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## Plagiarism not rooted in culture

Don't blame ancient Chinese culture for modern evils in science (*Nature* 467, 153; 2010).

Plagiarism is becoming more common in China, as it is elsewhere. But this problem cannot be rooted in Chinese culture, otherwise it would have existed widely in ancient China and still be evident across Chinese communities today.

Copying out of respect in order to learn, with appropriate citation, is not the same as plagiarism, which is copying to steal credit.

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