



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A-07080048

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We received an allegation from the complainant¹ that a published paper² contained information taken from the complainant's NSF proposal.³ Because one of the authors of the paper had reviewed the NSF proposal, we considered this individual the subject.

A comparison of the text in the paper with the NSF proposal showed no verbatim copying. A comparison of the information discussed in the paper and the NSF proposal revealed that the alleged stolen information was very general in nature, discussing the future use of data collected with these types of studies. Further, the subject as well as the other authors of the paper had been working in the same research area as presented in the proposal for many years.

Given the general nature of the discussion in the paper combined with the common area of research for many years between the authors of the paper and the complainant, we determined that there was no credible evidence that the subject utilized any material from the complainant's proposal. This case is closed and no further action will be taken.

