



Ubuntu-informed Approaches to Addressing Plagiarism and the use of Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education

Susie Brigham and Randy Headley (Mount Saint Vincent University)

With more AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT) at students' fingertips to assist in their academic writing, we address these questions: 1. What is the general understanding of academic integrity/plagiarism of a group (n=80) of university students of African descent? 2. How can faculty be culturally relevant and responsive in their support of students who are grappling with issues of academic integrity/plagiarism and their use of AI? 3. How can Black students be empowered to use AI as a tool for academic writing? To explore these complex issues we draw on the philosophy of Ubuntu. We refer to an electronic survey completed by 80 university students of African descent. We recommend Ubuntu-inspired pedagogical approaches to teaching and learning about plagiarism and the ethical use of AI tools that support students' academic writing practices. We also point to issues of policy development on academic integrity.

References

- Michalak, R., Rysavy, M., Hunt, K., Smith, B., & Worden, J. (2018). Faculty perceptions of plagiarism: Insight for librarians' information literacy programs. *College & Research Libraries*, 79(6), 747–767. <https://doi.org/10.5860/crl.79.6.747>
- Ngomane, M. (2019). *Everyday Ubuntu: Living together, the African way*. Appetite.
- Ngubane, N., & Makua, M. (2021). Ubuntu pedagogy–transforming educational practices in South Africa through an African philosophy: from theory to practice. *Inkanyiso: Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 13(1), 1-12.
- Oleson, K. C. (2020). *Promoting Inclusive Classroom Dynamics in Higher Education: A Research-based Pedagogical Guide for Faculty*. Stylus Publishing, LLC.
- Price, M. (2002). Beyond “Gotcha!”: Situating plagiarism in policy and pedagogy. *College Composition and Communication*, 54(1), 88–115. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1512103>
- Tutu, D. (1999). *No future without forgiveness*. Doubleday.