievement standards or can we mitigate potentially fraudulent tendencies by introducing more codes of conduct and regulations? Perhaps what we need most of all is a thorough change of mentality within our research communities?

Programme

Registration: 1.30 pm

Part 1: 2.00 - 3.45 pm

Welcome address by Prof. Jacques Willems, Chairman of the University Foundation

Introduction to the subject by Prof. B. Pattyn, Coordinator of the Ethical Forum

Short keynote addresses (chaired by Prof. P. Van Parijs):

Daniele Fanelli, University of Edinburgh: “How Many Scientists Fabricate and Falsify Research?”
Michelle Bergadaà, Genova University : “The Inertia of the Academic System towards Plagiarism”
Pieter Drenth, Hon. President ALLEA (All European Academies): "Scientific Integrity and Social Responsibility: The Role of Academies of Sciences"

Interpellations from the floor

Coffee break: 15.45-16.15

Part 2: 4.15 - 6 pm

Panel discussion (chaired by Prof. P. Van Parijs):

Ad Lagendijk (Institute for Atomic and Molecular Physics AMOLF, Amsterdam)
Elisabeth Monard (Secretary General FWO)
Véronique Halloin (Secretary General FNRS)
Other panel members to be confirmed

General discussion

Conclusions by P. Van Parijs.

6 pm Reception

Written interpellations from the floor are invited. They are to be submitted by 15 November. If you would like to make a short statement (no more than 3 minutes) to which the final panel will have to comment on, please send a short written formulation of it (about 10 lines) to Bart Pattyn <Bart.Pattyn@oce.kuleuven.ac.be >. The organizing committee will select the interpellations to be included in the conference folder and presented verbally.

REGISTRATION FORM

Participation is free of charge but registration is required by 21 November 2012.

If you wish to attend, please send the following information as soon as possible to University Foundation, 11 rue d'Egmontstraat, 1000 Brussels, Belgium, Tel.: +32 2 545 04 20, Fax: +32 2 513 64 11, <fu.us@universityfoundation.be> :

Surname:

First name:

Institution:

Department:

Function:

Postal address:

E-mail:

- I intend to attend the Ethical Forum of 29 November 2012 (2-6 pm) and shall inform the Foundation at once if I am prevented from attending.
- At 12.15 pm, I wish to have lunch (main dish, dessert – drinks included) at the restaurant of the University Foundation (reservation strictly required) and transfer **20 €** into the account 000-0103946-59 or BIC GEBABEBB IBAN BE 21 2100 7148 4103 of the Club by 21 November 2012.