

Lecture 10 – Ethical Considerations

PJ6100 – Research Methods

Course structure - Bergen

Date	Theme	Reading	Exercise
Week 34 24.08	Introduction Lecturer: Kjeld Hansen		
Week 35 31.08	Approaches to research Lecturer: Kjeld Hansen (online)	Cpt. 1 (Creswell, 2014)	Group exercise
Week 36 07.09	Purpose and products of research Lecturer: Kjeld Hansen	Cpt. 2-4 (Oates, 2022)	Group exercise
Week 37 14.09	Formulating research questions Lecturer Jefferson Moller (Online)		Group exercise
Week 38 21.09	Reviewing the literature Lecturer: Kjeld Hansen (online)	Cpt. 6 (Oates, 2022)	Group exercise
Week 39 28.09	Research strategies 2 Lecturer: Kjeld Hansen	Cpt. 10-12 (Oates, 2022)	Group exercise
Week 40 05.10	Research strategies 1 Lectuer: Gabriel Balaban	Cpt. 7-9 (Oates, 2022)	Group exercise
Week 41 12.10	Qualitative data collection and analysis Lecturer: Kjeld Hansen	Cpt. 17-18 (Oates, 2022)	Group exercise
Week 42 19.10	Quantitative data collection and analysis Lecturer: Gabriel Balaban	Cpt. 13-16 (Oates, 2022)	Group exercise
Week 43 26.10	Ethical consideration in research Lecturer: Kjeld Hansen	Cpt. 5 (Oates, 2022)	Group exercise
Week 13 02.11	Producing a methodology report Lecturer: Kjeld Hansen	Cpt. 21 (Oates, 2022)	Supervision
Week 15 09.11	Summing-up Lecturer: Kjeld Hansen (online)	(Creswell, 2014; Oates, 2022)	Supervision

Course structure - Oslo

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Agenda

- About Ethics on Research
- Participants in Research
- Research Ethics and the law
- Ethical issues and Good practices
- Personal Data and Informed Consent
- Reflection: How to address ethical misconduct?
- Professionals, Researchers and Ethics
- Tools
- Exercise



About Ethics on Research

Research Ethics

What does it mean to be ethical?



What is ethics?

Ethics is learning about and executing good judgement in regards to moral (what is right and what is wrong)

As an IT professional you might encounter dilemmas of a moreal nature. For example:

- Would you use software without paying for it?
- If you know that you might not deliver a project on time, would you inform your customer?
- Would you copy code without asking permission?
- You accept a commission, which you know that you might not be competent to perform to the customers satisfaction?
- Etc.

What is ethics?

- ✗ following the law or regulations
- ✗ following cultural norms
- ✗ science-informed decisions
- ✗ same as morals
- ✓ principles that govern a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity (such as research)
- ✓ a real discussion of competing conceptions of the “right” or “good”
- ✓ maybe we cannot find the right answer, but we can sure find the wrong ones

A piece of History

1880s: first medical ethics cases

1947: Nuremberg code

1964: Declaration of Helsinki

1978: Belmont Report

1979: Ethics in information science paper

1995: Data Protection Directive

2016: General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Principles for ethical research

- Respect for human beings: autonomy and consent
 - Beneficence: serves the needs of participants and society
 - Nonmaleficence: ensure the participants protection
 - Fairness: provide equal treatment
-
- There is more: honesty, competence, integrity, openness, sustainability, privacy, confidentiality, animal care, etc.

Navigating Ethical Dilemmas



Where Might You Encounter Ethical Dilemmas?

Ethics is increasingly scrutinised in modern society. Especially in regards to:

- Sensitive data
- Data collection methodologies (interview, survey, experiments, etc)
- Warnings about greyzone areas

What is Sensitive Data?

According to the law (§2-8 definitions), person sensitive information is information about:

- Race and ethnic background
- Political, philosophical and religious perceptions
- Health
- Sexual orientation
- Membership of associations



KEEP
CALM
AND
COMPLY WITH
GDPR

Discuss!!

Which ethical issues might you encounter?

- You have started a new job in Amazon and been tasked to develop a better algorithm for «*recommendation systems*»
- You have started a new job in an insurance company. Your boss ask you to collect data about the customers using the APIs of social media platforms
- You are asked to develop an «addictive» game, where the user feels compelled to play every day
- You have started a new job in Google and are working on driver-less cars. A car hits a small bridge and people are injured

Examples

https://www.newyorker.com/tech/annals-of-technology/inside-the-making-of-facebooks-supreme-court

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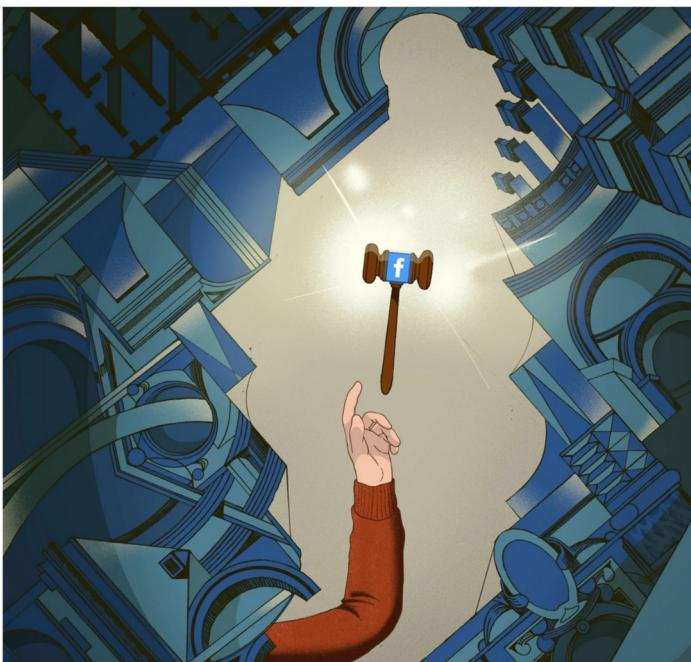
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ANNALS OF TECHNOLOGY

INSIDE THE MAKING OF FACEBOOK'S SUPREME COURT

The company has created a board that can overrule even Mark Zuckerberg. Soon it will decide whether to allow Trump back on Facebook.

By Kate Klonick
February 12, 2021



https://www.theverge.com/2021/2/19/22292011/google-second-ethical-ai-researcher-fired

GOOGLE POLICY SCIENCE

Google fires second AI ethics researcher following internal investigation

Margaret Mitchell and Timnit Gebru, co-leads of the ethical AI team, have now both been terminated

By Zoe Schiffer | @ZoeSchiffer | Feb 19, 2021, 5:52pm EST

f t SHARE



Illustration by Alex Castro / The Verge

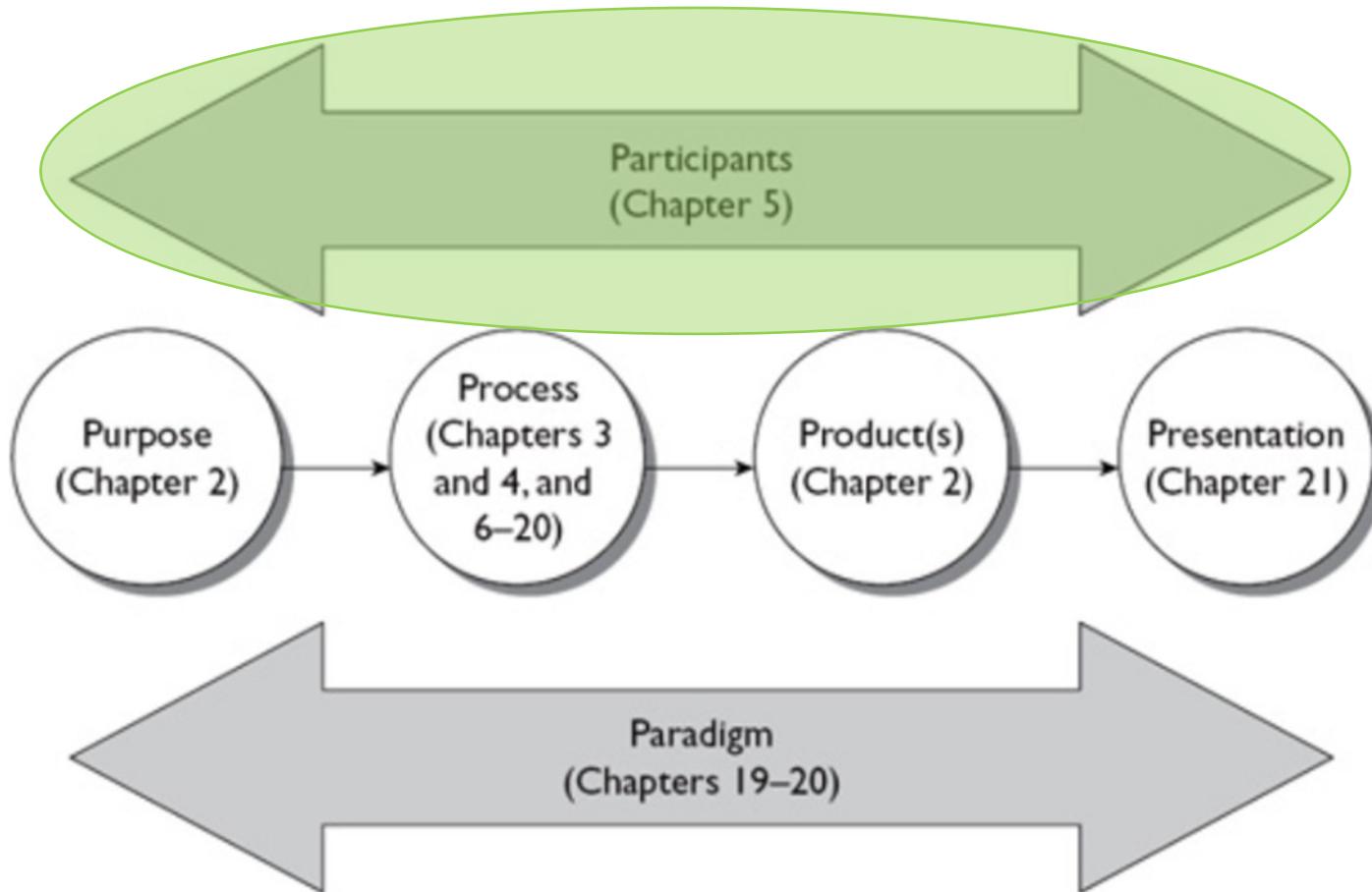
Google has fired Margaret Mitchell, co-lead of the ethical AI team, after she used an

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Participants in Research

Research Ethics

From Lecture 03 ...



Participants:

- Directly involved in your research, for example by interviewing them or observing them, or asking them to complete a questionnaire or supply you with documents.
- Indirectly involved:
 - such as the managers that formulate your case assignment
 - you as the researcher, along with your colleagues if you are in a research team
 - the members of the academic community who read, review and learn from your research
 - people who may use or be affected by any computer-based product you design and create
 - Etc

(Direct) Participants in Research Projects

The literature on the different strategies might refer to these people in different ways:

- In experiments, they are often called the research *subjects*.
- In surveys, they are often called the research *respondents*;
- In case studies and ethnography, they are often called research *informants, members* or *participants*;
- In action research, they are often called the research *participants* or, especially in the more emancipatory forms of action research, *co-researchers*

Research ethics and the law

Research Ethics

Why research ethics?

You should be an ethical researcher because ...

- You treat everyone involved fairly and with honesty.
- Increasing attention is being paid to the rights and responsibilities of those involved in research (past practices are no longer acceptable).
- It is expected of you (public trust).
- It is required from you (by Kristiania, National research council, EU, etc.)

NSD

We ensure that data about people and society can be collected, stored and shared, both safely and legally, today and in the future.

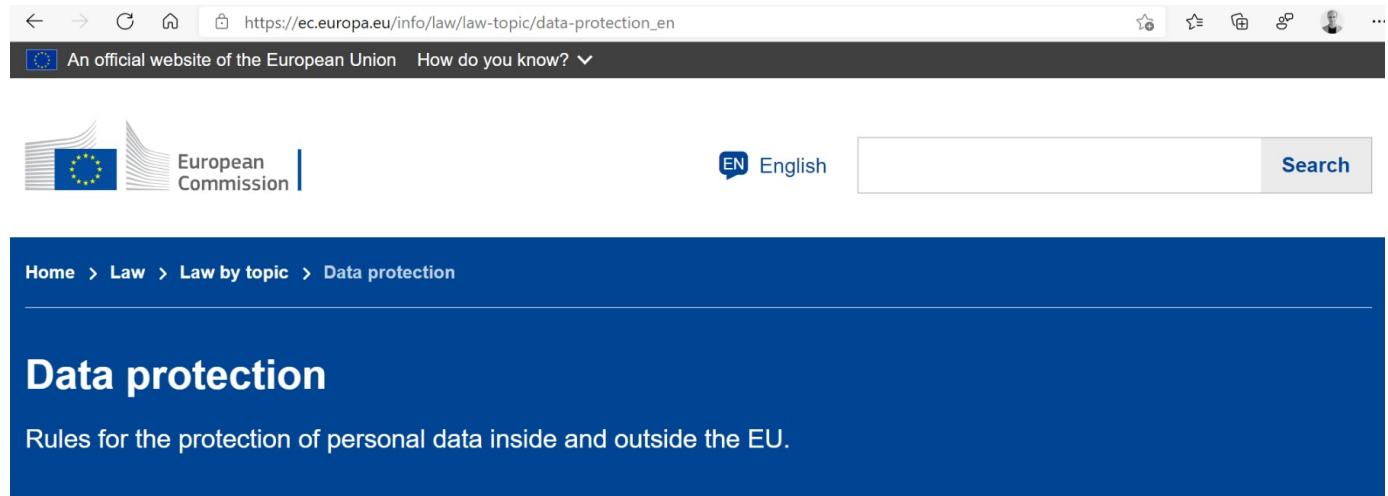
Sikt

Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research

Research, innovation, and entrepreneurship is vital for developing the Norwegian and international society. In order to make contributions to this development, education and research is dependent on high quality infrastructure and tools for data storage and knowledge sharing.



THE STANFORD
PRISON EXPERIMENT



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the European Commission's website for data protection. The URL in the address bar is https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-topic/data-protection_en. A banner at the top indicates it is an official website of the European Union. The page title is "Data protection" with the subtitle "Rules for the protection of personal data inside and outside the EU." Navigation links include Home, Law, Law by topic, and Data protection. The main content area features sections on Data protection in the EU, International dimension of data protection, Reform, EU data protection rules, and EU funding supporting the implementation of the GDPR.

Data protection in the EU

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive and other rules concerning the protection of personal data.

EU data protection rules

Find out how updates to data protection rules will affect you individually, or apply to your business.

International dimension of data protection

International data protection agreements, EU-US privacy shield, transfer of passenger name record data.

EU funding supporting the implementation of the GDPR

Details of projects funded and links to deliverables produced

Reform

Impact of the new data protection rules on EU citizens, business and public administrations.

- The specified data protection rights of individuals, and the duties of organizations and researchers who hold personal data on individuals.
- Intellectual property rights. For example:
 - Who owns the right to an image you want to use in your research?
 - Who owns the copyright of your own thesis or other publications or any software you produce?
- Restrictions on the kinds of technology you are allowed to use and investigate. For example:
 - Does your country allow unrestricted access to the Internet (algorithmic biases)?
 - Are you permitted to use encryption software?
 - May you share your technological innovations with colleagues based in other countries?
- The legal liability of software developers for the systems they design and create

National Ethical Research Guidelines



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the homepage of the National Ethical Research Guidelines. The URL in the address bar is [https://www.forskningsetikk.no/retningslinjer/nat-tek/forskningsetiske-retningslinjer-for-naturvitenskap-og-teknologi...](https://www.forskningsetikk.no/retningslinjer/nat-tek/forskningsetiske-retningslinjer-for-naturvitenskap-og-teknologi). The page features a large green circular background image of a leaf. At the top left is the logo for "De nasjonale FORSKNINGSETISKE KOMITEENE". The top right contains links for "Nyheter" and "Magasinet Forskningsetikk". A search bar at the top right includes the placeholder "Hva leter du etter?". Below the header, there are navigation links for "Om oss", "Ressurser", "Retningslinjer", "Lovverk", and "Tema". The main title "Forskningsetiske retningslinjer for naturvitenskap og teknologi" is prominently displayed in the center. Below the title, a publication date "Publisert: 08.02.2019" is shown, followed by a descriptive text about the guidelines. A summary of the text is also present in a box at the bottom of the page.

Forskningsetiske retningslinjer for naturvitenskap og teknologi

Publisert: 08.02.2019

Disse retningslinjene er utarbeidet av Den nasjonale forskningsetiske komité for naturvitenskap og teknologi (NENT) i 2007 og omarbeidet i 2015. Retningslinjene er supplerende til eksisterende internasjonale forskningsetiske retningslinjer.

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General Guidelines for Research Ethics



General guidelines for research ethics

Research is of great importance – to individuals, to society and to global development. Research also exercises considerable power at all these levels. For both these reasons, it is essential that research is undertaken in ways that are ethically sound.

PRINCIPLES

- **Respect.** People who participate in research, as informants or otherwise, shall be treated with respect.
- **Good consequences.** Researchers shall seek to ensure that their activities produce good consequences and that any adverse consequences are within the limits of acceptability.
- **Fairness.** All research projects shall be designed and implemented fairly.
- **Integrity.** Researchers shall comply with recognized norms and to behave responsibly, openly and honestly towards their colleagues and the public.

1 Quest for truth. Research activity is a quest for new knowledge, with critical and systematic verification and peer review. Honesty, openness, systematicness and documentation are fundamental preconditions for achieving this goal.

2 Academic freedom. Research institutions shall assist in ensuring the researchers' freedom in their choice of topic and methodology; implementation of research and publication of results. In commissioned research, the commissioning agency has the right to define the topic, research questions and scope of the research assignment in cooperation with the person or institution undertaking the assignment. The commissioning agency should not seek to unduly influence choice of methodology, implementation or publication.

3 Quality. Research should be of high academic quality. The researcher and institution are required to possess the necessary competence, design relevant research questions, undertake suitable choices of methodology and ensure sound and appropriate project implementation in terms of data collection, data processing and safekeeping/storage of the material.

4 Voluntary informed consent. Consent is the main rule in research on individuals or on information and material that can be linked to individuals. This consent should be informed, explicit, voluntary and documentable. Consent presupposes the capacity to give such consent. To ensure real voluntariness, vigilance must be exercised in cases where the participant is in a dependency relationship to the researcher or in a situation of restricted freedom.

5 Confidentiality. As a general principle, those who are made the subjects of research are entitled to have their personal information treated confidentially. The

researcher must prevent any use and communication of information that might inflict damage on individuals who are the subjects of research. Irrespective of the duty of confidentiality, researchers have a legal obligation to avoid punishable offences. The researcher must decide when and in what way the participant should be informed about limitations of the duty of confidentiality.

6 Impartiality. Impartiality means avoidance of confusing roles and relationships in a way that may give rise to reasonable doubt concerning conflicts of interest. Openness regarding relevant roles and relationships that the researcher is involved in must be maintained in relation to colleagues, research participants, sources of finance and other relevant parties.

7 Integrity. The researcher is responsible for the trustworthiness of his or her own research. Fabrication, falsification, plagiarism and similar serious violations of good academic practice are incommensurate with such trustworthiness.

8 Good reference practice. Researchers must adhere to good reference practices, which fulfil requirements for verifiability and form the basis for further research.

9 Collegiality. Researchers must show each other respect. They must agree on and comply with good practices for data ownership and sharing, authorship, publication, peer review and cooperation in general.

10 Institutional responsibility. The responsibility for ethical conduct rests not only with the individual researcher, but also with the research institution. The institution is responsible for ensuring compliance with good academic practice and for establishing mechanisms that can address cases of suspected violations of ethical research norms.

11 Availability of results. As a main rule, research results should be made available. Openness regarding research findings is essential for ensuring verifiability, for returning some benefit to the research participants and society in general, and for ensuring a dialogue with the public. Such communication is also a function of democracy.

12 Social responsibility. Researchers have an independent responsibility to ensure that their research will be of benefit to research participants, relevant groups or society in general, and for preventing it from causing harm. Research decisions must take into account any knowledge that the development of a research area may entail ethically unacceptable consequences for individuals, animals, society or the environment. It is absolutely essential that when participating in public debate, the researcher clearly distinguishes between professional comments made in his or her capacity as an expert on the one hand and statements of personal opinion on the other, and refrains from abusing his or her authority.

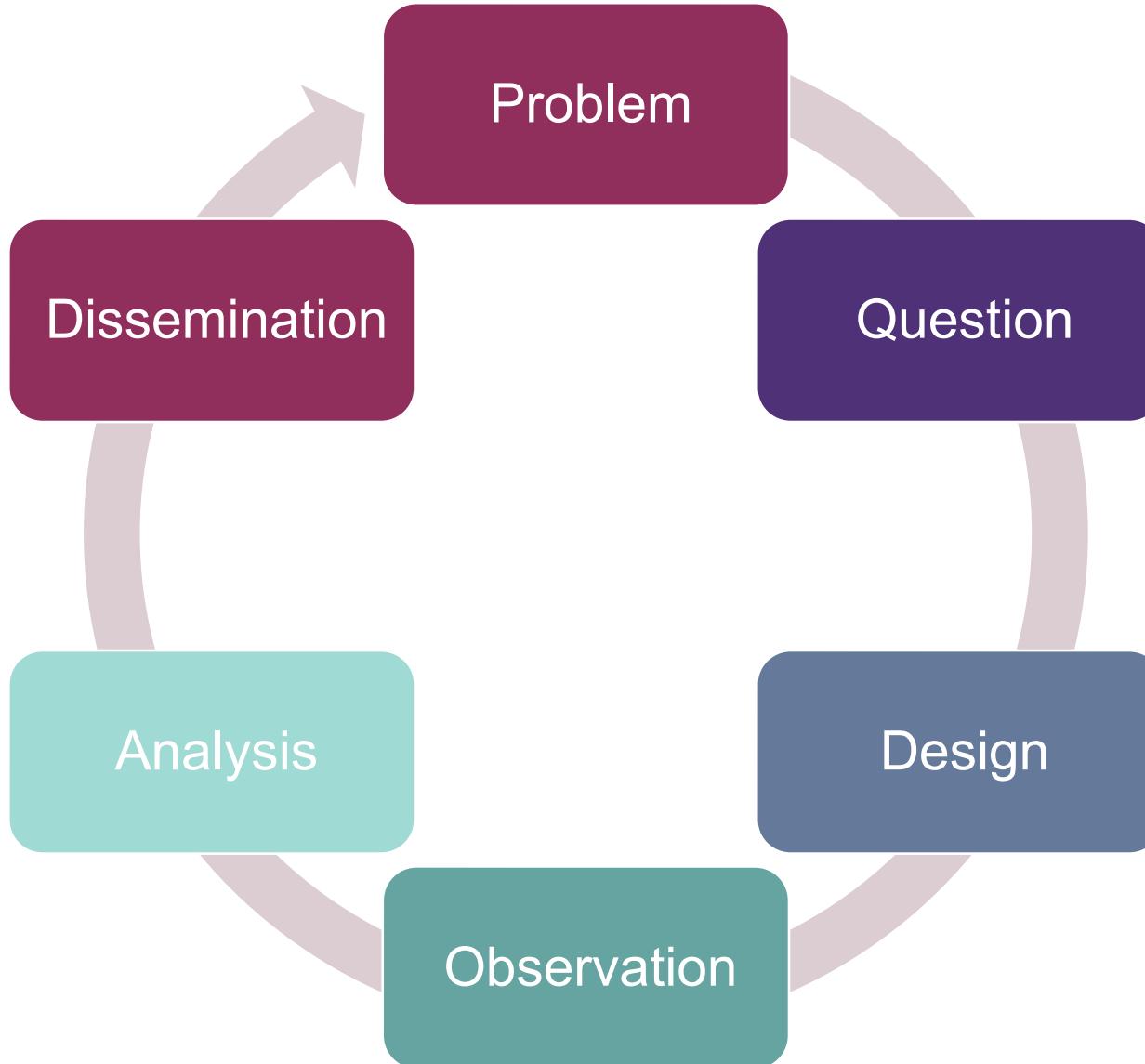
13 Global responsibility. Research institutions and researchers have a responsibility to communicate relevant knowledge to regions that are otherwise excluded for reasons of economic disadvantage. Research should help counteract global injustice and preserve biological diversity.

14 Laws and regulations. In the field of research, there are national laws and regulations as well as applicable international conventions and agreements, and researchers and research institutions must abide by these.

Ethical issues and Good practices

Research Ethics

Traditional Scientific Method



Research problem

- Is the problem significant to others?
- Who is sponsoring the research?
 - Does it deserve public funding?
- It has already been done?
- Is it ethical to repeat the study?

Research question

- Does it expose the participant to unacceptable risk?
 - ...or invasion of privacy?
- Does it need ethical approval?
 - Is information collected directly from subjects or recorded not in public domains?
 - If in doubt, check it out!

Permanent link: <https://xkcd.com/749/>



Research design

- Is the method appropriated?
 - observational vs interventional
- Do you have the competence to do it?
- Are the benefits and risks balanced?
 - physical, psychological, social, economic, legal
- Are the decisions motivated by ethics?

Research design (participants)

- How are the participants selected?
- Do they understand the purpose of the research?
- Is the participation voluntary?
- Can they withdraw anytime?
- Is their confidentiality ensured?

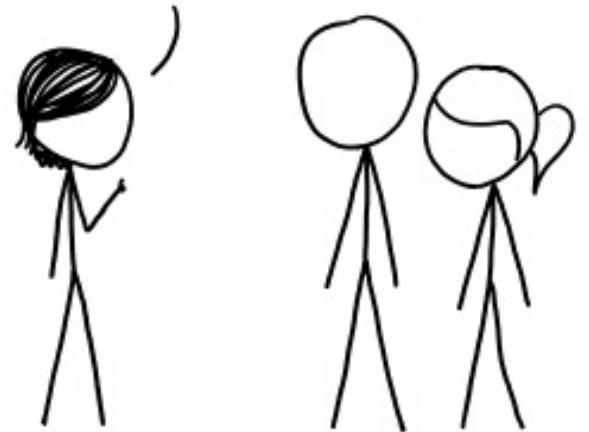
Permanent link: <https://xkcd.com/1390/>

FACEBOOK SHOULDN'T CHOOSE WHAT STUFF THEY SHOW US TO CONDUCT UNETHICAL PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH.

THEY SHOULD ONLY MAKE THOSE DECISIONS BASED ON, UH...

HOWEVER THEY WERE DOING IT BEFORE.

WHICH WAS PROBABLY ETHICAL, RIGHT?



- How is the participant's identity protected?
 - **Confidentiality** limits who can know the persons' identity
 - **Anonymity** covers any information that can leads to person identity (not possible to track subjects)
 - **Informed consent** from participants without undue pressure
 - Participants are allowed early termination
 - Data is inaccessible to non-participating parties (GDPR)
- How long do you keep the data once analyzed?
 - How and where are you keeping it?
- Is the data fabricated or faked?
 - Scientific mistakes also account for falsification of data

- Who are the authors / contributors?
- Do they approve the final document?
- Are conflicts of interest?
- Are there any plagiarism?

Authorship Guidelines (Vancouver protocol)

1. Substantial contribution to one or more of the following:
 - Development of the initial idea, method, and design of the research
 - Implementation of programs, tools, platforms for research purposes
 - Performing empirical studies
 - Analysis, interpretation, and discussion of the results
2. Significant contribution to the writing process of the paper
3. Approval the final version to be published

Personal Data & Informed Consent

Research Ethics



Personal data is any data that can be linked to a person.

What is personal data?

Personal data is any data that can be linked to a person. Personal data can be, for example, national ID number, name or e-mail/IP address. A person's voice on a sound recording is also personal data.

It is also possible that a combination of data can be linked to a person. For example, if exact age, place of residence and field of study is collected, and there is only one person who is 57 years of age from Geilo studying theatre science, then this is personal data.

The extent to which background information can make a person identifiable depends on the variables/registered data, but also on the context, topic and sample criteria.

Informed Consent & Non-Disclosure Agreement

- Informed consent:
 - You are responsible for informing your respondents
 - Hand out to all interviewees, respondents, test subjects, etc.
 - Remember to inform before you collect data
 - Remember to store your consent forms or verbal contracts (in case anyone asks)
- Non-Disclosure Agreement
 - Legal document, which often involve your case organization
 - All organizations typically have their own variation of such documents, but they are not always easy to understand
 - There are also templates from Innovation Norway

Informed consent -> GDPR

HVILKE RETTIGHETER GIR GDPR?

TA KONTAKT MED OSS >



1. Det må gis samtykke

Virksomheter kan ikke behandle personopplysninger om enkeltindivider med mindre hver enkelt fritt har gitt en spesifikk, informert og klar indikasjon på samtykke, enten via en erklæring eller via en tydelig «bekreftende handling».

2. Rett til tilgang

Loven gir enkeltpersoner rett til å kreve tilgang sine personopplysninger og til å vite hvordan informasjonen brukes av selskapet etter at den er samlet inn. Selskapet skal levere ut en kopi av disse personopplysningene, uten kostnad og i elektronisk format, dersom enkeltpersonen ber om dette.

3. Rett til å bli glemt

Hvis forbrukere ikke lenger er kunder, eller hvis de trekker tilbake samtykket de har gitt et selskap for å bruke vedkommendes personopplysninger, har forbrukeren rett til å få informasjonen slettet.

4. Rett til å overføre data

Individer har rett til å overføre opplysninger fra en tjenesteleverandør til en annen. Og dette må skje i et vanlig og maskinlesbart format.

5. Rett til å bli informert

Dette dekker alle typer innsamling av personopplysninger av selskaper, og enkeltpersoner må informeres før opplysingene samles inn. Forbrukerne må godkjenne at personopplysninger samles inn, og samtykke skal gis aktivt, ikke være underforstått.

6. Rett til å korrigere informasjon

Dette sikrer at enkeltpersoner kan oppdatere informasjonen hvis den er utdatert, ufullstendig eller feilaktig.

7. Rett til begrenset behandling

Enkeltpersoner kan be om at deres opplysninger ikke brukes i databehandling. Informasjonen kan fortsatt lagres men den skal ikke brukes.

8. Rett til å motsette seg behandling

Dette inkluderer retten til å motsette seg behandling av personopplysninger til bruk i direkte markedsføring. Det er ingen unntak for denne regelen, og all behandling må stoppes så fort denne forespørselen er mottatt. Denne rettigheten må kommuniseres tydelig til enkeltpersoner i starten av enhver kommunikasjon.

9. Rett til å bli varslet

Hvis det har vært datainnbrudd som kan få følger for enkeltpersoners opplysninger, har personen rett til å få vite dette i løpet av 72 timer etter at innbruddet ble oppdaget.

GDPR er EUs måte å gi individer, enten de er prospekter, kunder, underleverandører eller ansatte mer oversikt og kontroll over sine egne personopplysninger og redusere makten til organisasjonene som samler inn og bruker slike opplysninger for egen vinning (egen fortjeneste). Det er ikke et forsøk på å forhindre eller komplisere forretningen, men skape mer bevissthet og åpenhet rundt hvordan personopplysninger lagres og brukes.

[GDPR-for-privatpersoner – GDPR-info \(gdpr-info.no\)](http://GDPR-for-privatpersoner – GDPR-info (gdpr-info.no))

Responsibilities of an Ethical Researcher 1/2

- Researchers should respect participants' expectations of anonymity and confidentiality.
- They should not try to coerce people into participating in the research, by dint of their persuasive abilities or position of power
- They should obtain informed consent and not deceive people about the research unless there really is no alternative and no harm can ensue, such as crowd behavior
- If you will be conducting research without informed consent, this must have been justified in your ethics application

The responsibilities of an ethical researcher

- No unnecessary intrusion
- Behave with integrity
- Follow appropriate professional codes of conduct
- No plagiarism
- Be an ethical reviewer

... we find ourselves in the midst of a perfect storm. On the one hand, the progressive bureaucratization and professionalization of research governance over the past 50 years has led to strong principles and practices about how to ensure the ethical appropriacy of research – informed consent, guaranteed anonymity, the right to withdraw for example – underpinned by [a] requirement for prospective ethical approval and the assumption that, as researchers, we are able to control and protect our data. On the other hand, over the same time-frame, we have simultaneously seen the development of new technologies – the internet and the Web and all that has come with these – that produce data that from the very beginning contravene these principles: personal data are already in the public realm, owned and managed by commercial organizations with their own imperatives and nigh on impossible to anonymize with any future proofing as data mining and data linkage become increasingly sophisticated.
(British Sociological Association, 2017, n.p.)

IT systems offer various temptations for unethical or even unlawful acts, whether committed by researchers or the clients or sponsors of research. These temptations include:

- **Ease of access and copying:** digital data can be accessed or copied without wiping out or altering the original in any way. Data about people that was collected for one reason can therefore easily be used for another reason, which the people who supplied the personal data are unaware of and have not given permission for. Similarly, digital works over which someone has copyright or patent rights can easily be copied and reused without the owner's permission.
- **Privacy and anonymity:** connected devices, combined with software that can guarantee the anonymity of the perpetrator of an unethical or unlawful act, make it less likely that someone acting in a criminal or unethical way will be caught.
- **New means of data gathering:** emerging technologies offer a variety of ways of covertly observing people, including facial recognition, website cookies and Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking. If the people about whom data is collected have not given informed consent, such surveillance would be unethical and probably illegal.

Reflection: How to address ethical misconduct?

Research Ethics

What could motivate anyone to cheat?

- To achieve fast recognition and success
- Because "*you know you are right*" -> Arrogance
- Because of others expectations on you.
- Because "*it is easy*".
- Because you have not received sufficient training.

A guide for reflection

- What is the problem?
- What are the different options?
- How do ethical codes / policies / legal rules apply?
- Are there any people who can offer ethical advice?



*Journal of Spatial Science, 2016
Vol. 61, No. 1, 185–190, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14498596.2016.1138246>*

Tagging Banksy: using geographic profiling to investigate a modern art mystery

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^aSchool of Biological and Chemical Sciences, Queen Mary University of London, London, UK; ^bCenter for Geospatial Intelligence and Investigation, School of Criminal Justice, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX, USA

The pseudonymous artist Banksy is one of the UK's most successful contemporary artists, but his identity remains a mystery. Here, we use a Dirichlet process mixture (DPM) model of geographic profiling, a mathematical technique developed in criminology and finding increasing application within ecology and epidemiology, to analyse the spatial patterns of Banksy artworks in Bristol and London. The model takes as input the locations of these artworks, and calculates the probability of 'offender' residence across the study area. Our analysis highlights areas associated with one prominent candidate (e.g., his home), supporting his identification as Banksy. More broadly, these results support previous suggestions that analysis of minor terrorism-related acts (e.g., graffiti) could be used to help locate terrorist bases before more serious incidents occur, and provides a fascinating example of the application of the model to a complex, real-world problem.

Keywords: Bayesian statistics; criminology; Dirichlet process mixture model; geographic profiling; graffiti

1. Introduction

The pseudonymous Banksy is perhaps the most famous artist in Britain. His works regularly sell for hundreds of thousands of pounds but despite his popularity—and despite intense media interest—his identity officially remains a mystery. Here, we use geographic

Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Los Angeles Police Department, the National Crime Information Center, the United States Marshals Service, the FBI, and

Informed Consent

- In 1951, Henrietta Lacks discovered a large tumour on her cervix
- During her treatment, a sample of her cells was retrieved and analysed
 - Researchers found that those cells were especial, they multiple easily
 - So the hospital shared the cells freely and widely for scientific research without informed consent
 - Research with HeLa resulted numerous advances on biomedicine, including vaccines for polio and Covid-19, and HIV identification
- It took 50 years until Lacks' family became aware of her contribution to science



Data Falsification and Predatory Publishing

- In 2015, journalist John Bohannon published a paper in the *International Archives of Medicine* claiming that "Eating chocolate can help you lose weight!"
 - The paper became viral in the news
- That was an elaborated hoax to expose how bad nutrition science get disseminated in the media
 - The study design itself was flawed — too few subjects, and measuring too many factors, making it likelier that some random factor would appear to have statistical significance
 - It was published in a predatory journal, which fail to carry out peer review of the findings
 - Also note! None of the reporters who covered it asked an outside expert to assess the research

Data Breaches and Data Releases

Ethics in data science

Emil OW Kirkegaard @KirkegaardEmil · May 8
The OKCupid paper has now been submitted. This means that the dataset is now public! Enjoy! :) openpsych.net/forum/showthre...
26 38 ...

Ethan Jewett @esjewett · May 8
@KirkegaardEmil This data set is highly re-identifiable. Even includes usernames? Was any work at all done to anonymize it?
3 9 ...

Emil OW Kirkegaard @KirkegaardEmil
@esjewett No. Data is already public.
1 1:30 PM - 11 May 2016
...
Reply to @KirkegaardEmil @esjewett

Ethan Jewett @esjewett · May 11
@KirkegaardEmil Differing degrees of "public". Also different ethical guidelines. IMO, you should speak with a research ethicist/IRB ASAP.
2 21 ...

tacos & chill @yumtacos · 20h
@KirkegaardEmil What is your reason for not anonymizing the OKC data? What would have been lost if you had removed names?
2 ...

Emil OW Kirkegaard @KirkegaardEmil · 20h
@yumtacos We missed some features in the scraping such as height, so one can fill them in at a later point if usernames are there.
2 ...

tacos & chill @yumtacos · 19h
@KirkegaardEmil So you intentionally left the names in to allow users to correlate with other data points? Hmm. OK. An odd choice.
2 ...

Emil OW Kirkegaard @KirkegaardEmil
@yumtacos Fill in remaining points, yes. E.g. profile images and profile text (which we did not scrape).
1 6:51 PM - 11 May 2016
...
REVIEWER

Submitted: 8th of May 2016
Published: 3rd of November 2016

The OKCupid dataset: A very large public dataset of dating site users

Emil O. W. Kirkegaard*

Julius D. Bjerrekær†



Open Differential
Psychology

Abstract

A very large dataset ($N=68,371$, 2,620 variables) from the dating site OKCupid is presented and made publicly available for use by others. As an example of the analyses one can do with the dataset, a cognitive ability test is constructed from 14 suitable items. To validate the dataset and the test, the relationship of cognitive ability to religious beliefs and political interest/participation is examined. Cognitive ability is found to be negatively related to all measures of religious belief (latent correlations -.26 to -.35), and found to be positively related to all measures of political interest and participation (latent correlations .19 to .32). To further validate the dataset, we examined the relationship between Zodiac sign and every other variable. We found very scant evidence of any influence (the distribution of p-values from chi square tests was flat). Limitations of the dataset are discussed.

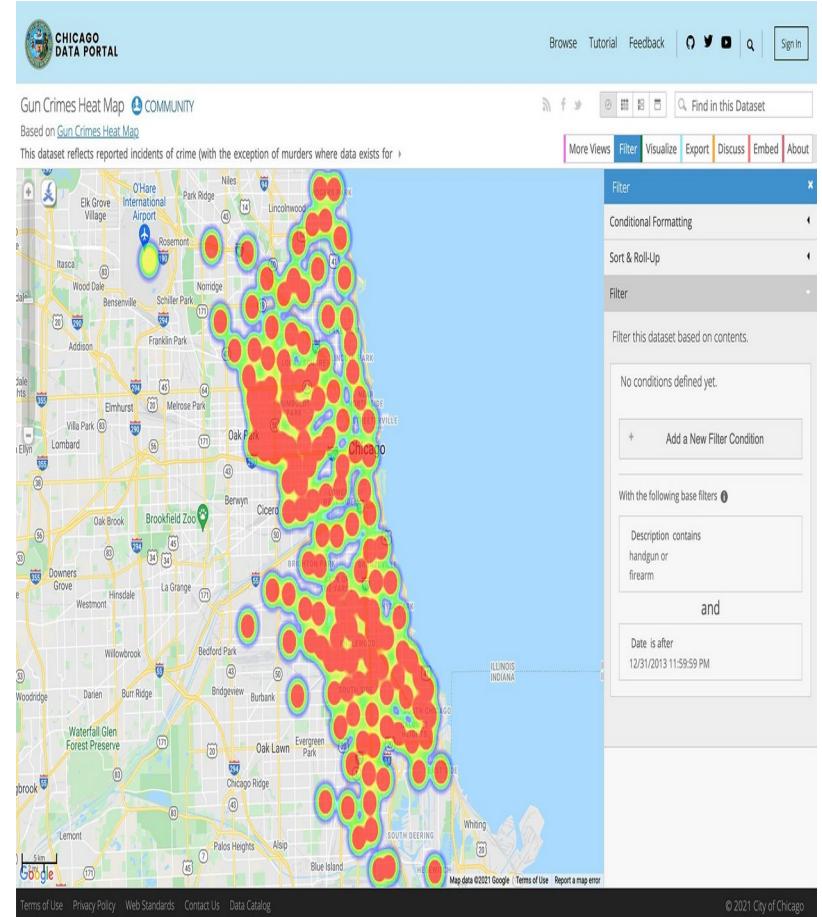
Keywords: open data, big data, OKCupid, dating site, cognitive ability, IQ, intelligence, scale construction, religiosity, politics, astrology, Zodiac sign

The lack of data sharing probably slows down the progress of science immensely because other researchers would use the data if they could. Supporting this, it can be observed that known public datasets enjoy widespread use. For instance, Project TALENT is a very large ($N \approx 440,000$) dataset of American high school students collected in 1960. The dataset is still used by researchers examining questions never conceived of when it was collected. According to Google Scholar (<https://scholar.google.com>), there were 255, 148 and 116 papers published in 2013, 2014 and 2015 that had "project talent" in their text¹, indicating that it can still be useful despite being 56 years old. For instance, it is used to examine the relationship between cognitive ability and income, and to study the effects of education on health outcomes. It has also been used to investigate the relationship between cognitive ability and political attitudes, as well as the relationship between cognitive ability and religiosity. In addition, it has been used to study the relationship between cognitive ability and personality traits, as well as the relationship between cognitive ability and social behavior. These findings suggest that the Project TALENT dataset is a valuable resource for researchers interested in exploring the relationships between cognitive ability, personality, and social behavior.

Nonmaleficence

Ethics in data science

- In Feb 2014, CPD start visiting people of interest
 - They are “likely” to be either a victim or perpetrator of violence
 - This is guided by a “Heat List”: an algorithm to predict involvement crime based on social theory
 - CPD argues that the efforts may have deterred crime
- However, on the case of Robert McDaniel, the visit pointed him as a potential “snitch”
 - He was shot twice in front of his house
 - So, the police fail to ensure his safety, actually they caused harm



<https://www.theverge.com/c/22444020/chicago-pd-predictive-policing-heat-list>

Privacy and Usage of Data

Ethics in data science

How was Facebook users' data misused?

- 1** In 2014 a Facebook quiz invited users to find out their personality type
- 2** The app collected the data of those taking the quiz, but also recorded the public data of their friends
- 3** About 305,000 people installed the app, but it gathered information on up to 87 million people, according to Facebook
- 4** It is claimed at least some of the data was sold to Cambridge Analytica (CA) which used it to psychologically profile voters in the US
- 5** CA denies it broke any laws and says it did not use the data in the US presidential election
- 6** Facebook sends notices to users telling them whether their data was breached

CA denies any wrongdoing. Facebook has apologised to users and says a "breach of trust" has occurred.

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What could be the consequences if anyone cheated?

- You might get away with it initially (, but be caught later)
- You might have to retract your work (and loose credibility)
- You might get fired (, particularly if you work in research)
- Students might have their exams annulled and eventually be expelled.

Forsker mistet jobben ved høgskole etter forskningsjuks

Høgskolen i Østfold mener forskeren fabrikkerte datamateriale i forbindelse med et nasjonalt NAV-prosjekt.



Ledelsen ved Høgskolen i Østfold fortalte om forskningsjuksset på en pressekonferanse mandag formiddag.

FOTO: SHEMSI BUNJAKU/NRK



Sebastian Nordli
@nordli21
Journalist



Shemsi Bunjaku
Journalist

Publisert 12. mars 2018 kl. 11:08
Oppdatert 12. mars 2018 kl. 11:16

Other examples:

Forskningsjuks



Mister doktorgraden

Jon Sudbø blir fratatt sin medisinske doktorgrad. Det avgjorde fakultetsstyret på medisinsk fakultet ved Universitetet i Oslo i dag.

Sudbø hadde ikke søkt om tillatelse

Verken Jon Sudbø eller hans lærermester Albrecht Reith har søkt om tillatelse til å forske på sensitive helseopplysninger.

Kreftforsker fikk 2 millioner fra U

Den norske kreftforskeren som innrømmer juks har fått om lag 2 millioner kroner fra det amerikanske kreftinstituttet NCI.



Får ikke være lege

Jon Sudbø har ingen framtid som lege og tannlege, mener Helsestilsynet, som har fratatt ham retten til å praktisere. Sudbø protesterer.

- Leste ikke Sudbøs artikkelen

Ingen av medforfatterne til den oppdiktede rapporten som kreftforsker Jon Sudbø sendte til det anerkjente tidsskriftet Lancet, skal ha lest gjennom artikkelen.

Tar ansvar for jukset

Legen og forskeren Jon Sudbø legger kortene på bordet og innrømmer at han har jukset med til sammen tre ulike artikler i anerkjente tidsskrifter.

- Sudbø må fratas doktorgraden

Kreftforsker Jon Sudbøs doktoravhandling må trekkes, mener kommisjonen som gransket forskningsfusket ved Rikshospitalet-Radiumhospitalet.

Svensk forsker anklages for fusk

En svensk forskergruppe ved Karolinske Institutet, blant dem en tidligere professor, anklages for å ha basert forskningsresultatene sine på fusk.

Frykter svekket tillit

Den svenske forskningsministeren frykter at forskningsjuks i Norge også kan svekke tilliten til forskere i Sverige.

Other examples:

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World ▶ Europe US Americas Asia Australia Middle East Africa Inequality Global development

Germany

• This article is more than 10 years old

German defence minister resigns in PhD plagiarism row

Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg had been stripped of doctorate by University of Bayreuth

Helen Pidd in Berlin

Tue 1 Mar 2011 11.41 GMT

665



RP ONLINE NRW POLITIK SPORT PANORAMA KULTUR WIRTSCHAFT LEBEN MEINUNG [MENÜ](#) [SEARCH](#)

Politik / Deutschland / Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg: Zehn Jahre nach dem Abstieg eines Aufsteigers

Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg

Zehn Jahre nach dem Abstieg eines Aufsteigers

28. Februar 2021 um 17:01 Uhr | Lesedauer: 3 Minuten



Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg während des Ludwig-Erhard-Gipfels bei einem Interview (Archivbild). Foto: dpa/Angelika Warmuth

Other examples:

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/saif-gaddafi-allowed-to-keep-his-dodgy-doctorate-jnlq5dt9gzg>

THE TIMES Today's sections ▾ Past six days Explore ▾ Times Radio Log in Subscribe

Saif Gaddafi allowed to keep his 'dodgy doctorate'

Thursday December 01 2011, 12.01am
GMT, The Times



Saif al-Islam Gaddafi: gave LSE £1.5m six weeks after being awarded his PhD
BEN STANSALL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The London School of Economics tied its reputation to that of Colonel Gaddafi's Libya without basic checks on the huge risks involved, a report has concluded.

The school, one of the world's most prestigious academic institutions, had no ethical code to stop it accepting £1.5 million from a foundation set up by Gaddafi's son Saif al-Islam.

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2011/mar/03/lse-director-resigns-gaddafi-scandal>

News Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle More ▾

Education Schools Teachers Universities Students

London School of Economics and Political Science

This article is more than 10 years old

LSE head quits over Gaddafi scandal

LSE director Howard Davies resigns after fresh allegations over links to Libyan regime as PR firm admits errors over lobbying



Howard Davies has resigned as director of the London School of Economics. Photograph: Eamonn McCabe for the Guardian

A deepening row over the London School of Economics and its dealings with the Gaddafi regime has claimed the career of the university's director.

Sir Howard Davies resigned after fresh revelations that the institution had been involved in a deal worth £2.2m to train hundreds of young Libyans to become part of the country's future elite.

An independent inquiry headed by Lord Woolf, a former lord chief justice, will examine the LSE's relationship with Libya and with Muammar Gaddafi's son Saif al-Islam. It will also establish guidelines for international donations to the university.

Professional standards (codes of ethics)

Research Ethics

Professionals, Researchers and Ethics

A professional is a member of a profession.

A profession is characterised by:

- Mastering of knowledge and skills within a given area of expertise
- The degree to which an individual can influence the execution of their own work
- Most often professions are organised in organisations, which are setting standards for good conduct.
- Professions fulfill a societal role and function, which is directed at the common good.

Professional Codes of Ethics (International)

- [Code of Ethics | ACM Ethics](#)
- [IEEE - IEEE Code of Ethics](#)
- [Member Code of Conduct - Association for Information Systems \(AIS\) \(aisnet.org\)](#)
- [Ethics \(aoir.org\)](#)

Professional Codes of Ethics (National)

Etisk refleksjon

I vårt samfunn har vi mange lover og forskrifter som lovfester etiske verdier og normer. Vi må alle forholde oss til disse. Vi må som yrkesutøvere også respektere etiske retningslinjer og policy hos arbeidsgiver og i de virksomheter vi samhandler med.

Som Tekna-medlem må du selv kunne stå for dine beslutninger. Disse bør tåle etisk refleksjon der du i forkant avklarer om beslutningene:

- er lovlige,
- er rettferdige for de berørte,
- har uheldige konsekvenser for individer, miljø eller samfunn,
- tåler offentlig oppmerksomhet.

Tekna oppfordrer medlemmene til å reflektere over sin rolle som samfunnsborger, yrkesutøver, tillitsvalgt, kollega og medstudent.

Tools

Research Ethics

<https://www.uio.no/tjenester/it/adm-app/nettskjema/>

Les mer om hvordan UiO behandler personopplysninger, om dine personvernrettigheter ved UiO og om hvorfor vi bruker informasjonskapsler. [x](#)

UNIVERSITETET
I OSLO

≡ Meny ← Tjenester og verktoy ← IT-tjenester ← Administrative tjenester

Nettskjema

English version of this page

Hva er Nettskjema?

- Selvbetjent skjemaløsning for alle som har avtale om bruk
- Sikker løsning for datainnsamling via nett
- Sporreskjema, påmeldinger og flervalgsoppgaver
- Universelt utformet
- Fri bruk av mobilappen Nettskjema-diktafon og Nettskjema-bilde
- Kan samle inn sensitive personopplysninger til [TSD](#)

Ta i bruk

Nettskjema kan brukes av studenter og ansatte ved UiO og andre institusjoner som har avtale om bruk.

Logg inn i Nettskjema →

Se om du har tilgang til Nettskjema

Bestill Nettskjema.

Hjelp med Nettskjema

Søk i veiledingene

○ Skriv her for å søke

→ Gå til hjelpe og veiledninger

Hva er lov å sende og lagre i Nettskjema?

● ○ ■ [Opp til svarte data*](#)

<https://www.uio.no/english/for-employees/unitpages/sv/arena/news/2019/gdpr-personal-data.html>

Read more about how the University of Oslo processes personal information, your privacy rights at UiO and why we use cookies. [x](#)

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News

2020

2019

2018

2017

2016

2015

2014

GDPR: Personal data in research

If your research involves human beings as research objects, i.e. through collecting and/or processing personal data (interviews, surveys, participant observation, discourse analysis), it is capital that you know your professional and ethical responsibilities related to data management.

Research ethics

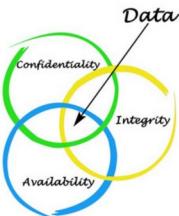
The Norwegian National Research Ethics Committee (NESH) is an impartial advisory body providing guidance and advice on research ethics. The [Guidelines for Research Ethics in the Social Sciences, Humanities, Law and Theology](#) are important tools for promoting good scientific practice in the Norwegian research system, and should be well known to all of ARENA's researchers. Please read the guidelines when planning your research design and preparing your data collection.

The University of Oslo has created a work support page with one section targeting researchers [Privacy and data protection - for researchers](#). As UiO employees, the university owns 'your' data and is responsible for any breach of data protection laws.

See also the European Commission's guidelines [Ethics and data protection](#) (14 November 2018).

The NSD has a very detailed and useful website, which provides you with much of the information needed in planning your data collection, privacy protection and data management: <https://nsd.no/nsd/english/index.html>

Their FAQ: <https://nsd.no/personvernombud/en/help/faq.html>



Data
Confidentiality
Integrity
Availability

What is personal data?

Personal data means any information, private or professional, which relates to an identified or identifiable natural person. See the full definition in [GDPR Art. 4\(1\)](#).

Personal data is anything that discloses someone's identity, that is unique to this person, such as name, birth date, photo, e-mail address, social media posts, or work place.

For an overview of the different types of personal data, see [what is personal data](#).

● Personverntjenester for forskning ● Meldeskjema for personopplysninger i forskning

Notification Form for personal data

Learn about what personal data is, who should send in a notification form, and what you need to have ready in advance.

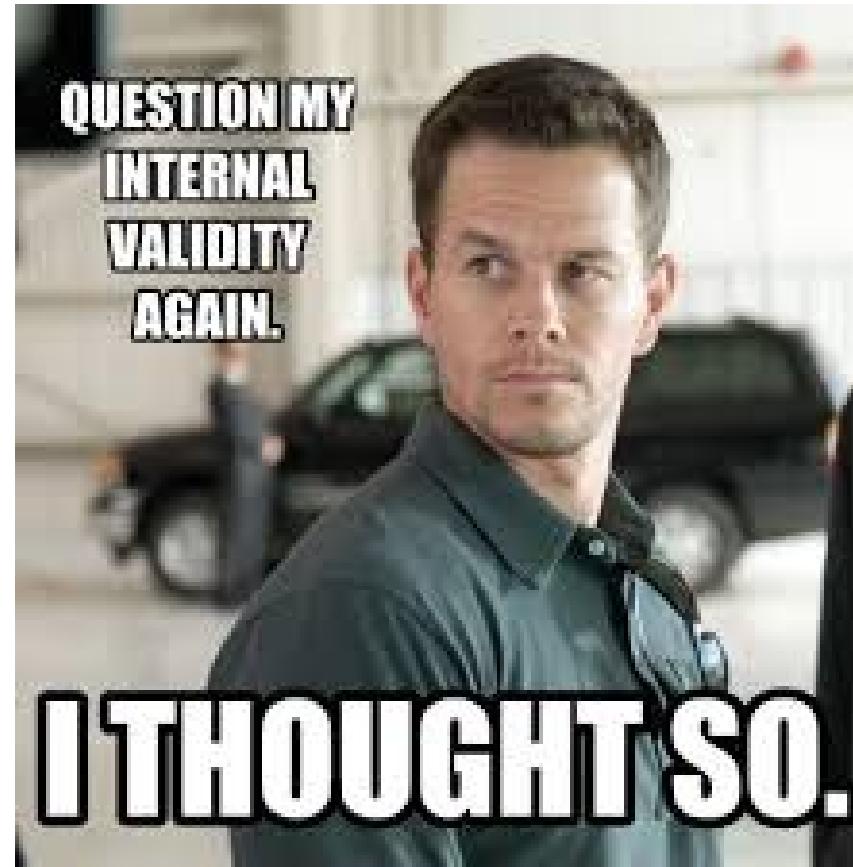
Fill out the notification form →

About information and consent →

Notify changes to the project →

Sikt's notification form is a digital form that you as a researcher or student fill in when you are going to process personal data in a research project. We at Sikt then carry out an assessment of the processing you have planned.

Questions?



Exercise I

Collecting primary data

- Many of you are planning to collect "primary data"
- How do you plan to navigate the ethical dilemmas and regulations?
- Are you planning to apply for SIKT approval? (Why/why not?)



Exercise II

Informed consent

Familiarise yourself with:

- Information for participants in research projects (sikt.no)

You will also find a template for an informed consent form.

If relevant:

- Make a draft of your informed consent form
- Make a plan for how you can handle your data (and if necessary anonymise your data)
- Make a plan for how long you need to keep the data and how you would eventually delete them.

If not relevant:

- Make a statement explaining why/how this does not apply to your project?