

# **Ethical Problems in the Relationships of PhD Students and Supervisors: A Computer Science Perspective**

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## **Abstract**

Traditionally, research paradigms and methods are passed on from teachers and supervisors to PhD students as they undergo their doctoral studies. At the same time, the PhD student/supervisor relationship is a highly vulnerable construct, subjected to a number of conflict-generating situations. The research area of computer science is a relatively young community, whose methods, paradigms and traditions are not yet fully developed. This puts high demands on computer science research supervisors to create a sound local tradition of research, both as far as methodology and ethical norms, and supervisory behavior go. This paper discusses the ethical problems of the PhD student/ supervisor relationship, and will especially highlight the problems that are visible in the computer science research community.