Academic integrity vs (?) assessment security

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Some declarations before we get started

- I support the positive missions of AfL and AI
- I think cheating is symptomatic of broader educational and socioeconomic concerns
- I think universities have a responsibility to take reasonable measures to prevent and detect cheating

- I receive research funding from ed tech companies (including Turnitin), but these are my opinions, not theirs
- CRADLE has bought contract cheating assignments
- My mum helped me contract cheat in year four

Universities report catching 'contract cheats'

Student surveys reveal 15.7% admit buying essays, which equates to ~370,000 cases

■ Number

UK

Students who say they have bought essays

Australia, extrapolated from
Bretag et al 2018
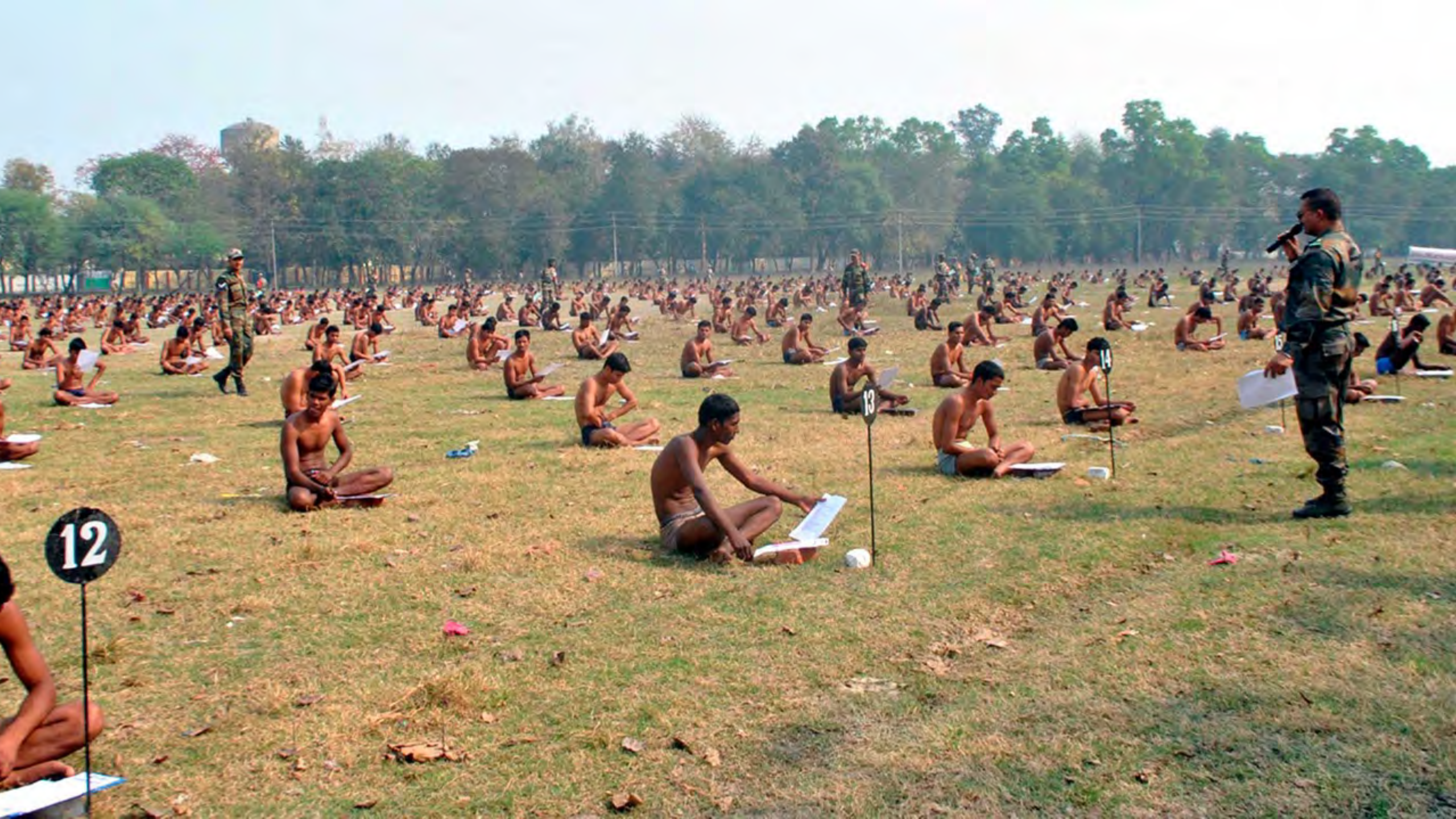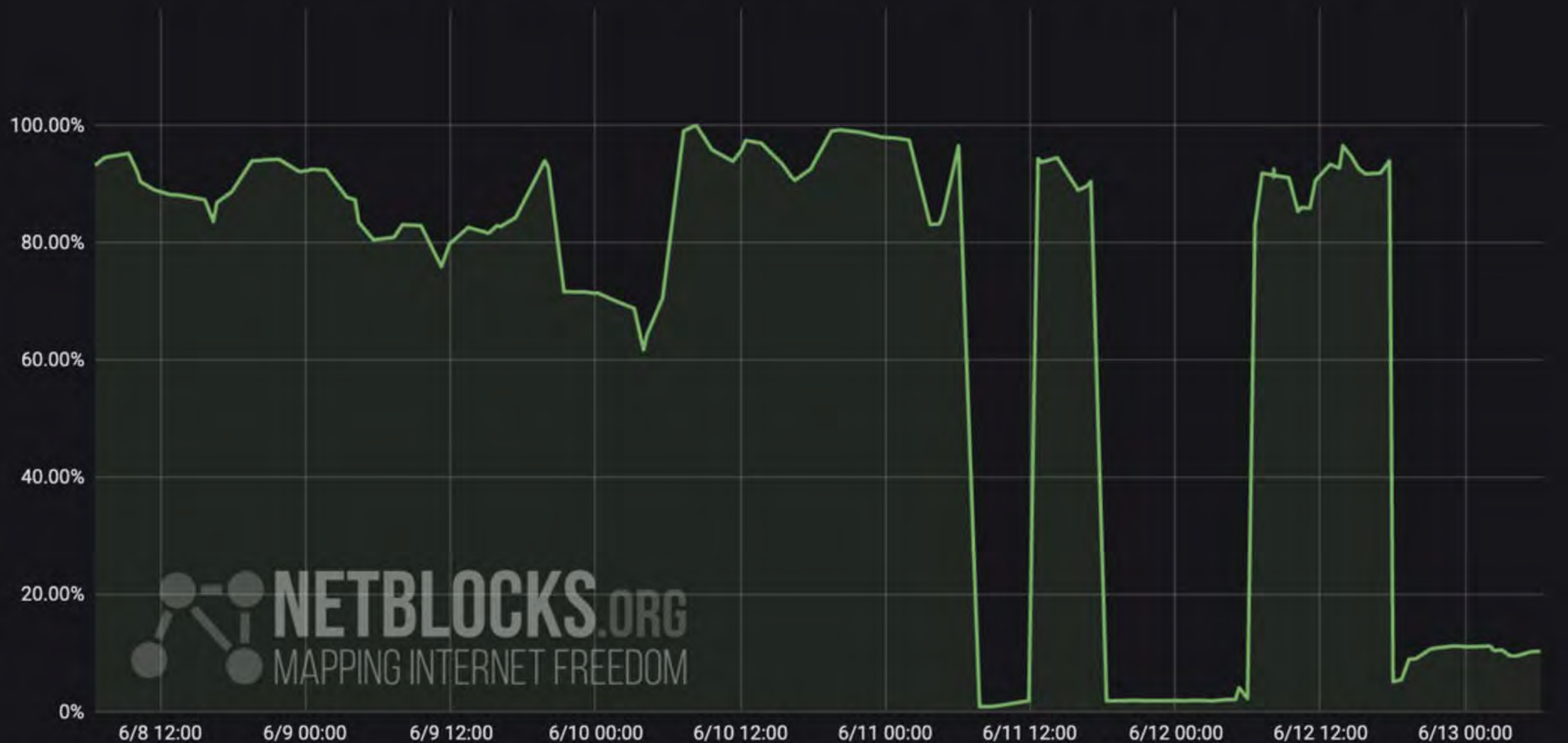
~80k total
avg. ~2k per uni

Australia   ???

UK

0	100,000	200,000	300,000

FASTCHARTS.IO

河洛中学
HELUO MIDDLE SCHOOL

NetBlocks.org: Network Connectivity, Ethiopia: 2019-06-08 to 2019-06-13 UTC

	min	max	current
Ethiopian Telecommunication Corporation,AS24757	0.741%	100.062%	10.198%

Assessment for learning

Cheating panic

Assessment conservatism

"Assessment conservatism"

- Lack of authenticity
- Restrictions and surveillance
- Individualistic

We need academic integrity AND assessment security

Academic Integrity

- **Positive**
- **Trusting**
- **Educative**

'crime prevention'

Assessment security

- **Negative**
- **Adversarial**
- **Punitive**

'policing' or 'surveillance'

What do you currently do to enhance AI/AS?

Fundamental values of academic integrity

- Honesty
- Trust
- Fairness
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Courage

'Just turn to us': the persuasive features of contract cheating websites

Susan Rowland[a,b] iD, Christine Slade[a] iD, Kai-Sheng Wong[b] and Brooke Whiting[b]

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You don't always get what you pay for: User experiences of engaging with contract cheating sites

Wendy Sutherland-Smith & Kevin Dullaghan

Talk about

- Trust

- Interactivity and support

- Quality

- Cost

Rowland et al

Sutherland-Smith & Dullaghan

UTS Academic Integrity Board Game - instruction...

Watch later   Share

How To Play The Academic Integrity Board Game

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
ACTION AGAINST CONTRACT CHEATING

October 18

Sheffield Hallam University   SHEFFIELD HALLAM STUDENTS' UNION

DUSA DEAKIN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION INC.

JOIN DUSA   WHAT'S ON   CLUBS & SOCIETIES   SP

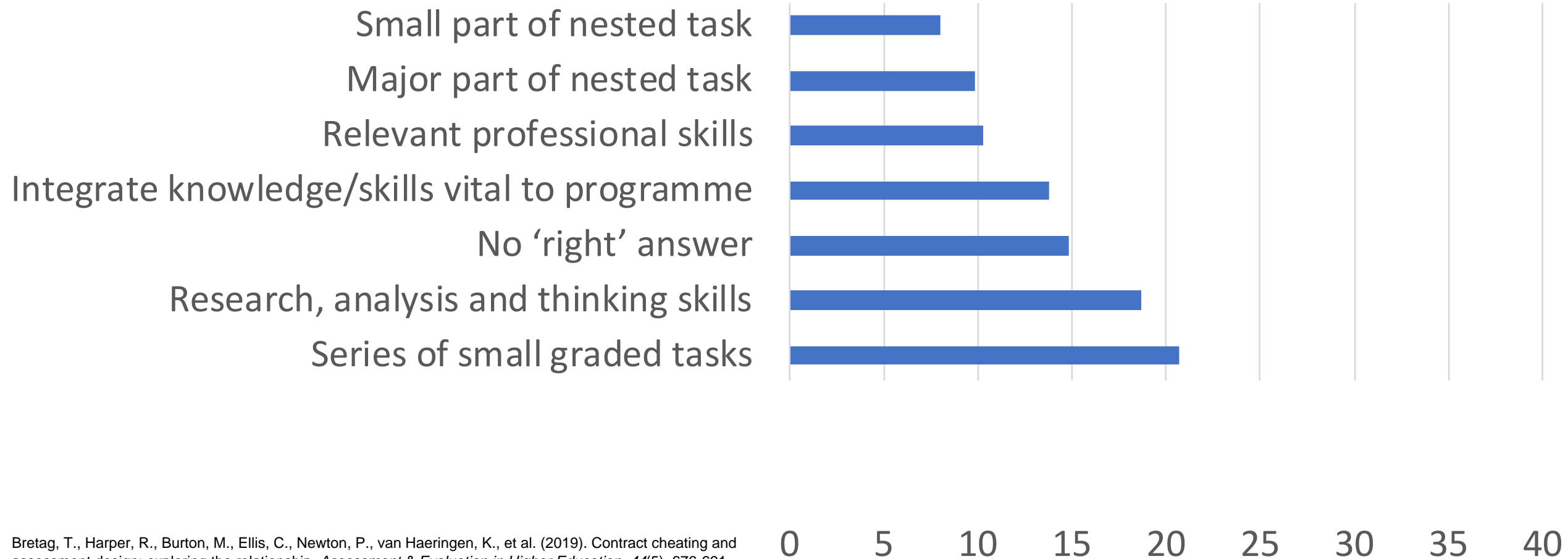**Contract Cheating: Forewarned is Forearmed**

May

Now that Trimester 1 is well and truly underway it's important not to be drawn in by the false promises of Contract Cheating websites – a common trap for students experiencing difficulties with their studies. But with that quick fix not only comes the risk of getting caught and failing your unit, it brings a broad range of other consequences that you might not have considered.

So, what are the other consequences of Contract Cheating?

Students' perceptions of the likelihood of contract cheating (%)

Bretag, T., Harper, R., Burton, M., Ellis, C., Newton, P., van Haeringen, K., et al. (2019). Contract cheating and assessment design: exploring the relationship. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education, 44*(5), 676-691.

"measures taken to harden assessment against attempts to cheat; this includes approaches to detect and evidence attempts to cheat, as well as attempts to make cheating more difficult."

(Dawson, forthcoming, "Defending Academic Integrity in the Digital Age: Preventing E-Cheating and Managing Assessment Security in Higher Education", Routledge)

Reusing the same assessment task

Unsupervised online tests

Take-home "one right answer" or lower-level tasks

Poor examination practices

Don't just crack down on 'cheat companies' — an assessed essays?

Accuracy at detecting contract cheating (%)

0   20   40   60   80   100

False positive rate (%)

Learnings about detection

Contract cheating sites do reflection poorly

Discipline-specific knowledge; detection; training

Viva had 100% detection rate; seems too good, needs follow-up before we publish

Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group

Check for updates

Can markers detect contract cheating? Results from a pilot study

Phillip Dawson[a] and Wendy Sutherland-Smith[b]

[a]Centre for Research in Assessment and Digital Learning (CRADLE), Deakin University, Geelong, Australia; [b]School of Psychology, Faculty of Health, Deakin University, Burwood, Australia

Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education

Can software improve marker accuracy at detecting contract cheating? A pilot study of the Turnitin authorship investigate alpha

Phillip Dawson, Wendy Sutherland-Smith & Mark Ricksen

What do you do to secure assessment against contract cheating?

Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group

OPEN ACCESS   Check for updates

Can training improve marker accuracy at detecting contract cheating? A multi-disciplinary pre-post study

Phillip Dawson[a] and Wendy Sutherland-Smith[b]

CRADLE suggests ...

'How to detect contract cheating'

cradle

THE RESEARCH PROJECT

In 2016 and 2017 the CRADLE team worked with markers from across Deakin on experimental research to improve the detection of contract cheating. Together, we identified the following recommendations on how to improve the detection of contract cheating.

Tell markers to look for/be aware of contract cheating when marking

Our study shows markers are much more likely to detect contract cheating if told to be aware of it and to look for it when marking.

Tell students you know contract cheating is out there and your markers are looking for it

Advise them that under Deakin policy it is regarded as serious breach of integrity.

Ask markers to use their discipline knowledge to spot contract cheating

Expertise in contract cheating detection is not enough.

Look for lack of appropriate discipline theory

For example, when an assessment task asked for psychological theory on development, contract cheating sites used medical development theory instead

Contract cheating assignments often lacked key theorists covered in unit

Look for missing sections

Contract cheating assignments lacked particularly tables, figures & reflections; reflections were done particularly poorly (if at all).

Think about assessment task structure

Essay tasks are the easiest for contract cheating sites to produce; consider setting non-traditional tasks

Contract cheating sites often did not follow instructions well; consider using templates or providing helpful guidance to students.

Consider vivas (or alternate assessment)

Follow-up studies show that it was much harder for students to contract cheat when they were asked to engage in a dialogue with markers about their work.

Centre for Research in Assessment and Digital Learning

CRADLE suggests is a series of briefings from the Centre for Research and Assessment in Digital Learning (CRADLE), which translates our own research into practice-based possibilities.

FIND MORE

Dawson, P., & Sutherland-Smith, W. (2018). Can markers detect contract cheating? Results from a pilot study. Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education, 43(2), 286-293. doi:10.1080/0260 2938.2017.1336746.

CRADLE TEAM MEMBERS

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A/Prof Wendy Sutherland-Smith (School of Psychology; CRADLE Fellow)

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Tropicus Cancri

Tropicus Capricorni

Circulus Arcticus

Circulus Antarcticus

Circulus Aequinoctialis

Aequinoctialis

Polus Arcticus

Polus Antarcticus

MEXICANA

PERUANA

MAGALLANICA

Programmatic assessment

'Cheat-proofing' every act of assessment is resource intensive and bad for learning

Provide high-security assessments for program outcomes

Academic integrity needs to be assured across a program, not in every task

Practical things to do now

- Balance security and integrity
- Ask markers to look for contract cheating
- Talk with students about the dangers of cheating
- Secure the tasks that matter for the program
- Help build the evidence base to avoid assessment conservatism