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Intellectual Property Policy

ResearchGate was developed by scientists to enable collaboration, sharing of content and communication among scientists, researchers, authors, institutions and other professionals.

When you post full text articles or supplementary materials on ResearchGate, you do not transfer or assign copyright to us. Rather, you make the content available to the public through ResearchGate; this may include certain processing, such as conversion. You retain the right to remove such content from Researchgate at any time, or to archive your content so it is available only to you and your co-author(s). You may also remove content from appearing on your profile page.

We respect the intellectual property rights of others and ask that you do so as well. Our platform enables the private archiving and public posting of various types of content. When you post content, we must insist that you archive or publish content only if you have the right to do so. This applies to both your own profile as well as other places on the platform, such as Q&A and projects. As we do not have any information about rights you may hold, or any license terms or other restrictions which might apply to such content, we necessarily rely on you to understand your rights and act accordingly. For this reason, we request that you fully investigate and confirm that you have sufficient rights to post particular content to ResearchGate before you post such content. As a general matter, if you are an author publishing in a journal, you may be allowed to publish certain versions of your article, but not others, and privately share certain content with others. However, many journals restrict publication of final versions and impose limitations on private sharing.

Your starting point for understand your rights is the agreement(s) you have with your publisher or other rights owner. There are other resources available that you might also find useful in understanding your rights including:

How Can I Share It (<http://www.howcanishareit.com>)

SHERPA/ROMEIO Database (<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/index.php>)

It is our policy to respond to notices of claimed copyright infringement submitted by rights owners in accordance with the notice and takedown procedures found in section 512(c) of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (United States) and the European eCommerce Directive, detailed below. Our designated agent for receiving such notices is specified below.

Repeat Infringer Policy

In accordance with applicable law, we have a policy that provides for the disabling of access to content and, in appropriate circumstances, the termination of account holders who are repeat infringers of copyrights or other intellectual property rights.

Designated Agent

ResearchGate's Designated Agent for notice of claims of copyright and other intellectual property infringement is as follows:

Copyright Agent
ResearchGate GmbH
Invalidenstr. 115,
Berlin, Germany 10115

Email: copyright@researchgate.net

Telephone: +49 (0) 30 200051-100

Copyright and other Intellectual Property Infringement Notification Requirements

To be effective, a notification of claimed infringement must be a written communication provided to the above-mentioned Designated Agent that includes substantially the following:

1. The name, address, telephone number, and if available, e-mail address of the claiming party;
2. A description of the copyrighted work or other intellectual property claimed to have been infringed;
3. A description of where the allegedly infringing material is located, with information sufficient to permit us to locate the material (e.g. the specific URL where the content is located);
4. A statement that "the complaining party has a good faith belief that the use of the material in the manner complained of is not authorized by the copyright owner, its agent, or the law";
5. A statement that "the information in this notification is accurate, and under penalty of perjury, the complaining party is authorized to act on behalf of the owner of an exclusive right that is allegedly infringed"; and
6. An electronic or physical signature of the person authorized to act on behalf of the owner of the copyright that is allegedly infringed.

Note: If you are asserting infringement of an intellectual property right other than copyright, please specify the intellectual property right at issue (for example, "trademark").

Upon receiving notice of a claimed infringement that complies with these requirements, we will expeditiously remove or disable access to the material and will notify the account holder who posted it. At that time, we will also provide them with an email address for the reporting party which may be used to contact the reporting party with any questions.

Note: We will also accept a Notice of Claimed Infringement using the following [NOCI Form](#).

Counter Notice Requirements

ResearchGate recognizes that sometimes content may be mistakenly identified by a rights owner as infringing their rights. In the event such a mistake occurs, you should first contact the complaining party directly. ResearchGate will allow you to re-upload the content upon receipt of an acknowledgement of the error from the complaining party.

Alternately, if the complaining party does not agree that their request was in error, you may provide the attached Counter Notice Regarding Removed Content. The Counter Notice form requests a sworn statement under the penalty of perjury and other information which substantially complies with the requirements of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. section 512, which states:

To be effective under this subsection, a counter notification must be a written communication provided to the service provider's designated agent that includes substantially the following:

- (A) A physical or electronic signature of the subscriber.
- (B) Identification of the material that has been removed or to which access has been disabled and the location at which the material appeared before it was removed or access to it was disabled.
- (C) A statement under penalty of perjury that the subscriber has a good faith belief that the material was removed or disabled as a result of mistake or misidentification of the material to be removed or disabled.
- (D) The subscriber's name, address, and telephone number, and a statement that the subscriber consents to the jurisdiction of Federal District Court for the judicial district in which the address is located, or if the subscriber's address is outside the United States, for any judicial district in which the service provider may be found, and that the subscriber will accept service of process from the person who provided notification under subsection (c)(1)(C) or an agent from such person.

We will not be able to consider your Counter Notice unless you fill out the form in its entirety, and physically sign the form. Please make sure that the Counter Notice you send to ResearchGate is legible; if we cannot read your handwriting we will not be able to process your Counter Notice.

Upon receiving the original of your fully completed Counter Notice, ResearchGate will notify the reporting party. If the issue(s) cannot be resolved, ResearchGate will send your Counter Notice to the reporting party. ResearchGate will inform that entity that the listing will be reinstated after 10 business days unless ResearchGate receives notice from the reporting party that it has filed an action seeking a court order to restrain you from re-listing the item(s). If the reporting party disagrees with your Counter Notice, they may have a right to file a legal action against you to prevent the reinstatement of the removed item(s). Alternatively, if they notify us in writing or by e-mail that they no longer object to the item, listing, or material, we will allow you to repost it.

If you wish you may use this [Counter Notice Form](#) for filing a counter notice.