

Io accuso... Giuffrè

In Academia, the country of the free mind and the exploration of truth, there are ethical norms directing the citizens and the organizations. The right to think freely and the obligation to acknowledge others thoughts and work are among the most important norms.

I accuse the Italian publisher, Giuffrè, to violate the obligation to acknowledge others thoughts and work. Giuffrè is not a worthy citizen of Academia. Giuffrè is a disgrace of Academia.

The year 2005 Giuffrè published an edited book in Italian. In September 2013 I received information that indicated that the book contained one chapter that was largely a copy of a chapter from a book in English, published by a German publisher 2003. The very same day I inspected the books and although Italian is not a language of my knowledge, I found that the information was correct. Since the Italian chapter did not acknowledge the origin of the work and thoughts, it is plagiarism, thus breaking a fundamental norm of Academia.

If plagiarism is discovered, the ethical act is to withdraw the publication immediately and to do the outmost of activities in order to reduce the existence of the publication, including exchanging it to a proper volume at libraries. An example I know of is a Swedish publisher, that when informed about one chapter in a book being a piece of plagiarism, they withdraw the publication, destroyed the copies, printed a new version, with a original chapter instead of the copied chapter, and made great efforts in exchanging the book at libraries. That is proper ethical behaviour in Academia.

I have reason to believe (due to normally reliable multiple sources) that the plagiarism were known in October 2010 by the editor and by the leading professor of the university where the plagiarising author and the editor were (and still is) employed. In Academia, everyone has the duty to uphold the norms of Academia. One obvious question is why the professors did not inform Giuffrè that the book contained plagiarised material, thus making it possible for Giuffrè to withdraw the book. Or maybe they did? And Giuffrè did not act in accordance to the norms of Academia?

I bought the book in an Italian town 10 of October 2012. That very day, Giuffrè sold a book with stolen material to me! Maybe they were not informed by what then would be corrupted professors, hiding unethical acts. Maybe Giuffrè was an innocent criminal in Academia?

In October, 14, 2012, I informed Giuffrè and the Rector of the university that the book contained stolen material. Giuffrè could now do what I did, inspect the two books and find out the plagiarism, and then immediately withdraw the book. It took me one hour to find out the plagiarism.

In February, 1, 2013, I tried to order the book at the web page of Giuffrè. I succeeded. More than three months after Giuffrè got the information about the plagiarism, they were selling the book containing the plagiarised chapter. That is a violation of a basic norm of Academia, performed by Giuffrè. In my eyes, Giuffrè is a receiver, a trader of stolen goods.

Italy has a reputation of corruption and low ethical standards. I am surprised of the Italian reputation when I look at my Italian friends. They are extremely hard working, trustable individuals with very high ethical standards. They are perfect members of Academia. It appears that Italy contains two separate societies. One of disgrace and low ethical standards, where Giuffrè is a member. And one of honourable men and women, implementing and living the norms of Academia.

Io accuso! Giuffrè, you are a disgrace to Academia. Leave Academia, Giuffrè! Honourable women and men of Academia, boycott the receiver Giuffrè. Giuffrè is not worthy respect.

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