

BLAT, KOMPROMAT, AND THE 'LAW ON THE PHONE' AS ELEMENTS OF INFORMALITY PROMOTING STATE SUPPORT FOR PLAGIARISM IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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ABSTRACT

It is counterintuitive to think academic misconduct could be actively promoted by governmental organisations, e.g. the Ministry of Education and Science, the Police, prosecutors, judges, and politicians. Mariusz Cygnar serves as the rector to the State University of Applied Sciences in Nowy Sacz, Poland, European Union. A plethora of documents, along with Google search analyses presented in that paper, strongly suggests that the state agencies and politicians have protected rector Cygnar from legal and professional consequences of plagiarism. That unusual scale of protection and unlawful support to rector Cygnar may result from an alcohol & sex scandal. The theoretical framework for studying the scientific sociology of academic misconduct presented here is based on Pierre Bourdieu's teaching on the sociology of science. In addition, sociological apparatus suitable for describing some informal practices, e.g. *blat*, *kompromat*, and the "law on the phone", was applied.

Keywords: Informality, academic misconduct, plagiarism, Poland, European Union.