Authorship

Role Play:

This is a 2-person role play involving an Assistant Professor and a Principal Investigator with whom s/he is collaborating.

Roles:

Assistant Professor

Principal Investigator

Character Description:

Assistant Professor

You are an assistant professor coming up for promotion next year. You do not have a grant of your own and were invited to work on a funded project that is of great professional interest to you and relevant to your career trajectory. You conducted qualitative research and supervised interviews, ensuring that they were accurate and consistent, and took responsibility for the analysis.  In addition to supervising the qualitative data collection and analysis, you developed a typology of workplaces which functioned as a major basis for the intervention.

Just as you complete a manuscript to be sent off for publication based on the data analysis you’ve completed, the Principal Investigator asks for a copy of the manuscript and the final version of the data. She then informs you that she is leaving, effective the next week, for a new job at another university.  A colleague of yours warns you that you’d better do something immediately to be sure that the Principal Investigator doesn’t try to steal your publication, change the study’s data or control access to the data.

Character Description:

Principal Investigator

You are an extremely ambitious faculty member who has been struggling to create a research program that you hope will ensure a successful academic career. The purpose of your current $1,000,000-funded project is to develop a workplace intervention.  To your dismay, you have found that your students do not seem to key in on critical information you are seeking, so you have had to tell them how to direct the interviews to get the kinds of data you need.  You also warn them that if they can’t get the kind of information you seek in the interviews, then you will not be able to use them or pay them to help you do the research.

In addition, you have hired a young assistant professor as a research associate whose role is to conduct qualitative research on the project. S/he has just completed those interviews and cleaned the data. You and she have not had a satisfactory relationship. At a recent retreat, s/he had the audacity to accuse you of urging some of your undergraduate research assistants to fudge data to agree with the hypotheses stated in your research proposal.

*Scenario*

Assistant Professor has arranged a discussion with the Principal Investigator

*Assistant Professor:* “Thanks for agreeing to meet with me. I was a little surprised to hear that you have taken a new job at another university and will be taking my data with you.”

*Principal Investigator:* “Yes. I have accepted a position at a neighboring institution and will begin working over there in the next two weeks. Because I will be departing soon, I asked you to send me a final version of the data, which you just finished cleaning and organizing from the project. I plan to move this forward and disseminate the research findings.”

Assistant Professor: How do you respond?