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ECGE7005Q
Session 6a

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General Guidelines

- We are asking you to contribute to a discussion that outlines your key ethical considerations you have outlined on your ethics form and to justify your decisions.

Ethics

Confidentiality
Consent Identity Twitter
Illicit activity Anonymity Facebook
Traceability Data
Obscurity Blog
Social networks Dataverse
Flickr Privacy Technology

Social media



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General Guidelines

- ▶ The discussions should help inform and finalise your ethics form which will be submitted after your discussions.
- ▶ You will need to submit your ethics form and a copy of your discussions to turnit in for marking.
- ▶ See additional guidelines provided.



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Research Ethics

- As a small group, work together to outline what you think are key ethical considerations in research and why....



Research Ethics

- ▶ “Avoidance of harm, fully informed consent, and the need for privacy and confidentiality ...”
- ▶ (Punch, 2005: 89)



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Research Ethics

- Research Ethics is normally concerned with:
 - overall harms and benefits of research,
 - the rights of participants to information, privacy, anonymity, respect...
 - the responsibilities of researchers to act with integrity,
 - The positioning of people / researcher in the research process “whose voice” ?
 - See video
 - [Research ethics - YouTube](#)
- How do we achieve this?



Ethical Issues in research : Example

- ▶ Always risks in research, we however need to reduce and minimise the risks....
- ▶ Review video the :
 - ▶ https://youtu.be/McBME84w_4k
- ▶ Discuss :
 - ▶ Was this study justifiable?
 - ▶ Did the benefits out-way the risks?



Your research

- ▶ Consider your research issue / question you are intending to explore.
- ▶ Write down 2-3 ethical issues that you feel you may need to consider.



Your research

- ▶ How does the knowledge and experience you have discussed relate to the following:
- ▶ Use internet if you wish to explore:
 - ▶ Research guidelines,
 - ▶ Statutory obligations,
 - ▶ Organisational guidelines,
 - ▶ Professional: codes of practice,
 - ▶ Personal:
 - ▶ Values of honesty frankness and personal integrity,
 - ▶ Responsibilities to those you are working alongside.



Research Ethics

- ▶ We must consider the following when carrying out research in our own practice and when engaging in research for an academic qualification:
 - ▶ Research guidelines
 - ▶ Statutory obligations
 - ▶ Organisational guidelines
 - ▶ Professional : codes of practice
 - ▶ Personal



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Research Guidelines

► E.g:

- British Educational Research Association (BERA) guidelines (PDF Available on Moodle):
<https://www.bera.ac.uk/researchers-resources/publications/ethical-guidelines-for-educational-research-2018>



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Research Guidelines: BERA

- BERA Educational Research Guidelines 2018 (See moodle for Copy:)
 - *Voluntary Informed Consent is central.*
 - *Openness and Disclosure*
 - *Right to Withdraw*
 - *Children, Vulnerable Young People and Vulnerable Adults: See over*



Research Guidelines

- ▶ Community Based Participatory Research (2012) : A Guide to Ethical principles and practices: University of Durham (PDF Available on Moodle).
- ▶ British Sociological Association : <https://www.britsoc.co.uk/ethics>



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Issues

- ▶ What do you think are the issues with the following ethical guideline premises:
 - ▶ Voluntary Informed Consent?
 - ▶ Openness and Disclosure?
 - ▶ Right to Withdraw?
 - ▶ Confidentiality?



Organisational Protocols

- ▶ You will need to consider your organisation's protocols and regulations, as well as get permission to carry out the research.
- ▶ As well as comply with the Universities Ethical Approval



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Statutory Considerations?

- ▶ What are the statutory requirements of collecting, storing, dissemination of research data?



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UK GDPR:

Guide to the General Data Protection Regulation

- ▶ The [EU General Data Protection Regulation](#) (GDPR) and new Data Protection Act come into force on 25 May 2018.
 - ▶ will govern the processing (holding or using) of personal data in the UK.
- ▶ What counts as ‘personal data’?
 - ▶ is data about living people from which they can be identified. As well as data containing obvious ‘identifiers’ - such as name and date of birth



GDPR in the UK 2018

- ▶ [GDPR explained: How the new data protection act could change your life - YouTube](#)
- ▶ Having watched the video what are the implications for research practice.



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GDPR

- ▶ The new law demands that data processing is lawful, fair and transparent.
 - ▶ Refer and familiarise your self to UWTSD Data management:
<https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/library/research-data-management/>
 - ▶ E.g obtaining Research Ethics Committee approval,
 - ▶ only processing personal data that's necessary (data minimisation)
 - ▶ and anonymising or pseudonymising where possible.
 - ▶ respecting rights and ensuring that personal data is used in line with expectations....

Statutory Considerations: Safeguarding

- ▶ DBS: Disclosures and Baring Service:
 - ▶ All researchers working with children, and vulnerable adults should be subject to this...
 - ▶ What are the safeguarding issues from a research perspective?



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Professional Codes of Ethics

- ▶ How could any Professional Codes of Practice inform your research and possibly choice of research methodology? E.g:
 - ▶ Professional Codes of Practice?
 - ▶ United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child?



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Ethics: Personal?

- What would you view as essential personal ethics when carrying out research?



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Ethics :Personal

- ▶ Honesty is essential in the substance of what you write:
 - ▶ Accurate descriptions of how and what, why you have done things.
 - ▶ Accurate descriptions of information you have obtained, techniques used, analysis carried out, the results (Methodology and Methods).
- ▶ E.g. silently rejecting or ignoring evidence which happens to be contrary to one's beliefs constitutes a breach of integrity.



Ethics: Personal

- ▶ Research Relationships:
 - ▶ May depend upon the guidelines you adopt and the research methodology you adopt:
 - ▶ e.g. BERA or British Psychological Society;
 - ▶ a qualitative or quantitative paradigm
 - ▶ However in all cases the approach has to be un- harmful in anyway, and subject to certain rights
 - ▶ A Considerate and courteous attitude to people will help their readiness to assist you.

▶ You are relying on their good will and co-operation to make the research possible!!!



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Ethics: Personal

- ▶ Your own perspective will influence the type of research and research ethics you will adopt.
- ▶ Ask yourself how do I want to be in relation to those I am studying?
- ▶ Do I want to see them as objects or agents in the research process?
- ▶ In other words do I want to do research on people or in collaboration with people?

Ethics: Personal

- ▶ Looking after yourself!
- ▶ What could be the issues / risks to you as a researcher?
- ▶ How could these be managed?

Ethics at different Stages

- ▶ Discuss as a group what ethical issues you may need to consider throughout the research process:
 - ▶ Planning
 - ▶ Project proposal
 - ▶ Reading
 - ▶ Collecting primary / empirical data
 - ▶ Data analysis
 - ▶ Writing
 - ▶ Reporting / Dissemination.

Ethics:Key Issue

- ▶ Research ethics are an integral part of any research project:
 - ▶ You will have to be able to argue that you have taken reasonable, best possible measures to conform to high standards of research ethics, as well as explored the ethical dilemmas experienced:
 - ▶ This will need to be evident in your research ethics approval forms
 - ▶ And also when writing up your thesis.

Reflection on Aims of Session:

- ▶ Take some time to reflect:
 - ▶ What are the range of issues to consider in relation to ethics?
 - ▶ What are the requirements of you as a student researcher?

References

- ▶ BERA, (2018). British Educational Research Association Ethical Guidelines (online) Available from <https://www.bera.ac.uk/researchers-resources/publications/ethical-guidelines-for-educational-research-2018> (accessed October 2018)
- ▶ BSA, Ethical Guidelines: <https://www.britsoc.co.uk/ethics>
- ▶ Kara, H. (2012) Research and Evaluation for Busy Practitioners. Bristol: Policy Press
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