Issues addressed:
- Who should be considered an author?
- Using graduate student’s work

Brief summary: Prof. Q has written a paper for publication about a Chinese manuscript. Her graduate student had the difficult job of translating the complex text and Prof. Q has based her paper on this work. Prof. Q has listed herself as the only author.

Case study based on ideas from Frederick Asher

Case Study: Is a translator, an author?

Prof. Q has written a paper for publication about a Chinese manuscript from the 16th century. Much of the paper is based on the translation of this manuscript. Prof. Q’s graduate assistant had the long, difficult job of translating this complex text. When the paper gets published it will only have Prof. Q’s name as author. Prof. Q feels that it is an unwritten rule that she deserves most of the credit, since she is the student’s mentor.

Since the paper draws heavily from the work of her graduate student, should the student be acknowledged as an author? Most papers written in Prof. Q’s field are not multi-authored or edited since it looks problematic and is difficult to then determine who actually wrote the paper.

To what extent can a professor use their students’ work, but use their own name when publishing?

Should Prof. Q have talked with her graduate student in the beginning and established an agreement about how credit is given?