



Prifysgol Cymru
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Research and Ethics

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



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What are ethics?

- Moral principles that govern a person's behaviour or the conducting of an activity
- The moral correctness of specified conduct
- The branch of knowledge that deals with moral principles

Ethics in the context of research

- The purpose of research ethics is **ensuring no harm to yourself (the researcher) or the research participants**
- Research ethics are generally governed, at least in part, by a formal process
 - The UWTSD Ethics Committee
 - Your own workplace Ethics Code, Code of Practice, or other

Ethics in the context of work

- Again, ethics at work tend to be codified and governed, at least in part, by a formal process
- As a work-based researcher, it is crucial to be familiar with the ethical policies and procedures of your organisation
- As a work-based researcher, it may be necessary to go above and beyond what is required of you by the workplace to protect yourself and your participants

Research Ethics vs. Morality

Ethics $\neq$ Morality

Remember that 'ethics' and 'morality' are not necessarily equivalent concepts within the context of research

Can you think of a situation where what is moral might not necessarily be what is ethical, or vice versa?

Ethics Role Play!

Ethical Guidelines

- British Educational Research Association (BERA) Ethical Guidelines
 - <https://www.bera.ac.uk/researchers-resources/resources-for-researchers>
- Economics and Social Research Council (ESRC) Research Ethics Framework
 - <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/guidance-for-applicants/research-ethics/>
- The UWTSD Research Integrity and Ethics
 - <http://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/research/research-ethics/>
- UK Data Archive
 - <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/create-manage/consent-ethics>
- Your own organisation?
 - Code of Practice?
 - Health and Safety Guidelines?

Confidentiality

Spoken,
written, or
acted upon in
complete
privacy and
secret

CONFIDENTIAL

What does
confidentiality
mean within the
context of
research?

How do we find
the line between
keeping
confidentiality
and reporting
results?

Anonymity

How does anonymity differ from confidentiality in the context of research?

How can we guarantee anonymity and still work with and analyse data?

The situation in which someone's name is not given or shown



Permission for
something to
happen or
agreement to
do something

Consent

CONSENT



Freely Given
Reversible
Informed
Enthusiastic
Specific

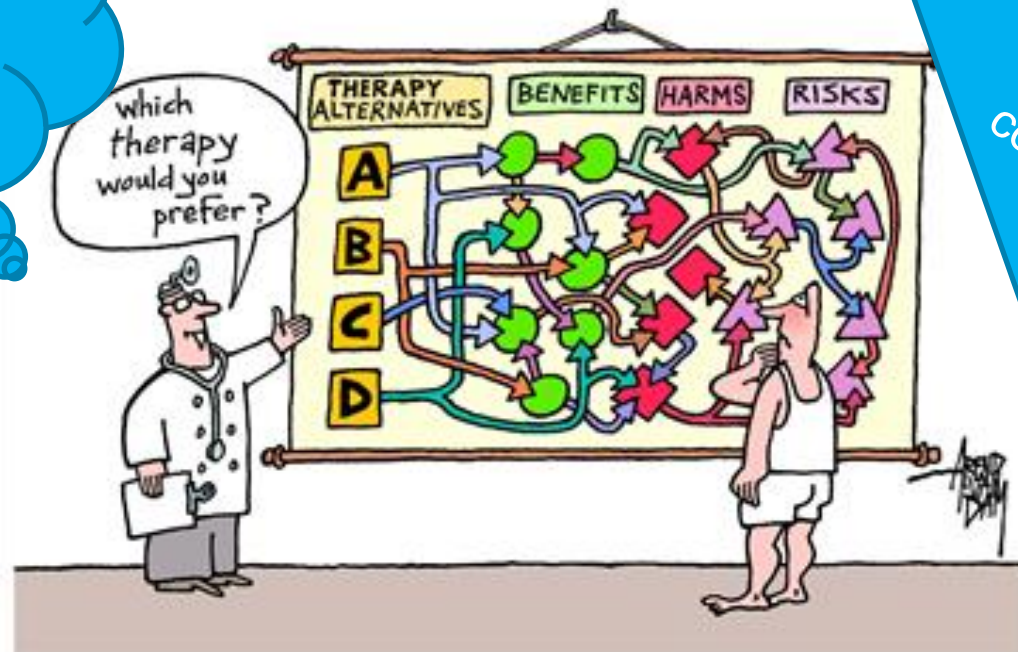
 Planned Parenthood®

Why is consent
so important
within research?

What does it
mean to be an
insider
researcher and
seek 'freely
given' consent?

Informed Consent

Why must consent be informed for research to take place?



informed consent

Cagle.com

Consent is valid only if those giving it understand what they have consented to

Risk to Participants

What can we do to minimise risk for participants?

How do we prepare for risks we might not intend or foresee?



It is the responsibility of the researcher to ensure that no harm comes to participants.

Risk to Researcher

Researchers are also responsible for ensuring no harm comes to themselves or colleagues.



What can we do to minimise the risk to ourselves?

Where do we draw the line between pursuing our professional needs and protecting ourselves?

Power/Authority Relationships

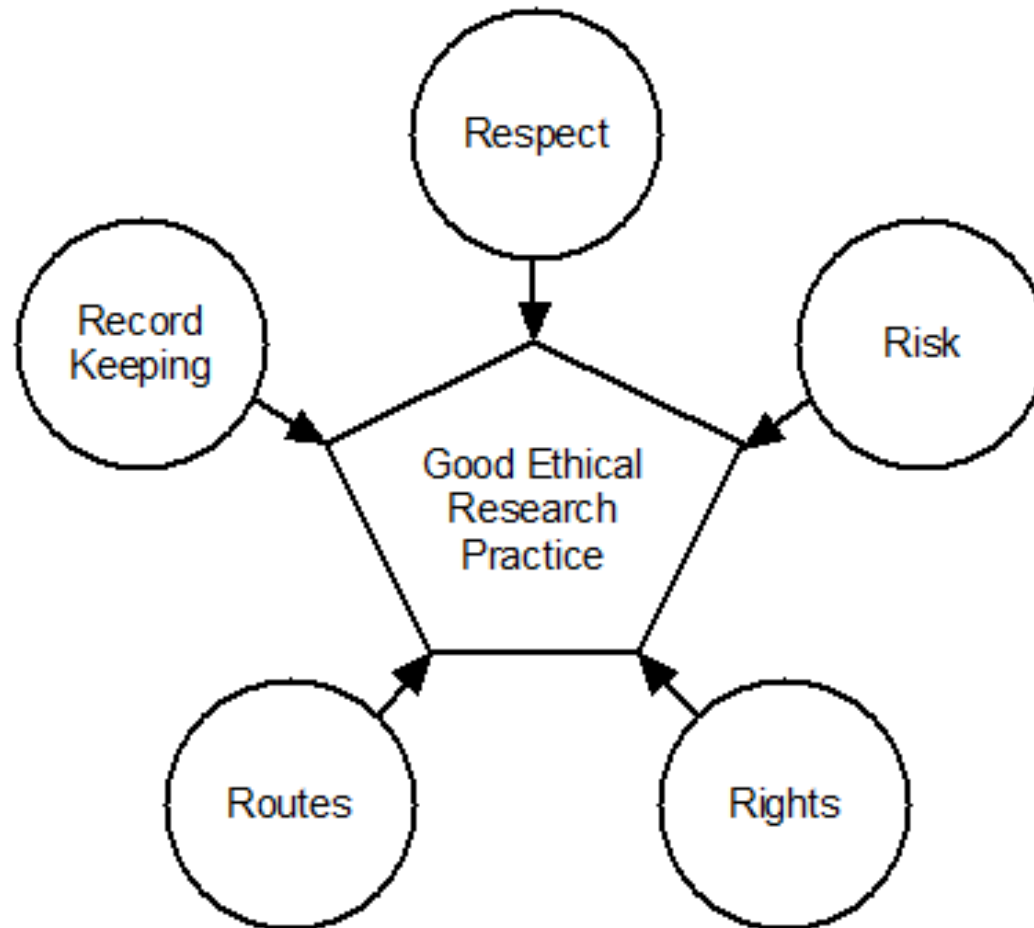
There are ethical implications to our relationships with those we research



What can we do to acknowledge and accommodate power relationships?

Can research ever take place without SOME form of power/authority relationship?

The 'Five Rs' of Research Ethics



What happens when...?

- We have promised to protect confidentiality, but have learned information that must be shared with relevant authorities?
 - e.g. A participant in your interviews about happiness at work has indicated that he/she is contemplating suicide
- We want to promise participants anonymity, but our research requires the collection of personal data that might identify some individuals?
 - e.g. You want to include gender and age range on your questionnaire for analysis, but doing so will make it easy to identify the two women working in the office
- We have no choice but to collect research from a group over whom we have authority/power?
 - e.g. Your research requires observing individuals who you line manage directly at work
- We think securing informed consent might corrupt the data we are trying to collect?
 - e.g. You want to observe people using their health and safety equipment to be sure they are doing so properly, but fear that telling them you will do so will cause them to behave in a way that is out of the ordinary

Data Protection and Management

- The act of collecting data on individuals makes you responsible for that data's management and protection
- As researchers, we have a responsibility to our research participants to protect their information, especially information that could compromise their anonymity and/or confidential information
- <http://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/library/research-data-management/>

Insider Research

- What does it mean to be an ‘insider researcher’?
- What does being an ‘insider researcher’ mean to your work?
- What does being an ‘insider researcher’ mean to the ethics of research?

Review Ethics and Insider Research

- Cohen, L., Manion, L. and Morrison, K. (2011) *Research Methods in Education*. Abingdon: Routledge.
 - Chapter 5, p. 75-104
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 - Chapter 1, p. 1-7
 - Chapters 3-6, p. 25-79
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 - Chapter 8, p. 187-213
- Blaxter, L., Hughes, C. and Tight, M. (2010) *How to Research*. (4th ed) Maidenhead: Open University Press.
 - p. 156-169
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 - Chapter 6, p. 113-140
- Gray, D. E. (2004). *Doing Research in the Real World*. London: Sage.
 - Chapter 4, p.67-96
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 - Chapter 6, p. 168-209
- Walliman, N. (2001) *Your Research Project: A step-by-step guide for the first-time researcher*. London: Sage
 - Chapter 6, p. 239-274
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