Ethical Challenges in Research and Supervision

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http://www.mdh.se/hogskolan/organisation/namnder/radgivande-etisk-kommitte-1.1855
Professional Ethics Course

http://www.idt.mdh.se/kurser/cd5590/
Morality & Ethics (1)

The terms ethics and morality are often used interchangeably.

They usually are taken to mean the same thing.

In casual conversation there isn't a problem with switching between the one and the other.
A Philosophical Distinction

Morality and Ethics have similar linguistics roots:

- Mores which means manner and customs, originates from the Latin.

- Ethos which means custom and habits, originates from the Greek.
Morality & Ethics (2)

- Morality refers to moral conduct

- Ethics refers to the formal study of moral conduct. Ethics is also called “Moral Philosophy”
Morality & Ethics (3)

- Morality: first-order set of beliefs and practices about how to live a good life.

- Ethics: a second-order, conscious reflection on the adequacy of our moral beliefs.
Morality & Ethics (4)

- Morality - Praxis

- Ethics - Theory
Ethical Traditions

- **Deontological ethics (Greek: déon – duty)**
  Kantian ethics is the most prominent deontological ethics.

- **Teleological ethics (Greek: télos – goal)**
  Utilitarianism is the most prominent kind of teleological ethics.
  Classic utilitarianism, as advocated by Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill, is hedonistic.

- **Virtue ethics (Latin: virtus* – moral excellence)**
  Developing good character traits that will allow a correct decisions.
  Described by Plato's Republic and Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics.

* It carries connotations of manliness, excellence, courage, character, and worth, perceived as masculine strengths (from Latin *vir*, "man").
Value & Norm

Values – what is good, worth striving for

Norms – rules or guidelines for our conduct, defining the right and wrong

Values and norms can be in harmony or in conflict
Law, Morality and Ethics

**Law** – a system of enforced rules (with limited jurisdiction, might be national or international that a particular community recognizes as regulating the actions of its members)

**Morality** – a normative tradition that guide our actions (Principles concerning the distinction between right and wrong or good and bad. Behavior as it is affected by the observation of these principles)(not enforced, established by culture)

**Ethics** – moral philosophy

   (Applied ethics, Descriptive ethics/Comparative ethics, Normative ethics, Meta-ethics)
The Act concerning the Ethical Review of Research Involving Humans 3§, SFS (2003:460)

This statute contains regulations concerning the ethical examination of research concerning humans and biological material from humans. It also contains regulations concerning consent to such research. The statute is applicable to research dealing with:

1. sensitive personal data as defined by section 13 of the Personal Data Act (1998:204), or

2. personal data concerning offences against the law that include crimes, judgments in criminal cases, coercive penal procedural measures or administrative deprivation of liberty as defined in section 21 of the Personal Data Act if the person who is the subject of the research has not expressly consented to this.

http://www.epn.se/media/45159/the_ethical_review_act.pdf
In addition to the consequences of section 3, this statute is to be applicable to research that

1. involves a physical intervention affecting a person who is participating in the research,

2. is conducted in accordance with a method intended to physically or mentally influence a person who is participating in the research,

3. concerns studies of biological material that has been taken from a living person and that can be traced back to that person,

4. involves a physical intervention upon a deceased person, or

5. concerns studies of biological material that has been taken for medical purposes from a deceased person and can be traced back to that person.
Rules of Conduct

Important elements:
- Information to the research subject
- Informed Consent of the research subject
- Confidentiality of the results
- Adequate usage of the research results

... in order to protect the involved persons or groups and to respect their personal integrity and privacy.
Swedish Research Council Expert Group for Ethics

- [http://www.vr.se/inenglish/ethics.4.69f66a93108e85f68d48000116.html](http://www.vr.se/inenglish/ethics.4.69f66a93108e85f68d48000116.html)

- [http://www.epn.se/sv/start/startsida/ Etikprövningsnämnderna](http://www.epn.se/sv/start/startsida/)
Research Ethics

Not merely a concern for the participants (rules of conduct)
A concern for the craft itself
A question of responsibility towards researchers and research community
Research ethics is professional ethics
Professional Ethics

... a question of relations between

- practicing professionals
- employee and employer
- professionals and their clients
- teachers and students
- supervisors and research students
On Being a Scientist


A complex set of relations

Industry, Health care, Educational sector, Cultural sector, etc

Clients Consumers

Family (Private Sphere)

Academic context

Student

Colleagues

Supervisor

Global environment

Profession (Societies)
Publiceringsetik book

https://www.studentlitteratur.se/#33300-01
Suspected Research Misconduct

The employer is responsible for taking action if suspicions of an employee’s suspected misconduct arise

Statement of policy and procedure to be followed for dealing with an allegation of misconduct in research at MDH

http://www.mdh.se/hogskolan/organisation/namndner/personalansvarsnamnden-1.185
http://www.mdh.se/hogskolan/organisation/namndner/radgivande-etisk-kommitte-1.1855 (in Swedish)
Supervisors and Research Students

Subject
Tradition
Perspective
Age
Gender

Ethnicity
Sexuality
Personality
Conflict of interest
Other factors ...
For discussion and reflection

• What ethical challenges have you faced within the field of research and supervision?

... in relation to your research subject, academic experience, cultural differences, other experiences ...
Research Ethics Resources

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12192

http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_magazine/previous_issues/articles/2010_11_19/caredit.a1000111
Responsible Conduct of Research for Junior Researchers (Science, November 2010)
Research Ethics Resources


• [http://www.zim.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlin_declaration.pdf](http://www.zim.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlin_declaration.pdf) Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge

• [http://www.icmje.org/urm_main.html](http://www.icmje.org/urm_main.html) Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts

• [http://www.codex.vr.se/](http://www.codex.vr.se/)
Swedish Sources in Research Ethics


http://www.vr.se/inenglish/ethics.4.69f66a93108e85f68d48000116.html Research Ethics from Research Council