

Date: 17.04.2024.

On 2024-04-11 we received from Dr David Blades (Senior Coordinator, Research Integrity and Governance RMIT University | Melbourne | Australia), Research and Innovation | Research Strategy and Services | Ethics, Integrity, and Governance, Report from Panel - Investigation of an Allegation of a Breach of Research Integrity against Dr Alex Arokiasamy.

The report was focused on two publications:

- Anantha Raj A. Arokiasamy, Philip Michael Ross Smith, Jayaraman Krishnaswamy, and Thanapat Kijbumrung, 'Knowledge Management and Firm Innovativeness: The Mediating Role of Innovative Culture on MNEs in Malaysia,' *Proceedings on Engineering Sciences* vol. 3, no. 3 (2021): 319-334. DOI:10.24874/PES03.03.008
- 2. Anantha Raj A. Arokiasamy and Jayaraman Krishnaswamy, 'Compatibility and Challenges of Implementing Total Quality Management in Education,' *Proceedings on Engineering Sciences* vol. 3, no. 4 (2021): 405-412. DOI:10.24874/PES03.04.004

It was reported about serious breaches by:

- collecting human data without ethics approval,
- including as a co-author someone who was unaware of his inclusion in the publication and neither contributed to the research nor consented to its publication, and
- publishing papers that are 77% (paper 1) and 54% (paper 2) similar to other publications.

These breaches were considered serious.

Following the highest and recommended standards defined by COPE <u>https://publicationethics.org/</u> we sent above mentioned documents to PES – Editorial Board Ethical Committee consist of:

- 1. dr Miladin Stefanovic, University of Kragujevac (Serbia)
- 2. dr Bülent Eker, Namık Kemal University (Turkey)
- 3. dr Cristiano Fragassa, University of Bologna (Italy)

PES – Editorial Board Ethical Committee had meeting on 16.04.2024. and provide full analysis of available reports and documentations, also they examined existing Plagiarism reports and performed new one.

They concluded that corresponding author Anantha Raj A. Arokiasamy conducted serious breaches of ethics by publishing papers that are 77% (paper 1) and 54% (paper 2) similar to other publications.

The PES – Editorial Board Ethical Committee DECIDED to RETRACT manuscripts DOI:10.24874/PES03.03.008 and DOI:10.24874/PES03.04.004

The decision will be sent to Technical Editor dr Hrvoje Puskaric for full implementation.

The decision will be published on PES web site (<u>https://pesjournal.net/news.php</u>) and delivered to the following as well:

- Mr Anantha Raj A. Arokiasamy
- Dr David Blades

In Kragujevac, Serbia 17.04.2024.

Co-Editor in Chief President of Ethical Committee

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dr Miladin Stefanovic Proceedings on Engineering Sciences