

UiT

**THE ARCTIC
UNIVERSITY
OF NORWAY**

Norwegian Ethical Guidelines for social sciences and humanities and norms for research integrity

Kjersti Fjørtoft




Why Research Ethics?



Research Ethics

- Codification of norms for morally responsible scientific practice.
- Research ethics applies to the entire process, from choice of topics to dissemination and communication of results.
- Research ethics applies to collegial relationships.
- Research also includes the work of students (institutions are responsible for proper education in research ethics).

Robert Merton: CUDOS

- 1) Universalism
 - 2) Communism
 - 3) Disinterestedness
 - 4) Organized Skepticism
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- The bottom right corner of the slide features several thin, overlapping lines in shades of orange and white, creating a modern, abstract graphic element.

The Norwegian national research ethics committees

- The National Committee for Medical and Health Research (NEM)
- REK (7 Regional Committees for Research Ethics in Medical and Health Research)
- The National Committee for Research Ethics in the Social Sciences and the Humanities (NESH)
- The National Committee for Research Ethics in Science and Technology (NENT)
- The National Committee for Research Ethics on Human Remains
- The National Commission for the Investigation of Research Misconduct

- <https://www.etikkom.no/>

General Principles for Research Ethics

- **Respect:** People who participate in research shall be treated with respect.
- **Good Consequences:** Researchers shall seek to ensure that their activities produce good consequences
- **Fairness:** All research project shall be designed and implemented fairly.
- **Integrity:** Researchers shall comply with recognized norms, and to behave responsibly, openly and honestly towards their colleagues and the public.

General Guidelines for Research Ethics

1. **Quest for truth**
2. **Academic freedom**
3. **Quality**
4. **Voluntary informed consent**
5. **Confidentiality**
6. **Impartiality**
7. **Integrity**
8. **Good reference practice**
9. **Collegiality**
10. **Institutional responsibility**
11. **Availability of result**
12. **Social responsibility**
13. **Global responsibility**
14. **Laws and regulations**

Guidelines for Research Ethics in Social Sciences and Humanities (NESH)

Main categories:

- Standards for freedom of research, good research practice, and the relationship between researchers
- Standards that regulate relationships to individuals and groups directly affected by the research.
- Standards regarding social relevance, users interests and regard for cultural reproduction and rationality in public debate.

Freedom of research, good research practice, and the relationship between researchers

- Research should not be suppressed because a topic is controversial.
- Research activity should be independent of external and non-scientific interests (e.g. economy, politics).
- Researchers and research institutions should promote and comply with standard for scientific integrity, and avoid academic misconduct (fabrication and falsification of data and plagiarism (D.27)).
- Good reference practice (D.29)
- Research material should be made available to other researchers (D.30)

The relationship to individual and groups directly affected by the research.

- Respect for human dignity, integrity, freedom and participation (B.5 –B.7)
- Free and informed consent (B.9)
- Children’s right to protection
- Data protection
- Respect for posthumous reputation (B.17)
- Respect for the values and motives of others (B.18)
- Protection of vulnerable groups (C.22)
- Respect for legitimate reasons businesses, organizations etc. may have for not wanting information about themselves to be published (C.20)
- Preservation of cultural monuments (C. 24)

Social relevance, users interests and regard for cultural reproduction and rationality in public debate.

- Research should benefit society and culture
- Results should not be presented in a misleading manner (E.40)
- Scientific knowledge should be communicated to a broader audience (F.42)
- Interdisciplinary discussion and a democratic public (F.44)
- Participation in social debate.
- The obligation to convey research results (F.47)

Singapore Statement on Research Integrity

- *Honesty* in all aspects of research
- *Accountability* in the conduct of research
- *Professional courtesy and fairness* in working with others
- *Good stewardship* of research on behalf of others

<http://www.singaporestatement.org/statement.html>

Academic misconduct

- Scientific misconduct is defined as falsification, fabrication, plagiarism and other serious breaches of good scientific practice that have been committed willfully or through gross negligence when planning, carrying out or reporting on research.
- Act of 30 June 2006 No. 56 on ethics and integrity in research

Plagiarism

- «Plagiarism involves stealing content from the work of other writers and researchers and publishing as one's own» (D.27)
- Theories, ideas, hypotheses, concepts, interpretations, design
- Borderline cases (direct quotations/paraphrasing)