



Richard Holdaway <turnagra@gmail.com>

Re: Rawlence et al - access to Johnston thesis before March 2015

1 message

Claude Hillaire-Marcel <hillaire-marcel.claude@uqam.ca> 10 September 2016 at 01:18

To: Richard Holdaway <turnagra@gmail.com>

Cc: David Hawke <David.Hawke@ara.ac.nz>, Travis Horton <travis.horton@canterbury.ac.nz>, Nicola Hansen <nicola@nicolahansen.co.nz>, Daniel Lovegrove <m.frykfors@elsevier.com>, "Barrett, Debbie (ELS-EXE)" <d.barrett@elsevier.com>

Dear Dr. Holdaway,

Thank you for your message below. I am sorry to hear about the fate of the submissions made in 2015 by your group. Nevertheless, as indicated in my previous message, we will be much attentive to the results of the investigations carried on by the University of Canterbury. As far as I know, we have not yet received any report from this source.

With respect to your concern about the selection of reviewers, I may insure you that potential conflicts of interests are indeed taken into account. However, the increasing number of co-authors of papers, frequent homonymies and emergence of global research networks make this task sometimes difficult. The most stringent requirement lies so far into the instructions to reviewers who are asked to disclose any potential conflict of interest prior to accepting to review a paper.

With my best regards,

Claude Hillaire-Marcel
Editor in chief, QSR

> On Sep 9, 2016, at 12:56, Richard Holdaway <turnagra@gmail.com> wrote:

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- > Dear Prof Hillaire-Marcel
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- > The University of Canterbury informed me on Wednesday last of their intention to send you the results of their investigation into access to the embargoed Johnston thesis. I am assuming that they have done so.
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- > We have been conducting our own investigation into who may have been aware of the existence of the embargoed thesis and its possible relevance to the Rawlence et al. MS. To our knowledge, the only other researchers who would have known of the thesis's existence were reviewers of our MS submitted first to Plant & Soil in May 2015, and after its eventual rejection, to Science of the Total Environment in late March 2016.
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- > The second submission is too late to be relevant here. The MS submitted to the journal two weeks after Dr Rawlence obtained a full copy of the thesis on 7 March 2016 (as was confirmed earlier this week by the University of Canterbury, despite Dr Rawlence's statement to the contrary in the letter you copied to me).
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- > The list of suggested reviewers submitted to Plant & Soil in May 2015, one of more of whom may have been consulted and hence would have known of the thesis's existence, was:
- >
- > [REDACTED]
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- > The date of this first submission also demonstrates that we began attempting to publish elements of the thesis within the first year of the embargo.
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- > I have been given to understand that one of the reviewers of the Rawlence et al. MS [REDACTED] [REDACTED] has published regularly with Dr Wood, one of the authors of Dr Rawlence's paper and in my experience it is not usual practice to have invite reviews from individuals with such close collaborative linkages.
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> I hope these details are of use in your investigation.
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> Thank you for your attention.
>
> Regards
>
> Richard N Holdaway
>
> Palaecol Research Ltd

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