



Open Letter - Response from Springer Nature

Niels Peter Thomas

Tue, Jan 26, 2021 at 12:07 PM

To: "julie.hochgesang"

Cc: Renate Bayaz [redacted] Felicitas Behrendt [redacted]

Dear Dr Hochgesang,

Thank you for reaching out regarding the chapter *Implementation of Hand Gesture Recognition System to Aid Deaf-Dumb People* in the book series *Advances in Signal and Data Processing: Select Proceedings of ICSDP 2019*, which is a Conference Proceedings. We take these concerns very seriously and have brought the paper to our Research Integrity Group's attention. We have also contacted the volume editors of this Proceedings and the two authors of this specific paper.

By way of background, the chapter *Implementation of Hand Gesture Recognition System to Aid Deaf-Dumb People* was submitted to a conference for which Springer has published the proceedings in the book series *Advances in Signal and Data Processing*. For publications such as conference proceedings, peer review is the responsibility of the conference review committee who had reviewed this chapter prior to their acceptance. The usage of these specific terms was unintentionally overlooked by the chapter authors and the external reviewers. Please, note that the review process details and conclusions drawn remain confidential between the editors, peer reviewers and authors.

After a thorough review of all concerns raised regarding ethical research issues and the language used, Springer has decided, in agreement with the volume editors and the two authors, to retract the chapter. This decision was taken upon the request of the volume editors in agreement with the two authors who expressed their regret in publishing the chapter and offering their apologies to the relevant communities. In addition, the authors sent Springer a note where they asked for retraction and offered their sincere apologies for any hurt caused by their unintentional use of outdated, improper and offensive language and for falling short by not working in closer collaboration with the signing communities.

As publishers we fully acknowledge the concerns in your letter. We aim to contribute towards more equitable outcomes in learning and advancing scholarship, building and supporting an inclusive culture, and making a positive difference to disability inclusion. Thank you for your active interaction with the research we publish.

Warm regards,

Niels Peter Thomas

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Amtsgericht Berlin-Charlottenburg, HRB 91881 B

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