Formal Complaint of Research Misconduct (Plagiarism) – Michael Levin / Evolutio Unfolding Theory
Agustin Ostachuk <aostachuk@evolutio.ar>
Thu, 10 Sep 2026 6:09:32 PM -0300Sent
"bernardarulanandam"<bernard.arulanandam@tufts.edu>
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Dear Dr. Bernard Arulanandam,

I am writing to you in your capacity as Vice Provost for Research and Research Integrity Officer for Tufts University. This is a formal complaint of research misconduct, specifically plagiarism, as defined in Tufts University's Research Integrity and Misconduct in Research Policy: "the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit".

The complaint concerns Dr. Michael Levin, a member of the Tufts University research community.

Background

On February 16, 2026, I submitted a notification to the Research Integrity Office (RIO) regarding the appropriation of my Evolutio Unfolding Theory (EUT, 2020) by Dr. Levin's "Platonic Space" framework. On February 23, the office confirmed receipt and stated it would "appropriately evaluate the issues". On February 27, Dr. Kirby Johnson requested additional evidence, including correspondence from 2021 showing Dr. Levin's prior awareness of my work. I provided that evidence on March 4.

On March 17, 2026, Dr. Johnson confirmed in writing that the office was conducting an "evaluation process" according to relevant policies, and that it would be in touch "as soon as possible and when we have information to provide regarding any conclusions".

After nearly four months without a substantive update, I inquired about the status of that evaluation on June 13, 2026. On July 10, 2026, Dr. Johnson closed the matter, stating that I had not made "any credible and specific allegations". In doing so, he cited my own earlier statements that I was not seeking a ruling at that time and that my communications were not a formal complaint of research misconduct. He further noted that if I wished to submit a formal allegation, I was free to do so according to the relevant Tufts policies.

I stated in my March 4, 2026, communication that I would file a formal complaint when the "Platonic Space" framework appeared in an official publication. That condition has now been fulfilled.

The Formal Complaint

On September 9, 2026, Dr. Levin published "Ingressing Minds: Causal, Non-Physical Patterns In-Form Natural, Synthetic, and Hybrid Embodiments" in *Philosophies*

(MDPI), 11(5), 161. This article presents the “Platonic Space” framework as a novel contribution. It is not.

The structural identity between the Evolutio Unfolding Theory (Ostachuk, 2020) and the “Platonic Space” framework is documented in the following published, citable analyses:

- Ostachuk, A. (2026). *Epistemic Chameleonism: A Structural and Conceptual Comparative Analysis of the Evolutio Unfolding Theory (2020) and the “Platonic Space” Framework (2025)*. Evolutio Journal. https://philpapers.org/rec/OSTECA
- Ostachuk, A. (2026). *Evolutio Unfolding Theory and “Platonic Space”: Anatomy of a Conceptual Appropriation, Renaming and Rebranding*. The Unfolding. https://philpapers.org/rec/OSTEUT-2

These analyses demonstrate that the core explanatory architecture of the EUT — the Ideological Matrix, the process of Unfolding and Actualization, and the role of Teleological Formal Agents — is reproduced in the “Platonic Space” framework under new terminology: “Platonic Space”, “Ingression”, and “High-Agency Patterns”.

Prior awareness is documented by the February 2021 correspondence, in which I contacted Dr. Levin directly, at the recommendation of Dr. Stuart Newman, to propose his participation in a grant proposal aimed at further developing the EUT. Dr. Levin acknowledged receipt and stated he would review the materials. He has also received and opened multiple issues of the EVOLUTIO newsletter since 2024, including the issue of September 11, 2024, which explained the EUT.

The evidence meets the definition of plagiarism under Tufts policy. The appropriation is of ideas — an entire theoretical architecture — not merely of words. The policy explicitly covers the appropriation of “ideas, processes, results, or words”.

Requests

I formally request that Tufts University:

1. **Initiate a formal inquiry** into this allegation of plagiarism, in accordance with the Research Integrity and Misconduct in Research Policy.
2. **Confirm receipt of this complaint** and assign a case reference number.
3. **Inform me of the next steps and the estimated timeline** for the inquiry, as required by the policy’s commitment to “prompt and objective resolution”.

I am prepared to provide any additional documentation required, including the full 2021 correspondence, newsletter analytics, and the comparative analyses referenced above.

The previous evaluation was closed without an investigation, on procedural grounds that no longer apply. This is now a formal complaint, submitted under the applicable policy, with the published object that was previously lacking. I trust that Tufts University will handle it accordingly.

Sincerely,

Dr. Agustín Ostachuk
Transdisciplinary Scientific Researcher
Director
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