Plagiarism in the Social Sciences

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Gary (Hoov) Hoover is the Chair of the Department of Economics and the holder of a Distinguished Presidential Professorship at the University of Oklahoma. He is the co-chair of the American Economics Association Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession, the founder and editor of the *Journal of Economics, Race, and Policy*, and a fellow at CESifo Group Munich. He was previously the Associate Dean for Faculty and Graduate Student Development in the College of Business Administration at the University of Alabama.

This presentation reports the results of Enders and Hoover (2004) who surveyed economics journal editors about their definition of plagiarism and known cases. They found that nearly 24% of responding editors encountered one case of plagiarism in a typical year. In addition, this presentation reports the results of a follow-up survey of 1,200 professionals in the economics profession. That survey found that many of the respondents were not aware of the distinction between copyright infringement and plagiarism. In addition, that survey found that a substantial portion of the reported cases of plagiarism could be classified as ‘hierarchal’. Finally, this presentation reports the results of a follow-up survey of social science journal editors done by Stitzel et al. (2018). That work investigated what, if anything, has changed in regards to how journal editors react to suspected plagiarism and if the definition of plagiarism has changed. There is great variation within disciplines regarding the appropriate definition of plagiarism or punishments but fairly consistent agreement across disciplines.

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