

**Formal Notice of Unattributed Substantial Similarity
and Request to Halt Publication of Contested Chapter aostachuk < aostachuk@evolutio.ar >
in Forthcoming Volume (Eds. Segall & Davis)**

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Mon, 16 Mar 2026 3:54:01 PM -0300

To "klittles"<klittles@ciis.edu>,"provostdivision"<provostdivision@ciis.edu>

Cc "kbrandenburger"<kbrandenburger@ciis.edu>,"dydrake"<dydrake@ciis.edu>,"kirbyjohnson"<kirby.johnson@tufts.edu>,"theodoremyatt"<theodore.myatt@tufts.edu>

Dear Provost Dr. Kathy Littles,

I am writing to formally notify the California Institute of Integral Studies of a serious dispute regarding a forthcoming publication with deep ties to your institution. This notice is a request for CIIS to exercise its institutional responsibility to ensure the integrity of the scholarly record.

1. Nature of the Dispute and Allegation

I am the author of the **Evolutio Unfolding Theory (EUT)** , first published and timestamped in a peer-reviewed journal in 2020 [Attached].

A forthcoming anthology, resulting from the "Metaphysics and the Matter With Things" conference hosted at CIIS and edited by your faculty member, Dr. Matthew Segall, and Dr. Andrew M. Davis, is slated to include a chapter by Dr. Michael Levin of Tufts University. The content of this chapter, based on a 2025 preprint [<https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/5g2xj>], forms the basis of this dispute.

I am formally alleging **unattributed substantial similarity** between Dr. Levin's forthcoming chapter and my 2020 EUT. A detailed, peer-reviewed, and citable analysis of these structural and conceptual overlaps has been published and is available on PhilPapers:

Ostachuk, A. (2025). "Evolutio Unfolding Theory and 'Platonic Space': On Conceptual Priority and Lineage" [Attached]

This document serves as the neutral, public record of the evidence for these allegations.

2. Conflict of Interest and Bias in the Editorial Process

I must formally note a significant conflict of interest that makes direct appeal to the editors futile and necessitates this communication to your office.

Dr. Matthew Segall is not merely an editor of this volume. He has been an active and public promoter of Dr. Levin's "Platonic Space" framework on his personal blog ("Footnotes to Plato") and affiliated YouTube channels throughout 2024 and 2025. Furthermore, a review of his public writings reveals the use of terminology and

conceptual framing, particularly around the concept of "unfolding", that postdates my 2020 publication and bears a substantial similarity to my work, yet lacks any citation or acknowledgment.

Therefore, Dr. Segall cannot be considered a neutral arbiter in this dispute. He is, at a minimum, a participant in the very network that is amplifying the contested framework. By addressing this letter to your office, I am bypassing a compromised editorial process and appealing directly to the institution's responsibility.

3. CIIS's Institutional Responsibility

As the host institution for the conference and the professional home of one of the volume's editors, CIIS has a clear ethical and legal interest in ensuring its academic output does not violate the principles of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

This letter serves as a **formal notice** of this dispute. By accepting this notice, CIIS is now on notice of a credible allegation of research misconduct related to a publication directly linked to its faculty and activities. Proceeding with publication without a thorough, impartial investigation would expose the institution to claims of complicity in establishing a potentially tainted "Version of Record".

4. Formal Requests

To protect the integrity of the scholarly record and to allow CIIS to fulfill its institutional obligations, I formally request that you:

- 1. Identify the contracted publisher** for this volume and immediately apprise them of this pending dispute.
- 2. Halt the production and publication** of the contested chapter until a neutral, third-party investigation into these allegations has been completed.
- 3. Initiate an internal review** of the editorial process to determine why these unattributed similarities were not identified and addressed prior to the final stages of publication.
- 4. Provide a formal response** to the evidence presented in my published PhilPapers analysis.

I have already filed a formal notification with the Research Integrity Office at Tufts University (Dr. Kirby Johnson and Theodore Myatt) regarding Dr. Levin's conduct, and copies of this letter are being sent to them as well. I expect CIIS to uphold the highest standards of integrity regarding its own faculty and its editorial projects.

I await your prompt acknowledgment of this notice and your response outlining the steps CIIS will take to investigate this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Agustín Ostachuk

Transdisciplinary Scientific Researcher

Director

EVOLUTIO: A Research Center for Evolution and Development

<https://www.evolutio.ar>

2 Attachment(s)

Ostachuk 2020 - A Theory of E...
315 KB

Ostachuk 2025 - Evolutio Unfol...
1.2 MB