Ethics In Research
What is Ethics?

Ethics has been referred to as a branch of philosophy pertaining to how choices are made between what is right and what is wrong.

Research Ethics relates to behaviour, processes and protection of human subjects and publication of results (Fouka & Mantzoro, 2011).

Contemporary Issues in Research

- Participants’ privacy and confidentiality
- Authorship
- Power and distribution of research data
- Gains on results and incidental findings
- Significance of group interests and harm
- Extent of informed consent

Sources of Ethical Issues

Research problem itself: IQ, Alcoholism, Abuse
Setting in which research takes place: Prison and hospitals
Research methods employed: experiments, confederates
Type of data collected: personal, financial
How the research was conducted: process of research
How the results are communicated
Why care about ethics in research?

Researchers are responsible in shaping the character of research. Production of knowledge should be credible. It should elicit belief. Are we capturing truth?

Example: Similarity of gender causes girl child to relate better to mothers than boys.

--- Large enough sample size?

Internal validity?

--- showing that it is the gender and not any other variable that is causing these results.

Historical Context

1939: Monster Study

1943: Dysentery bacteria
1963: Injected cancer cells in mentally retarded children
1950 to 1970: Willowbrook School - Hepatitis

World War II War Crimes

1960s: Milgram Studies at Yale

1932-1972: Tuskegee Syphilis Study
Well-Known Examples

Milgram Studies of Obedience

Milgram's Experiment - Obedience to Authority

• The **Milgram Experiment** was a social psychology experiment conducted by Yale University psychologist Stanley Milgram.

• It measured the willingness of participants to obey an authority figure who instructed them to perform acts that possibly conflicted with their personal conscience.
Experiment Participants

- Three individuals took part in each session of the experiment:
- The "experimenter", who was in charge of the session.
- The "teacher", a volunteer for a single session. The "teacher" was led to believe that they were merely assisting, whereas they were actually the subject of the experiment.
- The "learner", an actor and a confederate of the experimenter, who pretended to be a volunteer.
Interpretations

• The subjects believed that for each wrong answer, the learner was receiving actual shocks. In reality, there were no shocks.

• After the confederate was separated from the subject, the confederate set up a tape recorder integrated with the electro-shock generator, which played pre-recorded sounds for each shock level.

• By modern standards, Milgram’s study was unethical. Nonetheless, it still remains a landmark experiment in psychology.

• From this experiment, Milgram developed two critical theories: Theory of Conformism & Agentic State Theory
Milgram's Experiment - Obedience to Authority

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=24&v=yr5cjyokVUs
Tearoom Trade- Laud Humphreys

- Tearoom Trade was the name of a book published by a sociologist named Laud Humphreys in 1970 who posed as a "watchqueen" in public restrooms to observe homosexual behavior.
- After every liaison where an old man would seduce some "chicken hawk" with money for an oral sex experience, Humphreys would jot down the license plate number of each old man's vehicle. Then, he had a friend in the police department trace the addresses. He would then visit the old men at home and pressure them into giving him an interview.
- The case stands as a classic example of invasion of privacy.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56Z6b7aO7TU&list=PLEqf8pU7tcmaP-LTS22yS16VAtTDb-LVV&index=3
Landmark Ethics Codes

1947: Nuremberg Code of Ethical Standards
1953: Creation of National Institute of Health
1964: Declaration of Helsinki
1970s: Belmont Report

Fundamental Principles Of Code of Ethics

Beneficence: Ensuring no harm
Justice: Who bears the cost and who benefits?
Respect: Informed Consent
Ethical Principles

1. Minimising Harm.
2. Respecting Autonomy.
3. Protecting Privacy.
4. Offering Reciprocity.
5. Treating People Equitably.

Research Ethics

• Legal Obligations

• Moral Obligations
  • Protect the interests of the respondents
  • Maintain Equity
  • Freedom of choice

• Ethical considerations
  • Respondents have given informed consent
  • No harm comes to respondents
  • Ensuring confidentiality and anonymity

Elements of Minimal Disclosure (AAPOR Code)

- Who sponsored the research/survey and who conducted it
- Exact wording of questions asked including preceding instruction
- A definition of the population under study & description of sampling frame
- Description of sample selection procedure
- Size of the sample, completion rate etc
- Details about findings & how they will be used
- Method, location, dates

Source: http://www.AAPOR.org
Submitting a journal article: ethics for authors
What to think about, and why it’s important

Be clear on authorship
Have you included all the contributors to your article (in the right order), and are your acknowledgements up-to-date? Agree with your co-authors which journal you are submitting to, and tell them when you submit.

Avoid plagiarism (and self-plagiarism)
Have you checked you’ve cited your own, and others’, work correctly? You’ll also need to have written permissions for any reproduced figures or tables.

Double check your data
Using datasets gathered by someone else? Check you have permission to use them in your work. Plus, if a statistician helped with data analysis make sure you acknowledge this.

Declaring any interests
Make sure you’ve declared any funding, and the role of the funder, in your cover letter.

Upholding standards
Describing experiments or procedures? Make sure you include warnings of any hazards that could be involved in replicating these (including any in instructions, materials or formulae you’ve mentioned). You’ll also need to cite any relevant standards or codes of practice, and include a reference to them.

One at a time
Remember to submit your article to just one journal at a time, so it is only ever being considered by one editor and one set of reviewers. If you decide you want to send it to another journal, you can always withdraw your paper.

Include everything; check the Instructions for Authors
Some journals may need supplemental data to be submitted along with your article. Check the journal’s instructions for authors to make sure you’ve included everything you need.

Evidence you’ve followed procedure
National and international procedures govern experimentation on people and animals. Statements of ethical approval, trial registration and informed patient consent will all be needed with your submission.

Three ways to encourage participation ethically (Senese 1997):

• **Anonymity:** After identifying your sampling frame, remove names or any other unique identifiers.

• **Confidentiality:** It requires that you guarantee that no one will be individually identifiable in any way by you, that all your tables, reports, and publications will only discuss findings in the aggregate.

• **Informed Consent:** Be honest and fair with your subjects. Tell them everything they want to know about your research. Be aware of any hidden power differentials that might be pressuring them to participate.

Plagiarism in research

• Plagiarism is presenting and using another’s published or unpublished work, including theories, concepts, data, source material, methodologies or findings, including graphs and images, as one’s own, without appropriate referencing and without permission when permission is required.

Source: https://staff.unimelb.edu.au/research/ethics-integrity/research-integrity/research-integrity-in-practice/plagiarism
Forms of plagiarism

• **Literal copying**: Reproducing word for word, in whole or in part, without permission and acknowledgement of the original source

• **Substantial copying**: Capturing the essence of another’s work, in whole or in part, without permission and acknowledgement of the original source. This can include copying of research materials, processes, tables or equipment

• **Paraphrasing**: Reproducing the essential meaning, form and/or progression of someone else’s ideas without permission and without proper acknowledgement of the source

• **Irresponsible-recycling/duplicate submission**: Reproducing portions of one’s own work in a paper and submitting it for publication as an entirely new paper, without cross-referencing or acknowledging earlier publication(s)

• **Un-published plagiarism**: Unattributed use of privileged information or materials obtained through confidential peer review of research proposals and manuscripts

Source: https://staff.unimelb.edu.au/research/ethics-integrity/research-integrity/in-practice/plagiarism
Plagiarism: How to Avoid It

To avoid plagiarizing, you must give credit whenever you use:

• Another person’s idea, opinion, or theory
• Any facts, statistics, graphs, drawings—any pieces of information—that are not common knowledge
• Quotations of another person’s actual spoken or written words
• Paraphrase of another person’s spoken or written words
### Publication Ethics Checklist

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<th>Category</th>
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| Approval and Consent                    | - Do you have approval of the relevant Regulatory Authorities, Institutional Review Board and Ethics Committee?  
                                         | - Have you registered your clinical trial?  
                                         | - Have you documented Informed Consent? |
| Data Accuracy Falsification Fabrication | - Is there manipulation of material, equipment, process or data?  
                                         | - Have you double-checked data for accuracy? |
| Plagiarism and Self-Plagiarism          | - Have you used your own prior work or copied others’ work?  
                                         | - If so, have you cited these correctly?  
                                         | - Do you have written permission for reproduced material, figures or tables? |
| Submission Fraud                        | - Is there simultaneous submission to two journals?  
                                         | - Have you published the entire work or part of it (salami-slicing) already?  
                                         | - Have you excessively cited your own publications? |
| Ethics of Authorship                    | - Have you included all the authors in a specific pre-agreed order?  
                                         | - Do you have an agreement with co-authors?  
                                         | - Are the co-authors aware of the contents of the publication?  
                                         | - Have they had access to, and hold themselves responsible for the data and its interpretation?  
                                         | - Is there is any Ghost Author or a “Guest Author”? |
| Conflict of Interest                    | - Have you declared relevant interests and relationships that could be seen as influencing your findings (whether financial or scientific)? |