An advertisement for contract cheating: What this tells us about international students’ attitudes to academic integrity

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The context

- Part of a larger case study of a private HE pathway provider
- “Academic Identities of International Students in Pathway Programs: Pedagogical Implications”
In a conference earlier this year re Turnitin (and a recently submitted article) - of the numerous issues concerning its use, the most critical and the one most able to sabotage the efficacy was contract cheating.

Continuing on this path - focus on contract cheating by international students in a pathway program.
An advertisement?

- Because of the highly sensitive nature of this issue and the understandable reluctance of international student to be candid

- This presentation revolves around the information we can garner from an advertisement for this service.
Professional Assignment Writer

The team of Custom assignment (QC) is made of twenty Master and PHD students. Besides, QC is using professional against-plagiarism website to ensure the excellent quality and originality. It has big ranges from Business, Marketing, Economics, Management, HRM, etc. We can provide the service for essay, report and presentation.

Honesty: It is the basis of the establishment of our team. We will confirm with you about the due time of our task when we receive your confirmation, to ensure that you can receive your assignment on time before the due day. We have excellent reputation and we will never have any reason to excuse or delay it.

Originality: It is the basis of our development. All the assignments are written by Master and PHD students without cheating or plagiarism. QC is trying best to keep your assignment’s originality and excellence. Many of our clients got the top score of their assignments in class.

Truth: It is the character of our development. It has been 2 years since QC established. During these 2 years, we accumulate a lot valuable experiences. We never bluff that how excellent our writers are, but we can guarantee we treat every task with professional attitude.
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Honesty: It is the basis of our development. We will confirm with the time of delivery when we receive your contract. The principle of our service is to give your assignment on time. We have a good reputation and have never been excused or delay it.

Originality: It is the basis of our development. All the assignments are written by Master and PHD students without cheating or plagiarism. QC is trying best to keep your assignment's originality and excellence. Many of our clients got the top score of their assignments in class.

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All roads lead to...

• International students
• Business related studies
The literature

- Chair of Sydney University’s academic board, associate professor Peter McCallum, said there was a "disproportionately" high number of students from its business school who engaged in academic misconduct but that did not suggest it was a problem unique to business courses. 

- Cruz, Sousa and Wilks (2015, p. 1) undertook research that suggested “a statistically significant positive relationship between students’ intentions to become an entrepreneur and their attitudes towards plagiarism”.

- Widespread, commonplace academic misconduct in China, including ghost writing (Chen & Macfarlane, 2016).
Foreign Students Seen Cheating More Than Domestic Ones

Public universities in the U.S. recorded 5.1 reports of alleged cheating for every 100 international students, versus one report per 100 domestic students, in a Wall Street Journal analysis.

By

MIRIAM JORDAN and DOUGLAS BELKIN

Updated Jun 5, 2016 8:03 p.m. ET
Ruling Opens Door to Unions

The National Labor Relations Board, in a case involving Columbia University, has declined that graduate-student unions can hold elections at private colleges. Ruling offers a way to expanding rights to organize among academic professionals.

LEADERSHIP

Resignation Leaves a Vacuum at Berkeley

The sudden resignation of Michael Roth, a beloved university president, leaves a void that will be difficult to fill.

CAMPUS SAFETY

The Future of Title IX

In the Trump administration's efforts to weaken protections for victims of sexual harassment, the future of Title IX is uncertain. What will happen to the rights of survivors?

STIGMA

Stigma, Stress, and Fear

Most students and staff members of color have experienced racism. How do we address this issue?

At wealthy colleges, how many first-generation students are there? And how many students are paying off their loans?

Zika moves quickly, and scientists worry about its spread.

Gun violence scholarship grants:

People

A Leader Crosses the Border

The University of Virginia's law school has been criticized for hosting a speaker known for his anti-Muslim views.

Academic Arguments:

The Chronicle of Higher Education
Extrinsic vs intrinsic focus

**EXTRINSIC**
- Increased profits
- Career enhancement
- Promotion
- Salary upgrade

**INTRINSIC**
- Pride in your profession
- Self-respect
- Service to the community

If you don't know your own worth and value, then do not expect someone else to calculate it for you.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Characteristics of Entrepreneurship</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The entrepreneur is an opportunistic trader.</td>
<td>Kirzner (1973)</td>
<td>FOCUS ON ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL GAINS</td>
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<td>The entrepreneur carries out new combinations.</td>
<td>(Schumpeter, 1912, as cited in Baumol 1990, p.5)</td>
<td>INNOVATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entrepreneurial activity involves identifying opportunities within the economic system.</td>
<td>Penrose (1959 as cited in Ahmad and Seymour 2008, p.7)</td>
<td>OPPORTUNITY RECOGNITION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entrepreneurs attempt to predict and act upon changes within markets. The entrepreneur bears the uncertainty of market dynamics.</td>
<td>Knight (1921 as cited in Ahmad and Seymour 2008, p.7)</td>
<td>RISK-TAKING</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Win at all costs!

• “In this climate what counts most are numbers and results, and those who get results, those who make the grade, regardless of how they go about doing it, reap the benefits” (Willen, 2004, p. 56, original italics).

• Unethical academic behaviour by students equates to basic survival

• “a means to an end” (usually a university degree), particularly if students feel “overwhelmed by an abundance of busy work” (Wei et al, 2014, p. 294).
“Plagiarism is a form of deviant behavior frequent among students, and its penetration involves risk-taking and the pursuit of gains, which are also present in entrepreneurship.”

(Cruz, Sousa & Wilks, 2015, p. 1)
Destructive entrepreneurship

• White collar crime = unethical and destructive entrepreneurship (Baumol, 1990)

• Entrepreneurs are people:-

  “who are ingenious and creative in finding ways that add to their own wealth, power, and prestige, then it is to be expected that not all of them will be overly concerned with whether an activity that achieves these goals adds much or little to the social product ….” (Baumol 1990, p.7).

LEHMAN BROTHERS
Business ethics

“... the academic literature suggests that changing attitudes towards what constitutes acceptable behavior in the business world has been a contributory factor toward a decline in student honesty...” (Lane & Schaupp, 1989, cited in Brimble & Stevenson-Clarke, 2005, p. 1)

A two-way street.......

[Diagram showing a two-way relationship between Academic Ethics and Business Ethics]
Writing and academic identity

• Development of students’ language whether through oral or written means is inextricably linked to their enculturation and socialization into academic discourse communities and therefore the maturation of their identities and acceptance into those communities (Duff, 2010).

• The less written engagement, the less opportunity to become part of the community and the less likelihood of loyalty to the community or any desire to behave according to its norms.

• Aitchison & Mowbray (2016 P. 292) “deep engagement in the processes of writing” is “central to doctoral scholarship”.

• 
Therefore....

- Aitchison & Mowbray (2016, p. 297) ..”the marketization and commodification of doctoral writing is contributing to undermining the processes of writing as intrinsic to knowledge acquisition and identity construction”.

Anti-contract-cheating software

- Keystroke analytics ➔ student writing profile

- Trials at:
  - University of Melbourne
  - University of Sydney,
  - University of Queensland
  - Queensland University of Technology
Recommendations

**Short-term:**
- Technology (CADMUS)
- Less reliance on out-of-class assessments
  - Re-introduction of examinations
  - A viva component

**Medium-term:**
- Reconsider the nature of business education
- Stricter controls over entry requirements of international students (especially language skills)

**Long-term:**
- Re-focus higher education on the importance of the writing process as the means to academic discourse socialization
- Create a more collegial atmosphere (Temple et al, 2016)
  - with smaller classrooms (Cummings et al, 2002)
  - more personalised teaching
  - greater knowledge of one’s students
  - fostering a sense of students’ belonging (Klemenčič, 2016)
The world is being educated on our doorstep!