

# *International Research*

## *Potential Concerns Regarding Research Misconduct*

An NSF-supported researcher who travels outside the U.S. to collaborate in research may encounter instances of potential research misconduct. The core definitions of research misconduct – fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism – extend across borders. As in the U.S., differences of opinion or honest error are not research misconduct. More serious concerns may leave the researcher uneasy about how best to proceed. An international researcher should be aware of differences in policies and procedure, and sensitive to differences in culture and background. Consider the issues listed below, and references listed below that may provide some guidance.

### **Cultural Differences**

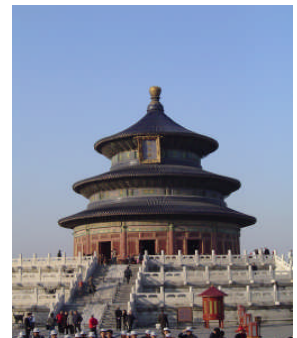
Communication for awkward issues may be especially difficult  
Precedents, norms, and traditions of conduct are likely different  
Attention provided to difficult issues may differ from your experience

### **Potential Differences in Expectation**

Authorship of papers and presentations  
Proprietary research  
Intellectual property rights  
Scope of definition of misconduct and questionable research practices

### **Helpful References**

“Crossing cultures”  
<http://www.peacecorps.gov/wvs/publications/culture/>  
<http://www.peacecorps.gov/wvs/publications/crossingcultures/>  
“Best Practices for Ensuring Scientific Integrity. . .”  
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/37/17/40188303.pdf>  
“Global Ethics Observatory”  
[www.unesco.org/shs/ethics/geobs](http://www.unesco.org/shs/ethics/geobs)  
Office of Research Integrity “Mentoring International Postdocs”  
[http://www.ori.hhs.gov/education/products/chop\\_mentoring/](http://www.ori.hhs.gov/education/products/chop_mentoring/)



### **For more information contact NSF Office of Inspector General**

<http://www.nsf.gov/oig/>; email [oig@nsf.gov](mailto:oig@nsf.gov)  
Phone 703-292-7100 or 1-800-428-2189 FAX 703-292-9158  
NSF OIG Research misconduct brochure: <http://www.nsf.gov/oig/brochure.pdf>