

Unit

5

Research Ethics

The research Ethics - basic

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- **Ethics** – norms for conduct.
 - **Aims of research** – knowledge, truth and avoidance of error.
 - **Norms** - guidelines for authorship copyright and patenting policies, data sharing policies, confidentiality rules in peer review, etc.
 - **Ethical norms** - ‘body of principles governing right and wrong’
- 

The research Ethics - basic



Research misconduct/unethical research:

- *Falsification – altering data*
- *Fabrication – creating data*
- *Plagiarism – borrowing ideas or words without appropriate attribution*
- *Misrepresenting research data*
- *Copyright (legal protection of intellectual property)*
 - ✓ *Original works of authorship (books, software)*
 - ✓ *Covers the particular expression of an idea in the work*



The research Ethics - importance

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1. *Promote the aims of research (knowledge, truth and avoidance of error)*
 2. *Promote the values essential to collaborative work (trust, accountability, mutual respect, and fairness)*
 3. *Ensure that researchers can be held accountable to the public*
 4. *Help to build public support for research*
 5. *Promote moral and social values (human rights, animal welfare, health and safety)*
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Ethical Code

- *Many learned bodies have published ethical codes of practice, for example:*
 - ✓ *Medical Research Council*
 - ✓ *Economic and Social Research Committee*
 - ✓ *Welcome Trust*
 - ✓ *The Nuffield Foundation*
 - ✓ *British Society of Criminology*
 - ✓ *The British Sociological Society*
 - ✓ *National research ethics guidelines – Ministry of Science and Technology.*

Ethical Code

American Statistical Association



Founded in 1839, ASA is the nation's leading professional association for statistics and statisticians.

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Ethical Guidelines for Statistical Practice

American Statistical Association

Prepared by the Committee on Professional Ethics
Approved by the Board of Directors, August 7, 1999

Executive Summary

This document contains two parts: **I. Preamble** and **II. Ethical Guidelines**. The Preamble addresses **A. Purpose of the Guidelines**, **B. Statistics and Society**, and **C. Shared Values**. The purpose of the document is to encourage ethical and effective statistical work in morally conducive working environments. It is also intended to assist students in learning to perform statistical work responsibly. Statistics plays a vital role in many aspects of science, the economy, governance, and even entertainment. It is important that all statistical practitioners recognize their potential impact on the broader society and the attendant ethical obligations to perform their work responsibly. Furthermore, practitioners are encouraged to exercise "good professional citizenship" in order to improve the public climate for, understanding of, and respect for the use of statistics throughout its range of applications.

The **Ethical Guidelines** address eight general topic areas and specific important ethical

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RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH

Promoting RCR education as a central responsibility for any institution involved in research.

Introduction
Case Study
Q & A
Annotated Case
Foundation Text
Resources
Conclusion



»Welcome«

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Technical Requirements:

- Monitor resolution no less than 800 x 600
(better if viewed at 1024 x 768 monitor resolution)
- RealOne Player
- Netscape 7 (or higher) OR Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.0 (or higher)
- Enable javascript

- COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY -

http://ccnmtl.columbia.edu/projects/rcr/rcr_mentoring

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The research Ethics - basic

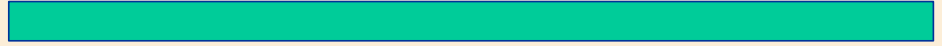
- *Controls over research involving human subjects:*
 - ✓ *Legal obligations*
 - ✓ *Professional code of ethics*
 - ✓ *Pre-Clearance from Relevant Regulators*
E.g. Typically, University Ethics Committee
 - ✓ *Free and Informed Consent (voluntary participation)*

Ethical Code Development

- *Some ethical principles many codes addresses:*
 - *Honesty* – in reporting data, results, methods, procedures. No fabrication, falsify, etc.
 - *Objectivity* – strive to avoid bias in experimental design, data analysis, etc.
 - *Integrity* – keeping promises and agreements
 - *Carefulness* – avoid careless errors and negligence; critically examine your work, etc.
 - *Openness* – share data, results, ideas, etc. And be open to criticism.
 - *Respect for intellectual property* – honour patents, copyrights, etc. No use of unpublished data without permission. Give credit when credit is due.
 - *Confidentiality* – protect confidential communications such as paper submitted for publication, etc.

Ethical Code Development

- *Some ethical principles many codes addresses:*
 - *Legality* – know and obey relevant laws institutional and government policies
 - *Animal care* – use proper respect and care when animals are used in research.
 - *Human study participants' protection* – minimize harms and risks and maximize benefits; respect human dignity, privacy; take special precautions with vulnerable populations.
- *Other Deviations – Ethical dilemma*



Thank you

