



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A12080051

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OIG received an allegation of intellectual theft and plagiarism in an NSF Proposal¹ with a PI and co-PI.² Specifically, we found a copied figure which lacked adequate attribution and we found no references in the proposal to existing capabilities in the discipline. Based on the evidence and the Subjects' responses to our inquiry letter, we determined that, while there was inadequate attribution to the source of the figure, the Subjects' actions did not rise to the level of research misconduct. We also determined that the allegation of intellectual theft was unsubstantiated. We sent the Subjects a Questionable Research Practice letter, reminding them of the importance of being diligent in attribution practices.

This case is closed and no further action will be taken.