

Research Ethics in CS

Types of harm: Physical, Psychological, social disadvantage , invasion of privacy

Ethical principles for good research

- Minimise risk
 - Respect dignity (importance/value/respect)
 - Be fair & non-discriminatory
- Use of tech
 - Data integrity and data validity for research (online tests could be repeated, skewing results)
- Transparency

Informed consent

Participants should

- be volunteers (no coercion or deceit)
- know they are taking part in the research, have an opportunity to ask questions, and have a right to withdraw from the research
- know what the research requires of them.
 - Purpose/methods/timelines/dissemination
 - Benefits/demands/discomforts/inconveniences
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Protect anonymity & confidentiality

- Data being anonymous could make the right to withdraw difficult to fulfil – use coding data.
- Don't collect unneeded personal information
- Disclosing confidential information requires permission
 - Data must be kept secure.
- Data publication – try and prevent participants from identifying each other from the published data
- When might confidentiality might be broken:
 - Serious danger
 - Illegal activity

Avoid deceptive practices, but necessary in covert research

- ID of observer is unknown by participants

When you meet the participants:

- Make sure to thank them for their time.
- Make sure they understand the purpose of the research
- Make sure you have a signed consent form
- Make sure they understand what you will do with the data.