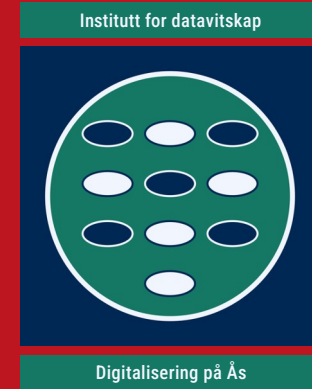


Noregs miljø- og  
biovitenskaplege  
universitet



## 4 Research impact and ethics

4.1 Plagiarism vs. copyright

4.2 What is needed for the nearly finished report?

**4.3 Re-use of own material (so-called "self-plagiarism")**

DAT390

# Nightmare in Norway

## SELVPLAGIAT

### Begge kopierte mye fra egen tekst. Den ene slapp straff, den andre ble utestengt i ett år

En student som kopierte 27 prosent av en tidligere innlevering, ble utestengt i to semestre. Men ved et annet universitet fikk det ingen konsekvenser at en student kopierte 40 prosent.



## SOMMER I KHROM

### — Be en tils

— Det er helt greit å gjenbruke akademiske artikler og bø



## RETSSAK

### Ble anklaget for å skrive av sin egen eksamen — tapte i retten

Studenten gikk til sak da Høgskolen i Innlandet utestengte henne i to semestre for å ha brukt deler av egen eksamen på en kontekstsamen.



## et selvplagiat er

er av populærvitenskapelige essays i  
vendt, mener Gisle Selnes.



# Nightmare in Norway

**SELVPLAGIAT**  
**Begge kopierte mye fra egen tekst. Den ene slapp straff, den andre ble utestengt i ett år**  
En student som kopierte 27 prosent av en tidligere innlevering, ble utestengt i to semestre. Men ved et annet universitet fikk det ingen konsekvenser at en student kopierte 40 prosent.



**DEBATT • INGIERD, DAMMEN, ØSTERHAUG OG ENEBAKK**

**Selvplagiat er ikke plagiat**  
I forskningsetisk forstand er selvplagiat et meningsløst begrep, skriver De nasjonale forskningsetiske komiteene (FEK).



**YTRING**  
**Selvplagiering er ikke fus**

Plagiering og juks på eksamen og masteroppgaver er gjenbruk av eget stoff er en del av den vitenskapelige praksis. Utstenging av studenter på grunn av selvplagiat er en overreaksjon.



## Minst 90 studenter utestengt for selvplagiat. Ett universitet skiller seg ut

Mens Universitetet i Agder har utestengt 37 studenter i saker om selvplagiering, har ikke Universitetet i Tromsø utestengt noen.



# Template for agreements with the main advisors

## Why is it necessary?

- Sanctions against “self-plagiarism” in Norway have been excessive.
- The problem is being discussed as if it was a kind of plagiarism.
- Reusing own material in an exam is very different from plagiarism.

Pursuant to NMBU's *retningslinjer «behandling av mistanke om fusk»*, point 3.2h, permission to reuse own material is hereby granted by *aforementioned main advisor* to *aforementioned student* for a master thesis on the thesis topic indicated above.

The permission extends to the student's own material that has been created more recently than three years before the master thesis due date. It does not extend to older material.

Content and ideas from the DAT390 report can be reused for the master thesis.

It is left at the student's discretion whether or how a reference (*i.e.*, citation or other pointer, *e.g.*, a footnote) to the original source of reused own material should be included. An omission to do so will not in itself be judged to constitute academic misconduct.

The template can be found under Files/for-both-sections/material

# Background for developing the template

**Basic proposition 1:** We accept the **definitions of plagiarism** endorsed by De nasjonale forskningsetiske komiteene (FEK), such as the one from NENT's Forskningsetiske retningslinjer for naturvitenskap og teknologi:

«Å plagiere innebærer å framstille andres ideer eller forskning som sitt eget.»

... and the one from the RINO project:

«Å fremstille andres arbeid (ideer, materiale, tekst) som sitt eget ved å utelate henvisning til opphavskilden».

**Basic proposition 2:** Reuse of own material cannot be plagiarism, as this would contradict the definition of plagiarism. Therefore, **there is no self-plagiarism.**

# Background for developing the template

## Scenario:

Researcher *A* submits a paper *P* to a scientific journal, and it is eventually accepted for publication, and published. Paper *P* contains text and ideas from term paper *Q*, which *A* wrote when studying; the paper *Q* was then only sent to his lecturer, corrected and graded by the lecturer, and sent back to *A*.

Is this plagiarism?

Is it illegitimate reuse of own material?

Should *A* have included a citation to “secret” term paper *Q* in journal paper *P*?

Recall NMBU’s document:

G. **Plagiarism is cheating**. Examples of plagiarism: Reproduction or quotes from books, articles, websites, **own or others' assignments**, use of images, graphs and the like without source reference, quotation mark or other acknowledgment in the text / picture / drawing **showing where the material is taken from**.

# Background for developing the template

## Scenario:

Researcher *A* submits a paper *P* to a scientific journal, and it is eventually accepted for publication, and published. Paper *P* contains text and ideas from term paper *Q*, which *A* wrote when studying; the paper *Q* was then only sent to his lecturer, corrected and graded by the lecturer, and sent back to *A*.

Is this plagiarism?

Is it illegitimate reuse of own material?

Should *A* have included a citation to “secret” term paper *Q* in journal paper *P*?

No – this is all nonsense.

**Basic proposition 3a:** It **can be legitimate to reuse own material** from exams and term papers. It can also be legitimate to reuse other own material.

**Basic proposition 3b:** It is **not in general obligatory to include a reference** to previous use of the same own material in an exam or term paper.

# Background for developing the template

## Reflection:

–Why do we conduct exams?

–Why is it a meaningful process to submit and defend a thesis?

Assessment is meant to be constructively aligned with the learning outcomes.

Assessment is meaningful as a way to demonstrate that  $A$  has competency  $C$ .

If  $A$  through the same own work  $P$  can demonstrate both competency  $C$  and  $D$ , the university needs a good reason to reject using  $P$  twice for this purpose.

**Basic proposition 4a:** Reuse of own material from one assessment (exam, term paper, thesis) in another assessment detracts from the meaningfulness of the process **only if it interferes with showing that learning outcomes are reached.**

**Basic proposition 4b:** That will be the case if own content is **reused after a long time** (rule of thumb: over three years) without explicit permission.

**Basic proposition 4c:** Where there is no such interference, it is unproblematic.



# What should we ask advisors to sign?

**(3a)** It **can be legitimate to reuse own material** from exams and term papers. It can also be legitimate to reuse other own material.

**(3b)** It is **not in general obligatory to include a reference** to previous use of the same own material in an exam or term paper.

**(4a)** Reuse of own material from one assessment (exam, term paper, thesis) in another assessment detracts from the meaningfulness of the process **only if it interferes with showing that learning outcomes are reached**.

**(4b)** That will be the case if own content is **reused after a long time** (rule of thumb: over three years) without explicit permission.

**(4c)** Where there is no such interference, it is **unproblematic**.

**(5a)** Pursuant to [NMBU's retningslinjer "behandling av mistanke om fusk," point 3.1h,<sup>1</sup>](#) **permission to reuse own material** is hereby granted to student \_\_\_\_\_ for a thesis on \_\_\_\_\_.

**(5b)** This extends to all own material **created less than three years before** thesis due date.

**(5c)** In particular, content and ideas from **the DAT390 report can be reused** for the thesis.

**(6)** The decision how or whether to include a source for own reused material among the cited literature references is subject to the student's discretion and academic freedom.

<sup>1</sup>This point states that reuse of own material can be agreed with the instructor ("avtalt med faglærer").