

## PLAGIARISM AND *BLAT* IN THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY: THE CASE STUDY FROM THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

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### ABSTRACT

Plagiarism, data falsification, and fabrication are examples of academic misconduct. Protection of a plagiarist from legal and professional consequences of plagiarism is not possible without the contribution of some senior academics. *Blat* is a Russian term meaning using social networks to get things done informally. Thus, *blat* as an informal practice may play a role in the academic institutions responsible for dealing with allegations of academic misconduct against scholars and researchers. Professor Mariusz Cygnar is a rector of the State School of Higher Vocational Education in Nowy Sacz, Poland, European Union. Professor Cygnar was accused of plagiarism publicly. Inquires made upon the Freedom of Information Act into professor Cygnar's case resulted in documents indicating on *blat*. For the first time, a set of documents translated from the Polish language into English, demonstrating the role of informality and *blat*, in plagiarism was made open for the international community.

**Keywords:** Informality, blat, scientific misconduct, plagiarism.