

14.3.2026

**Author**

PABIAN, Petr

**Title**

Why "cheating" research is wrong : new departures for the study of student copying in higher education / Petr Pabian

**Publication year**

2015

**Source/Footnote**

In: Higher education. - 69 (2015) 5, S. 809 - 821

**Inventory number**

38265

**Keywords**

Ausland : Tschechien : Studenten, Studium, Lehre ; Ausland : Tschechien : einzelne Hochschulen

**Abstract**

In this ethnographic study, I will show that students at Czech university departments employ copying strategies as part of the dominant educational practices centred on the 'replication' of authoritative knowledge. In the teaching/learning situations that we observed, teachers 'transmit' knowledge to students, who are expected to 'replicate' it in exams, which students manage by either memorization or copying; either way, students are excluded from knowledge construction. This educational configuration is re/produced not just by students and teachers but also by buildings and spaces built for frontal instruction; by projection technologies transmitting fixed knowledge; by students' community websites that enable sharing and electronic replication of lecture or crib notes; and by public policies of higher education funding or quality assurance. In conclusion, I will argue that many fundamental aspects of research on student so called 'cheating' need to be re-examined because this study demonstrates that student copying is integral to the dominant configuration in Czech higher education. This 'normality' of student copying challenges the moralist consensus of the literature,

**14.3.2026**

expressed in the very term 'cheating' as well as in proposals to counter student copying by instilling academic integrity in students, while ignoring complex higher education configurations. (HRK / Abstract übernommen) Pabian, Petr, E-Mail: petr.pabian@gmail.com