NEWS

Uber paid academics six-figure sums for research to feed to the media | Uber | The Guardian

By Felicity Lawrence
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Uber paid high-profile academics in Europe and the US hundreds of thousands of dollars to produce reports that could be used as part of the company's lobbying campaign.

The Uber files, a cache of thousands of confidential documents leaked to the Guardian, reveal lucrative deals with several leading academics who were paid to publish research on the benefits of its economic model. The reports were commissioned as Uber wrestled with regulators in key cities around the world.

University economists were targeted in France and Germany where enforcement by the authorities was increasingly fierce in 2014-15.

One report by a French academic, who asked for a €100,000 consultancy fee, was cited in a 2016 Financial Times report as evidence that Uber was a "route out of the French banlieues", delighting Uber executives.

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