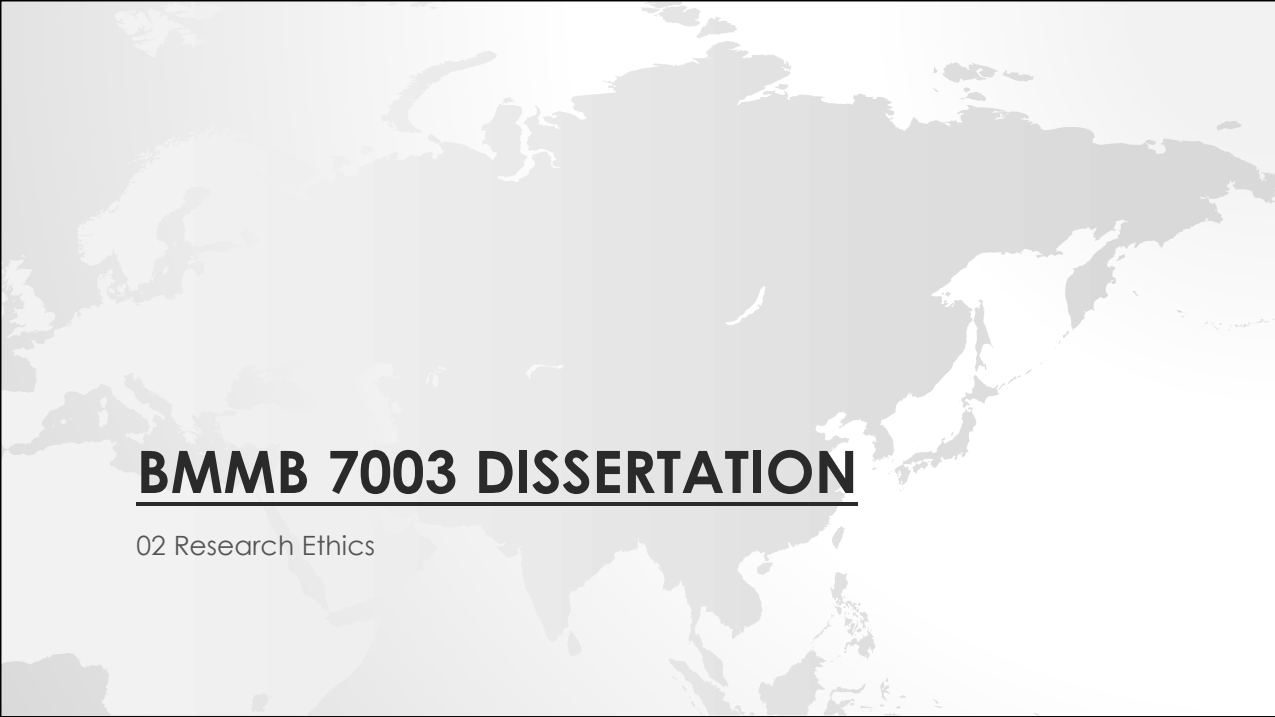




BMMB 7003 DISSERTATION

02 Research Ethics

ETHICAL APPROVAL FORM

- Application for Ethical Approval (PG2/E1)
 - Read the Research Integrity and Ethics Code of Practice before completing this form
 - <https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/media/uwtsd-website/content-assets/documents/research/research-ethics-integrity-code-practice.pdf>
- Guiding Principles (pp. 14-17)
 - Responsibilities to research participants
 - Beneficence and non-Maleficence
 - Informed consent (adults)
 - Informed consent (children)
 - Exceptions
 - Anonymity and confidentiality

RESEARCH ETHICS

- Research ethics govern the standards of conduct for scientific researchers. It is important to adhere to ethical principles in order to protect the dignity, rights and welfare of research participants.
- *"Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful."*

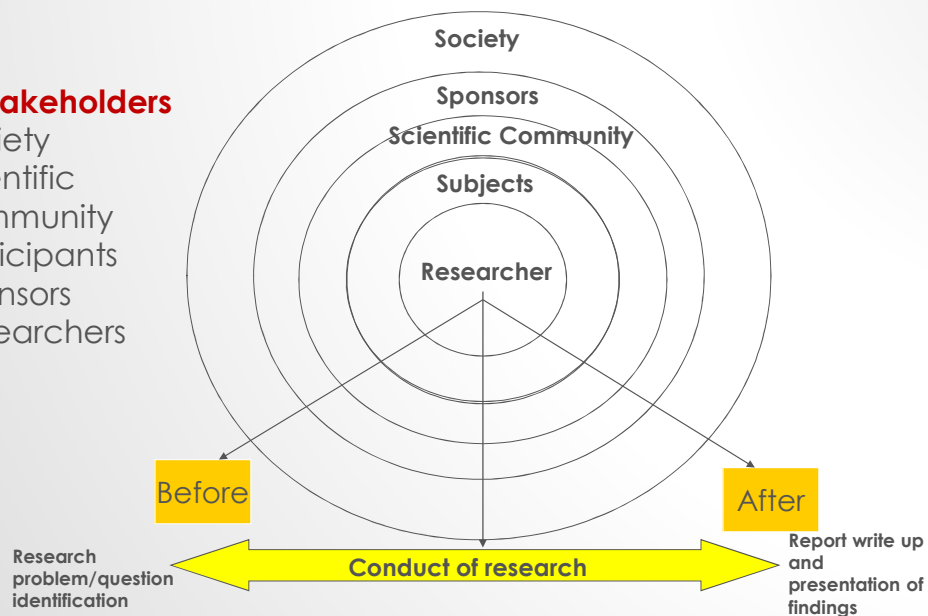
Samuel Johnson

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ETHICS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Five Stakeholders

1. Society
2. Scientific community
3. Participants
4. Sponsors
5. Researchers



1. ETHICS & SOCIETY

- Moral and social responsibility
 - Is the research moral and socially responsible?
 - Ethical if the research aims to develop a better understanding of sex/drug tourism
 - Unethical if the research aims to promote sex/drug tourism
- Impact on everyday lives
 - Will everyday life experiences be adversely altered?
 - Unethical if day trippers were interviewed for two hours
- Gatekeepers
 - Have gatekeepers (those who give access to a research field) been informed of the research?
 - E.g., General managers, parents, etc.
- Social "good"
 - What is the social good of the research? (e.g., avoid gambling problems)

2. ETHICS & SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

- Follow a good academic practice and avoid fraud and plagiarism
- Protection of the reputation of the scientific community
- Production of ethical research
- A Baptist University professor was accused of misleading public by rushing out results of unfinished popularity survey on candidates in chief executive race " Jan 19 2012, SCMP

3. ETHICS & PARTICIPANTS

Example: Gang Leader for a Day

> A researcher examined the gang activities in the government housing near the University of Chicago. The gang leader made the researcher leader for a day to show him how difficult running a gang was. This gave the researcher invaluable insight into the economics and social rules of a U.S. gang, but many have criticised this research. For example, he would have been party to many examples of illegal activity, and harm to individuals e.g. beating up gang members and selling drugs.

- Protection of rights
 - Protect the rights of both human and non-human participants
- Harm
 - Physical harm
 - Psychological harm
 - Some studies could induce psychological stress, anxiety or humiliation (e.g., disclosure of sexual behaviour, Facebook's psychological experiment).
 - Legal harm
 - The disclosure of illegal, sexual or deviant behaviour could cause adverse effects (e.g., drug users or dealers could be prosecuted)

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CONTINUED...

- Voluntary participation
- Informed consent given by the participant
 - subjects are well informed about the study, the potential risks and benefits of their participation
- The right of the participant to refuse and withdraw
- The right of the participant not to be deceived or to be harmed
- The right of the individual to have personal information or data treated as confidential or anonymous
- The right of research participants to access the research findings
- Deception and covert research
 - Deception occurs when participants are deceived about some aspect of the research
 - Covert research involves research in which the participants are not informed or aware of their participation.

4. ETHICS & SPONSORS

- Conditional research
 - Is limited with time, money, personnel, and research design constraints.
- Non-conditional research
 - Allows the researchers autonomy in the development of the time lines and the research design that are used.
- Deception
 - Researchers cannot always be fully aware of how their research will be used.
 - Very often, a disclaimer will be added to the report*

*** The University requires that research results provided by the authors not be used in any way that implies the University's endorsement of a particular product or service.**

5. ETHICS & SELF

- A researcher must avoid:
 - Misconduct (fraud and plagiarism)
 - Use of power or political manipulation of data

UK – DATA PROTECTION ACT (1988)

- The Data Protection Act (1998) states that data obtained from research with people must be anonymised so that individuals, organisations or businesses cannot be identified before it can be shared with other researchers or archived.
- The Act does not apply to research data in general, nor to anonymised data
- A person's identity can be disclosed from:
 - direct identifiers such as names, addresses, postcode information, telephone numbers or pictures;
 - indirect identifiers which when linked with other publicly available information sources, could identify someone, e.g. information on workplace, occupation or exceptional values of characteristics like salary or age.

HONG KONG - PERSONAL DATA (PRIVACY) ORDINANCE

- Personal Data
 - The information which relates to a living person and can be used to identify that person.
 - It exists in a form in which access or processing is practicable.
 - Examples of personal data protected by the Ordinance include names, phone numbers, addresses, identity card numbers, photos, medical records and employment records.
- Data User
 - A person who, either alone or jointly or in common with other persons, controls the collection, holding, processing or use of the data. The Data User is liable as the principal for the wrongful act of its authorised data processor.

Source: Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data
https://www.pcpd.org.hk/english/data_privacy_law/ordinance_at_a_Glance/ordinance.html

DATA PROTECTION PRINCIPLES

- Data Collection Principle:
 - Personal data must be collected in a lawful and fair way, for a purpose directly related to a function /activity of the data user.
 - Data subjects must be notified of the purpose and the classes of persons to whom the data may be transferred.
 - Data collected should be necessary but not excessive.
- Accuracy & Retention Principle
 - Practicable steps shall be taken to ensure personal data is accurate and not kept longer than is necessary to fulfil the purpose for which it is used.
- Data Use Principle
 - Personal data must be used for the purpose for which the data is collected or for a directly related purpose, unless voluntary and explicit consent with a new purpose is obtained from the data subject.

DATA PROTECTION PRINCIPLES

- Data Security Principle
 - A data user needs to take practicable steps to safeguard personal data from unauthorised or accidental access, processing , erasure, loss or use.
- Openness Principle
 - A data user must take practicable steps to make personal data policies and practices known to the public regarding the types of personal data it holds and how the data is used.
- Data Access & Correction Principle
 - A data subject must be given access to his/her personal data and allowed to make corrections if it is inaccurate.