

Introduction to Research Ethics Issues

David Wertheim

2015

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David Wertheim, Kingston University

Background Reading

- Ethics Guidance and Procedures for undertaking research involving Human Subjects, Kingston University. November 2014.
- Kingston University, Science, Engineering and Computing Research Ethics Committee, Guidance for applicants (draft prepared by Chris Cairns, SECREC guidance for applicants1b2005.pdf). 2005-2007.

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- World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki, Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects.
<http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html>
- Good Research Practice, MRC.
- www.mrc.ac.uk/news/publications/good-research-practice-principles-and-guidelines/
- Statement of Ethical Principles, The Royal Academy of Engineering.
<http://www.raeng.org.uk/societygov/engineeringethics/principles.htm>

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Examples of aspects to consider

- Potential harm to participants
- Informed Consent
- Confidentiality
 - e.g. data security
- Power-dependency relationships

(ref: Kingston University, Science, Engineering and Computing Research Ethics Committee, Guidance for applicants (draft prepared by Chris Cairns, SECREC guidance for applicants1b2005.pdf). 2005-2007.)

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Exercise

Consider the following made up scenario:

Jack and Jill work for a University. They want to find out what food and drink commuters have for breakfast and hope to be able to use the data they collect for a research paper. They want to use a camcorder to record interviews with commuters leaving a local station. The researchers want to ask participants to give their name, address, age, height, occupation, salary, details about their health, food at breakfast, drink at breakfast, time spent eating breakfast.

- Are you happy with the Ethics aspects of this proposed project?
- Do you require extra information to assess the project?
- Is sufficient information given to participants?
- Would you suggest any changes to the project?

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