

From: [SPS EthicsSocialWork](#)
To: [VERNON-GAYLE Vernon](#)
Cc: [SPS EthicsSPSS](#)
Subject: Approved at level 1 Ethics form submission ID 269956 (Vernon Vernon-Gayle: The Stark Realities of Reproducible Sociological Research: Some Newer Rules of the Sociological Method)
Date: 05 June 2020 11:02:31

Hello Vernon

Thanks for getting back to me so quickly and providing that information.

I am pleased to confirm that your project as described has been now been approved at level 1, and requires no further review. However if your planned project changes in any way and particularly if any new ethical issues arise as you work on the project, you may need to complete another ethical review. The responsibility for ensuring your project is appropriately ethically reviewed lies with you. If you are not sure whether any planned changes require a further review, please just check in with us at ethics-ssps@ed.ac.uk.

With best wishes
Jackie

Dr Jackie Gulland
Subject Area Research Ethics Lead
Social Work

From: VERNON-GAYLE Vernon <Vernon.Gayle@ed.ac.uk>
Sent: 04 June 2020 18:35
To: SPS EthicsSocialWork <ethics-socialwork@ed.ac.uk>
Cc: VERNON-GAYLE Vernon <Vernon.Gayle@ed.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: Ethics form submission ID 269956 (Vernon Vernon-Gayle: The Stark Realities of Reproducible Sociological Research: Some Newer Rules of the Sociological Method)

Dear Jackie,

Thanks for your message.

Is this an unfunded project or are you seeking research funding?

Yes this is a small project that I plan to complete during the rest of my research leave.

What is the anticipated timescale?

If ethical approval is granted soon then I would hope to submit a paper to a journal by 1st July 2020.

You say that you will be using data from the UK Data Service. Can you provide a little more information on what this data will be ?

FINCH, S. A., LA VALLE, I., MCALEESE, I., RUSSELL, N., NICE, D. & FITZGERALD, R. 2004. Youth Cohort Study of England and Wales, 1998-2000. [data collection]. 5th Edition. UK Data Service. SN: 4009. <http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-4009-1>.

Croxford, L., Iannelli, C., Shapira, M. (2007). Youth Cohort Time Series for England, Wales and Scotland, 1984-2002. [data collection]. National Centre for Social Research, Scottish Centre for Social Research, University of Edinburgh. Centre for Educational Sociology, [original data producer(s)]. UK Data Service. SN: 5765, <http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-5765-1>

What ethical issues have already been addressed or will need to be addressed concerning the original participants?

Will any new ethical issues arise (eg if the data has not already been fully anonymised)?

This is a methodological paper. The main dataset that will be used is SN 4009. This is a completely anonymised data set and there is no risk of identification of participants. The participants were aged 16/17 in 1998 so there is no risk of inadvertently disclosing current information about these individuals. The dataset is large in scale and does not lead to the identification of any small subgroups. The data will be analysed using a multivariate method. It is not possible to identify individuals from the multivariate results and it will not be possible to reverse-engineer statistical modelling results to identify individual respondents. The results of the work are already published in Table 5 p.20 Connolly, P., 2006. The effects of social class and ethnicity on gender differences in GCSE attainment: a secondary analysis of the Youth Cohort Study of England and Wales 1997–2001. British Educational Research Journal, 32(1), pp.3-21.

The proposed work seeks to duplicate these results and then to replicate them by extended them with an additional measure contained in dataset SN: 5765. This dataset is also completely anonymised and there is no risk of identification of participants. There is no risk of inadvertently disclosing current information about these individuals. The dataset is very large in scale and does not lead to the identification of any small subgroups. The data will be analysed using a multivariate method. It is not possible to identify individuals from the multivariate results and it will not be possible to reverse-engineer statistical modelling results to identify individual respondents.

Are you the sole investigator on this project?

Yes.

Please let me know if further information is required.

Many thanks.

Vernon

From: SPS EthicsSocialWork

Sent: 04 June 2020 17:37

To: VERNON-GAYLE Vernon <Vernon.Gayle@ed.ac.uk>

Subject: RE: Ethics form submission ID 269956 (Vernon Vernon-Gayle: The Stark Realities of Reproducible Sociological Research: Some Newer Rules of the Sociological Method)

Hello Vernon

Thanks for submitting this ethics form, which has been passed to me for assessment.

Can I just ask a couple of questions before finalising it. The form doesn't always ask for the

information we need.

- Is this an unfunded project or are you seeking research funding? What is the anticipated timescale?
- You say that you will be using data from the UK Data Service. Can you provide a little more information on what this data will be ?
- What ethical issues have already been addressed or will need to be addressed concerning the original participants?
- Will any new ethical issues arise (eg if the data has not already been fully anonymised)?
- Are you the sole investigator on this project? In not, who else will have access to the data that you will be working with?

Thanks

Jackie

Dr Jackie Gulland
Lecturer in Social Work
University of Edinburgh

Tel 0776 2153406

Please note that this is a personal mobile number – I will reply to calls if available. Please feel free to leave a text message.

From: SPS EthicsSPSS <ethics-ssps@ed.ac.uk>

Sent: 29 May 2020 15:48

To: SPS EthicsSocialWork <ethics-socialwork@ed.ac.uk>

Subject: FW: Ethics form submission ID 269956 (Vernon Vernon-Gayle: The Stark Realities of Reproducible Sociological Research: Some Newer Rules of the Sociological Method)

From: SSPS Research Ethics <ethics-ssps@ed.ac.uk>

Sent: 25 May 2020 20:12

To: SPS EthicsSPSS <ethics-ssps@ed.ac.uk>

Subject: Ethics form submission ID 269956 (Vernon Vernon-Gayle: The Stark Realities of Reproducible Sociological Research: Some Newer Rules of the Sociological Method)

Section 1: Project details

Your name

Vernon Vernon-Gayle

Your email address

Vernon.Gayle@ed.ac.uk

The Stark Realities of Reproducible Sociological Research:

Project name Some Newer Rules of the Sociological Method

Are you a student or
staff? Staff

Does the sponsor
require formal prior
ethical review from the
University of
Edinburgh? No

Does the project
require the approval of
the partner academic or
non-academic
institution and/or
ethics committee? No

Is this project a
collaborative study
with partner
institutions? No

Please specify the
name of the funder None

What stage is your
project at? Ongoing

Please paste a
description of the
research problem in the
box on the right The US Statistician Philip Stark, has produced a checklist for undertaking reproducible statistical analysis that outlines 14 reproducibility points that an analysis can fail on. Stark's guidelines may prove useful for undertaking reproducible sociological analysis of large-scale and complex datasets. The aim of this methodological paper is to undertake a statistically orientated sociological analysis in a reproducible framework, and to evaluate it against Stark's checklist.

Section 2: Potential risks to participants and researchers

Will any human or
animal participants be
studied either directly
or indirectly? No

Section 3: Confidentiality and handling of data

Will the research
require the collection
of personal
information from e.g.
universities, schools,
employers, or other
agencies about
individuals without
their direct consent? No

Does the research involve the collection of sensitive data (including visual images of respondents)?

No

Who will have access to the raw data?

No new raw data will be collected. The project will use existing data supplied by the UK Data Service.

Many funders encourage making datasets available for use by other researchers. Will the data collected in this research be made available for secondary use?

No

Will the datafiles/audio/video recordings, etc. be retained or disposed of after the study?

Retained

If retained, how will they be kept secure?

There are no data security issues. No new raw data will be collected. The project will use existing data supplied by the UK Data Service. Files containing the code for data wrangling and statistical data analysis will be retained.

Section 4: Participant information and consent

Does your research project require administrative and/or participant consent?

No

Please explain why not

No new raw data will be collected. The project will use existing data supplied by the UK Data Service

In the case of research in online spaces or using online technology to access participants, will consent be obtained from participants?

Not applicable

Section 5: Travel risk assessment

Will the researcher(s) need to travel for the purposes of their research?

No

Section 6: Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

Does your research
concern groups which
may be construed as
'terrorist' or 'extremist'? No

Section 7: Conflict of interest

Does your research
involve a conflict of
interest as outlined
above? No

Form Information

Site Name	Research Ethics Form
Site Id	180524
Page Standard Name	Research Ethics Form
Page Standard Id	178688
Page Custom Form Name	Research Ethics Form
Page Custom Form Id	167199
Url	https://ethics.sps.ed.ac.uk/ethics_form/form
Submission Id	269956
Submission Time	25 May 2020 8:12 pm
Submission IP Address	129.215.4.173