Research Integrity and Ethics

Stellenbosch University Library and Information Science
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RESEARCH WEEK

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What defines a person of integrity?

- is the same authentic person regardless of the situation
- makes decisions reflective of values
- intentionally reflects on how to behave
- recognise when not acting with integrity and rectify behavior.

"You're looking for three things, generally, in a person. **Intelligence**, **energy** and **integrity**. And if they don't have the last one, don't even bother with the first two"

Warren Buffett
What is Research Integrity?

• A commitment to the trust-worthiness of the research process by the academic community

• Without it, the complex interplay of parts that constitutes the research endeavor, disintegrates

“INTEGRITY, THE CHOICE BETWEEN WHAT’S CONVENIENT AND WHAT’S RIGHT.”

-Tony Dungy, *Uncommon*

AllProDad.com
Integrity vs Ethics?

**Integrity**
- Quality of being honest and fair
- Personal choice
- Internal, cannot be imposed on individuals

**Ethics**
- Rules and regulations to ensure work is done in accordance to moral principles
- Not a choice
- External and imposed

(https://www.differencebetween.com/difference-between-ethics-and-vs-integrity/)
In 1970, sociologist and ordained Episcopalian minister Laud Humphreys published his book The Tearoom Trade: Impersonal Sex in Public Places, one of the most famous and controversial studies in sexology.

At the time of Humphreys' research having sex with men was a crime in most of the U.S.

Source: http://www.soc.ucsb.edu/sexinfo/article/tearoom-trade
The Great American Monkey Head Transplant
Guidelines for Animal work

3 R’s:
1. Refine, 2. Reduce, 3. Replace, 4. Responsible

5 Freedoms:
1. Freedom from Hunger and Thirst
by ready access to fresh water and diet to maintain health and vigor.
2. Freedom from Discomfort
by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
3. Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease
by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
4. Freedom to Express Normal Behavior
by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal’s own kind.
5. Freedom from Fear and Distress
by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.
Benchmarks and Guidelines (REC: Humanities)

1. Community Participation
2. Social value
3. Scientific validity
4. Fair selection of participants
5. Favorable risk / benefit ratio
6. Independent review
7. Adequate informed consent
8. Ongoing respect for dignity

Regulations
- SA National Health Act 2004
- Constitution 1996
- DOH: Ethics in Research 2015
- POPIA 2013
- Declaration of Helsinki 2013
- SA-GCP 2006

Benchmarks and Guidelines (REC: Humanities)
How to work with Biohazardous material
Ethics TIPS

• Always include a section on “ethical considerations” in your written research proposal.
• Get your proposal edited for language and spelling if needed
• Science matters!!! Make sure your methodology matches up with your objectives and is written in sufficient detail
• Be consistent across the various documents submitted to the REC
• Be realistic with your time frame – No retrospective approval
Thank you

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