Research Integrity and Ethics: Good Practice in Research
Postgraduate Researcher Development resource

Research Integrity and Ethics: Why is ethics important?

Slide 1

In this section, we will talk about why Research Integrity and Ethics are important for us as researchers.

Slide 2

[Image description: Students in a seminar]

One of the most exciting (and sometimes nerve-breaking) moments as a PGR student is conducting your research. As PGR students, one of our main motivations is to conduct research, and it is indeed a central aspect of our journey as PGRs. Hence, conducting research is a process that requires preparation and time to think about our role as researchers and how we will approach our research.

So, we would like to ask you to think about the next study you will conduct or you are planning to conduct.

- What is your aim?
- What methods will you use?
- Whom will be the participants?
- *And especially, we would like you to think about What considerations have you thought for conducting your research in an ethical way?*

We suggest you to pause the video and make notes about these questions.

Slide 3

[Image Description: A person interviewing another person]

One important question to ask ourselves is why Research Integrity is relevant. First, Research Integrity promotes high quality research, which allows to contribute with our research findings to real-world problems. Second and related to the previous point, Research Integrity contributes to public trust on our research findings. Research is important because contributes to a better understanding of real-life problems (either a treatment for a disease, a new teaching methodology, a question about a political or historical event) and, it is critical to share our results with others inside and outside academia, and our findings can change people's life. Third, research is a process that not only involves ourselves, but mainly others -the participants. The participants safety and wellbeing are critical and following Research Integrity guidelines will help us to protect participants. Research Integrity encourages core values for research and moral responsibility, and also contributes to follow the compliance requirements needed for research.

Hence, research ethics in practice is not just about filling in forms, or checking boxes. It is an analytical exercise, where we need to think about the implications of our research for building knowledge and participants' wellbeing.

Slide 4

We have talked why research integrity is relevant and also, we asked you to think about the ethical consideration of your next research project/study. However, are research integrity and research ethics the same? How we can define each of them?

Research Integrity and Ethics: Good Practice in Research
Postgraduate Researcher Development resource

Research ethics implies doing research with responsibility and with the aim of minimise any risk for the participants, as well as the risk of adverse outcomes either for the participants, institutions, and researchers themselves.

Research integrity is doing research following high standards and robust practices, with the aim of conducting high quality research that provide confidence in our results.

Indeed, they are both related concepts, and that is why they tend to be used together. However, it is important to differentiate them, as both concepts focus on different -yet, again related and sometimes overlapping- aspects of research.

References

Carling, J. (2019) *Research ethics and research integrity*, MIGNEX Handbook Chapter 4 (v1). Oslo: Peace Research Institute Oslo. Available at https://www.prio.org/download/publicationfile/1969/MIGNEX-Carling-2019-Research-ethics-and-research-integrity-v1.pdf

Nicholls, S. G. (2021). Research integrity: emphasising our commitment. *Research Ethics*, 17(3), 265–266. https://doi.org/10.1177/17470161211028740