

Truth University

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(3)**

Disturbing news from universities and schools, plus exciting plans



"What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the human soul," Joseph Addison

This third issue of our newsletter, presents some of the harsh realities of universities and schools today.

Also, Truth University's plans for a better future and how you can play a pivotal part.

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically, Dr Martin Luther King

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Data fraud at Harvard Medical School

Fewer people going to University

Teacher loses Tribunal case after refusing to use a pupil's pronouns

1.Data fraud at Harvard Medical School

On 24 January 2024, *Nature* published an article on how earlier in the month the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI), an affiliate of the Harvard Medical School, was obliged to (a) retract 6 scientific studies and (b) correct 31 others published by the Institute's top researchers including its CEO, over a 20 year period.

The researchers were accused of manipulating data images with simple methods (eg photoshop). The accusations, brought by British molecular biologist data sleuth, Dr Sholto David and colleagues on PubPeer with, according to Dr Sholto, fraud like this explaining 'why the progress in cancer research is so slow despite billions being invested in basic research'.

Those implicated at the DFCI include three very senior personnel:

- a.President and CEO Laurie Glimcher
- b.Executive Vice-President and COO William Hahn
- c.Senior Vice-President for Experiential Medicine, Irene Ghobrial

Also, a Harvard Medical School Professor, Kenneth Anderson.

In addition to the original fraud, a further problem has surfaced. This is that the fraud investigation is being handled, internally, by the Research Integrity Officer, Barrett Rollins, a man with close academic and friendship connections to the people implicated. He also co-authored papers with three of the four accused and was very close to the CEO, Glimcher who referred to Rollins as her 'right-arm, a wise counselor, a loyal friend of thirty years and a cherished colleague'.

Likewise, Rollins spoke of his fondness for DFCI and the relationships that he's established with people who work at the institute. As he wrote: 'They are brilliant, they are kind, they are world-class leaders and they have become my friends'. (see <https://brokenscience.org/dana-farber-cancer-institute-is-committing-scientific-misconduct-with-its-handling-of-its-investigation/>)

This conflict of interests constitutes a breach of the Federal Research Misconduct policy and more serious still, the NIH provided funding of \$49,860,264 for 37 of the 51 papers identified by Dr David Sholto as having errors or manipulated data.

Were even a fraction of these papers funded by the NIH to be found to be examples of scientific misconduct, it would constitute: (a) an admission that the institute had wasted an enormous amount of taxpayer money and (b) Harvard would be open to civil and potentially even criminal charges under the False Claims Act.



2. Falsified data in an article that was accepted through the Peer Review process

Earlier this year, an article was accepted for publication that included a diagram that was clearly the work of AI. The article by a Chinese academic at Jiaotong University, was published in February 2024 by the journal 'Frontiers in Cell and Developmental biology' despite showing an illustration of a male rat with 'family jewels' that are anatomically and scientifically incorrect and hugely exaggerated.

The figure also includes indecipherable labels such as '*testtomcels*', '*senctolic*', '*dissilced*', '*iollotte sserotgomar*' and '*dizlocttal stem ells*'. At least the word '*rat*' is written correctly.

You can take a peep at the diagram by clicking on this [link](#). You can also ponder another illustration in the paper (this one is 'Figure 2'), purportedly showing the JAK-STAT signaling pathway. Again the words and numbers are made up as you can see from these descriptors: '*signal biiding the recetein*', '*Sinkecler*', '*dimimeriom eme*', '*Tramioncatiion of 2x&Eps*', '*o*', and '*proprounization*'. What do they mean?

As the article in the above [link](#) explains, 'generative AI will do serious harm to the quality, trustworthiness, and value of scientific papers' and it warns that 'recent advances in AI technology mean we're already past the stage where a human can distinguish a fake photo from a real photo. Just take this recent [New York Times quiz](#) to see if *you* can spot the difference.

Lessons? Big implications here for a University system that rests entirely on Peer Review.

3. Climate wars

In December 2023, a report by an atmospheric physicist, Dr Nicholas Cowan, working at the UK Research Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in Edinburgh stated that 'small, elevated concentrations of methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O)' released by humans 'both contribute to global warming ... we would urge caution in the assumption that emissions from humans are negligible.'

The reference to the existence of 'global warming' comes at a time when a new documentary film, featuring several prominent physicists, astrophysicists and meteorologists, argues against the presence of global warming, arguing that the earth is cooling down rather than warming up.

The [film](#) features Professors Stephen Koonin (ex Caltech), Dick Lindzen (ex MIT and Harvard), Will Happer (ex Columbia and Princeton), John Clauser (Nobel prize winner), Henrik Svensmark (National Space Institute, Denmark) and Nir Shaviv (Racah Institute of Physics, Hebrew University), all putting forward arguments against the mainstream man-made climate change.

The film offered an insight into the backlash facing those arguing against this narrative. As Shaviv said, people didn't like hearing the results and 'we became persona non grataif you don't agree with the standard polemic you become an outcast, you are shunned as if you have leprosy.'

A former academic, Dr Matthew Wileicki, said that 'To speak out about climate change in any sceptical way was essentially career suicide' 'there was no way that I could publish in quite a few of the mainstream journals that I was required to publish in'. What happened to academic freedom?



4. 'Exciting' news announced by Royal Holloway University – tweaks to Senior Management job titles!

Sometimes you wonder whether modern universities have completely lost their way. At the beginning of the Spring term 2023, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Royal Holloway, Britain, Prof Julie Sanders, [wrote to students](#) to say how 'excited' she was to announce changes in job titles for senior managers. Here is what she wrote:

'I'm really excited to announce that we have extended the title of Principal to include Vice-Chancellor, this allows for the title to continue honouring the history that comes with being Principal at Royal Holloway but also supports the modernisation of our leadership at the University.

We are also in the process of changing the titles of Senior Vice Principals to Pro-Vice-Chancellors and Vice-Principals to Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellors and as we start to make new appointments, you'll notice these titles come up more across our communication.

It is hoped that these modernisations will benefit you - our current students - and colleagues across the University, as well as bringing us in line with other comparable universities in the sector.'

If you had to suggest initiatives to modernise university management, would you really start with job titles? Rather than creating a flatter structure in which those at the top are closer to the academics delivering educational experiences to students?

Peter Mandler, Professor of History at Cambridge, wrote of a 'Dramatically growing gap between the senior management at most universities and working academics'.

Do the changes at Royal Holloway represent a massive missed opportunity? We write this in the knowledge that universities are extremely



hierarchical institutions, with the typical chain of command extending from Vice-Chancellor (V-C), Deputy V-C and Pro V-C to Dean of Faculty, Deputy Dean, Associate Dean and then teaching staff, and the knowledge that the modern literature on Strategy is awash with research on the benefits / disbenefits of this form of organisation.

In this way, a classic Danish study (Hakonsson *et al*, 2012) showed how, in practice, a controlling style of leadership is optimal in sectors characterised by low innovation. Conversely, where innovation is prioritised, more control should be passed to subordinates.

So, if Royal Holloway (like all legacy universities) perpetuates a steep hierarchy, this will support a strategy that preserves existing knowledge and discourages paradigm-breaking knowledge. The Peer Review system reinforces this control of knowledge, especially with much of the sector encouraged to publish in so-called 'top'4* journals with their typically narrow focus.

More on this theme can be found in the Truth University Press book *The Dark Side of Academia: How Truth is Suppressed* (can be purchased via the website) and the book also explains how non-hierarchical were the world's first universities. These were simply groups ('universitas') of teachers and students (*magistorum et scholarium*) and this significantly less hierarchical model is one to which we should arguably aspire today.

A less hierarchical model would free people to explore and push the boundaries of thinking, something currently very difficult to do within the system. We say this since research-active academics are weighed down by the twin demands of (a) bringing in research funding (with funding typically available only for paradigm-supporting research) and (b) publish in 'top' Peer Review journals. Unfortunately, these are most unlikely ever to publish research that questions prevailing paradigms.

Regrettably, a top-down hierarchy reinforces these twin pressures and evidence-based research is the casualty.



5. An academic at UCL was asked to amend a Masters course after a Chinese student complained.

UCL Associate Professor, Michelle Shipworth, lecturer in energy and social work, was asked to alter her masters course after a Chinese student complained that a seminar was 'horrible provocation'. This comment failed to recognise that the data presented to students, upholding a claim that China ranked high in its use of slavery, had flaws that the students were encouraged to discern.

Shipworth's manager, her Head of Department, removed her from the module that she had taught for ten years, reportedly saying that courses 'need to retain a good reputation among Chinese applicants' and need to be 'commercially viable'. She was invited not to write out to her students without first sharing her communication with UCL managers and, since she refused to have her academic freedoms curtailed in this way, wrote direct to the students.

She then went public with what had happened, telling *The Sunday Telegraph* that she felt obliged to 'expose' how universities are 'conceding to the censorship demands of some Chinese students'. She said the incident left her feeling 'suicidal' and certainly, the incident raises vital issues concerning academic freedoms in an institution such as UCL where 27% of students are Chinese, some paying over four times the fees of domestic students.

UCL responded: 'We have a long tradition of safeguarding freedom of speech and are committed to upholding the rights of our staff and students to exercise their academic freedom of inquiry'.

The reader can decide whether this is empty verbiage, with freedoms clearly eroded by financial interests. The consequences for teaching and research appear to be grave indeed.

6. An experienced teacher lost his Tribunal case following dismissal for failing to use a pupil's preferred pronouns.

Kevin Lister, 60, from Wiltshire, was dismissed in September 2022 for gross misconduct by New College Swindon for refusing to use a 17-year old pupil's preferred pronouns. In a post in social media, Lister said that this was:

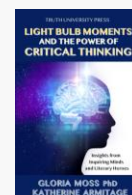
'Very bad news for the teaching profession and the thousands of families that have been destroyed by this ideology in ideology. I lost'.

'I represented myself because I had not, not because I wanted to. The NEU (the teachers union) withdrew their support. My insurance company would not pay and I didn't want to draw down on anyone else'.

I do not know what to say to all the teachers who are horrified about having to support this terrible ideology, and have left the profession over it, nor to the families that have been torn apart by it'.

One issue concerns the fact that although the UK Government's transgender guidance states that 'teachers and pupils in England will not be compelled to use a child's preferred pronouns', this is non-statutory guidance. So Kevin Lister was dismissed despite this guidance.

The lesson? One is that we must keep pressing for an education system that develops 'lively and enquiring minds' and Critical Thinking. This is the message of Truth University's latest book '[Light Bulb Moments and the Power of Critical Thinking](#)' which can be obtained through the website or infotruthuniversity@protonmail.com





**PLEASE JOIN US TO HELP US FIGHT FOR BETTER
EDUCATION FOR ALL!**

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- **A writer, producing a Critical Thinker guides and new school textbooks**
- **A Project manager to help us coordinate our activities**
- **A marketing expert to help us spread the word that there is another system of education**

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