



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-18-0117-O

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We received an allegation that an NSF peer reviewer (Subject) may have used materials in a proposal reviewed by a panel in which she participated, to develop a research project that was published in a journal article. We reviewed the Subject's journal article, the proposal in question, and the Subject's previous proposals. We determined that the Subject submitted her own proposal which was funded in 2015, a year before the panel met. The research aims of the funded grant matched the research aims in her recent journal article. In fact, there was some common language between her grant and the journal article.

Based on our review, we conclude that although the Subject's research had similarities to the proposal identified by our complainant, the Subject had previously received NSF funding for a similar project. Therefore, there is no merit to the allegation of intellectual theft.

This case is **closed** with no further action taken.