

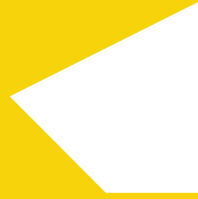
**the  
embassy  
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The VIRT2UE project has received funding from  
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# **Research Integrity**

## **The Dilemma Game**



# **VIRT<sup>2</sup>UE**

## **Train-the-Trainer Program**

*The main layout and resources are credited to the authors (Armin Schmolmueller and team) and adapted for the purposes of the VIRT2UE training.*

*The materials have been provided within the project "Virtue based ethics and Integrity of Research: Train-the-Trainer program for Upholding the principles and practices of the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity" (H2020).*

Adapted by Cíntia Aguas for educational purposes | 2023

# Group Sessions

- 1. Please read through the case;**
- 2. Get into character and reflect on the 4 alternative courses of action presented to you (There are no “winning” or “losing” positions);**
- 3. Debate and decide on an option (A, B, C or D) - or don't, but be prepared to state your choice and defend your perspective either way.**



# Plenary debate

**As a research team, we will briefly discuss the case and go over the different courses of action.**

**After our brainstorm, we will ask yourselves: are we still OK with our initial decision? Has the group been able to reach a consensus on values/norms/courses of action?**

**What if you/we were the RIO (Research Integrity Officer) for this case?**



# DILEMMA

## #88 “Causing stress”

**I am carrying out my PhD as part of a prestigious research grant which my supervisor has won. Although the research has ethical approval from the funder and the University, I am increasingly worried about the stress the participants are experiencing when I interview them. I discuss with my supervisor who says that they are taking part voluntarily and shows me the clear consent procedure. I shouldn't worry so much... but...**

**What do I do?**



# DILEMMA

## #88 “Causing Stress”

- A.** I tell the participants again that they have the right to stop participating at any time, with the risk that some decide to stop.
- B.** I contact my faculty’s ethics board to ask for advice.
- C.** I carry on – after all it is my supervisor’s research project.
- D.** I continue interviewing but re-word the questions that cause most upset.



# Reflections on the case

- Was it easy or difficult to identify the relevant principles and virtues in the chosen dilemmas?
- Did this exercise help you with identifying and connecting to formally defined principles (ECoC)?
- What were the main points of contention? Was there an final agreement?
- How come people disagreed (e.g. differences in experience, training, background, values, norms...)?
- Did anybody change her/his mind as a result of the discussion?



# Excesses and Deficits: virtue as a „middle position“

<i>Vice (deficit)</i>	<i>Virtue</i>	<i>Vice (excess)</i>
Cowardice	<i>Courage</i>	Recklessness
Manipulativeness	<i>Respectfulness</i>	Partiality
Laziness	<i>Resoluteness</i>	Inflexibility
Concealment	<i>Sincerity</i>	Exaggeration
Boastfulness	<i>Humility</i>	Timidity
Dogmatism	<i>Reflexivity</i>	Indecisiveness
<i>Unaccountability</i>	<i>Accountability</i>	<i>Acting as a „Punch Bag“</i>
<i>Individuality</i>	<i>Collaborative spirit</i>	<i>Taking charge</i>
<i>Untruthful</i>	<i>Honesty</i>	<i>Brutal honesty</i>
<i>fickleness</i>	<i>Reliability</i>	<i>Dependency</i>
<i>Irresponsible</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Taking all the blame</i>
<i>Selfishness</i>	<i>Selflessness</i>	<i>Too Yielding</i>

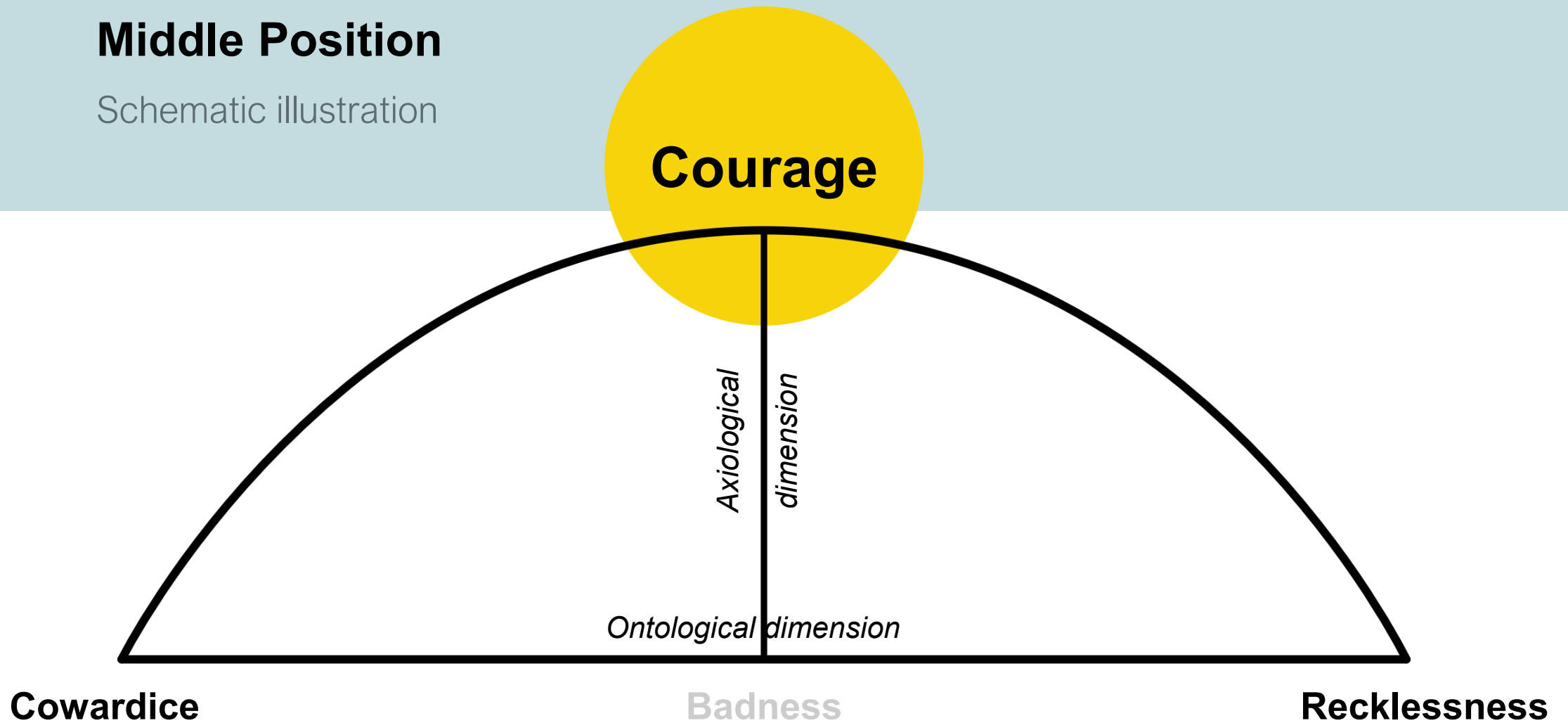


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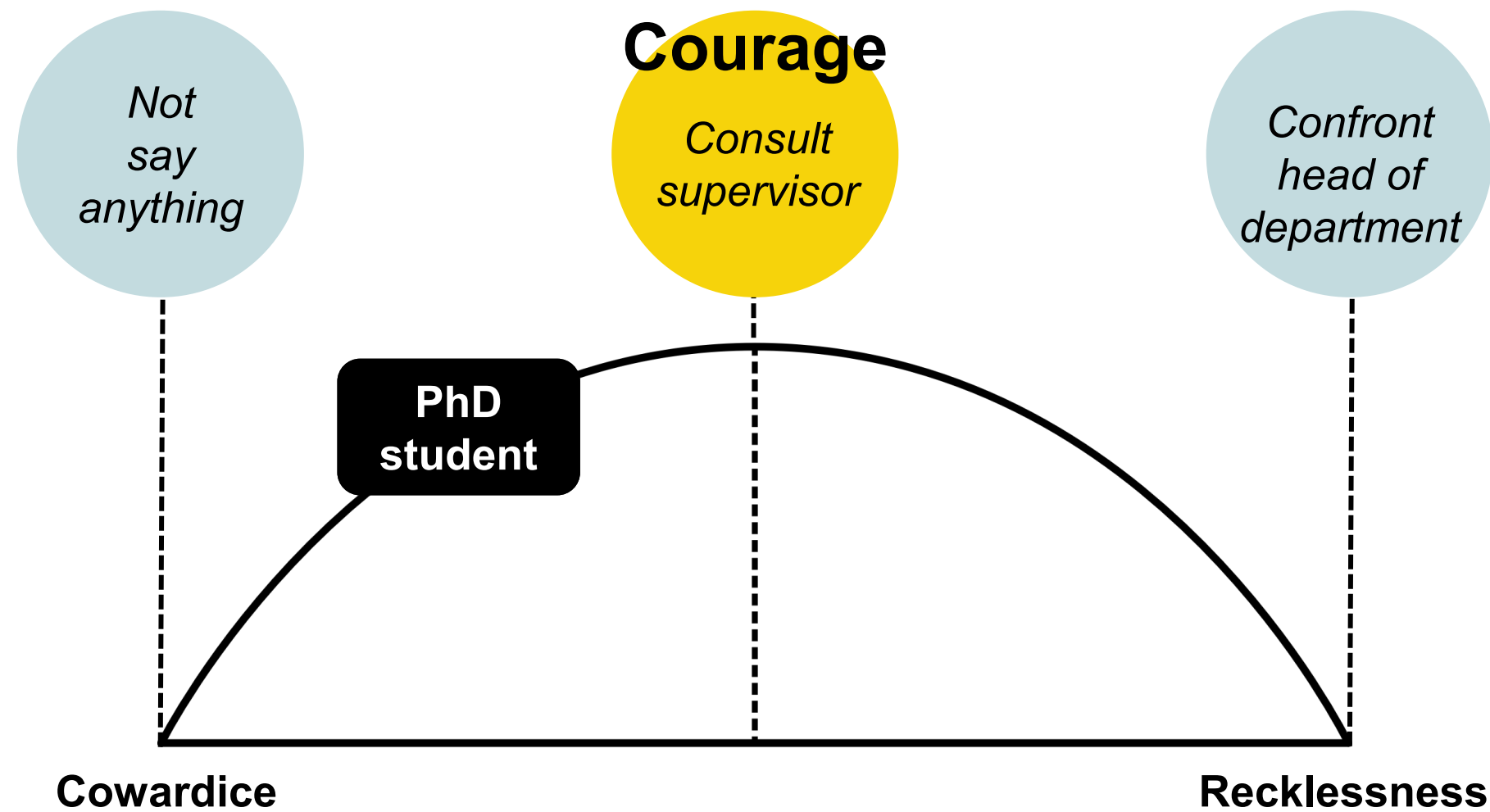
# Middle Position

Schematic illustration

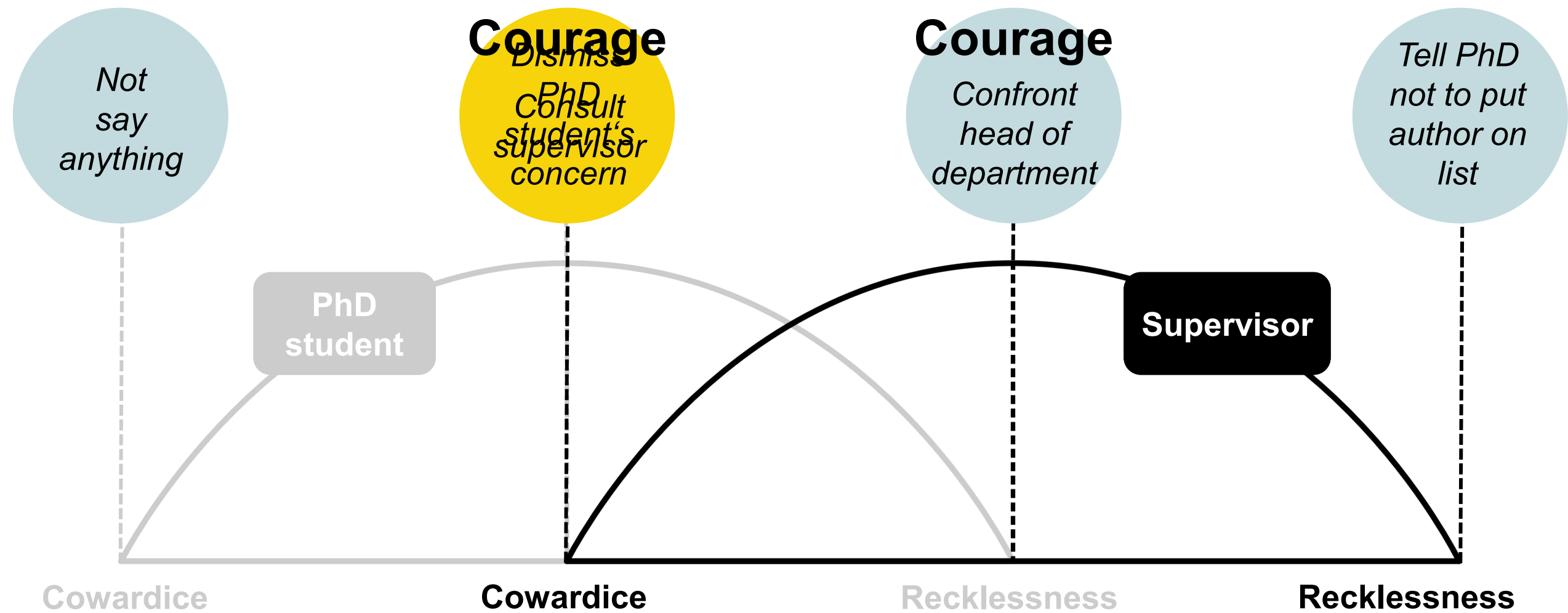


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*Ethics*, by Nicolai Hartmann, vol. 2, p. 256. (Transl., Dr. Stanton Coit. George Allen & Unwin, Ltd.)



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# Further reflections

- What is needed in order to act with integrity in your work/research setting?
- How to best address such future dilemmas?
- How to achieve a more commonly shared set of values and principles?



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