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Further reading and resources

General guidance on research ethics

There are a number of useful books and websites which provide an introduction to research ethics, discussion of the key issues that need consideration and guidance on the process of gaining ethical approval for a research project.

The online resource called the Research Ethics Guidebook is particularly aimed at helping researchers navigate a range of regulatory procedures but also provides up-to-date information on ethical issues that occur across all stages of the research process. <http://www.ethicsguidebook.ac.uk/>

The BBC Ethics webpage provides an accessible introduction to ethics in general (not research ethics specifically) which outlines the various ethical approaches. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/introduction/>

The Social Science Research Ethics Website developed by Lancaster University provides a range of helpful resources exploring key ethical themes including ethical issues relating to research in global contexts, research with vulnerable groups and participatory research. <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/researchethics/>

An online resource developed by the Realities research group at the University of Manchester highlights some of the ethical issues that emerge when working in teams and suggests some helpful approaches to ethical working relationships. Realities Toolkit 6 *After the Ethical Approval Form: Ethical considerations of working in research teams* <http://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/morgancentre/realities/toolkits/research-team-ethics/index.html>

Two introductory books to research ethics which are particularly useful are:

- Iphofen, R. (2009), *Ethical Decision Making in Social Research*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. This book provides a practical guide to ethical decision-making, including processes of obtaining ethical approval.
- Gregory, I. (2003), *Ethics in Research*, London: Continuum. This book provides a short and useful introduction to research ethics.

The following books explore a range of ethical issues in some depth:

- Israel, M. & Hay, I. (2006), *Research Ethics for Social Scientists*, London: Sage.
- Mertens, D. & Ginsberg, P. (eds.) (2009), *The Handbook of Social Research Ethics*, California: Sage.
- Van den Hoonaard, W. (ed.) (2002), *Walking the Tightrope: Ethical Issues for Qualitative Researchers*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Most of the above books and resources discuss the various moral and ethical frameworks for thinking about research ethics. The following books explore some of the specific ethical positions or frameworks:

- Beauchamp, T. & Childress, J. (2001), *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, New York: Oxford University Press. This book is the key handbook for principlist approaches. While it was developed primarily for medical ethics, it is widely used as the basis for social science ethics.
- Macfarlane, B. (2009), *Researching with Integrity*, New York: Routledge. This book provides a detailed exploration of virtue ethics and identifies the moral virtues, and corresponding vices, that the virtuous researcher should ideally adopt at different stages of the research process.
- Mauthner, M., Birch, M., Jessop, J. & Miller, T. (eds.) (2002), *Ethics in Qualitative Research*, London: Sage. This book explores ethical issues from a feminist ethics of care approach.

Risks and safety

Useful publications relating to risk and safety of research participants and researchers are:

Bloor, M., Fincham, B. and Sampson, H. (2007), *Qualiti* (NCRM) *Commissioned Inquiry into the Risk to Well-Being of Researchers in Qualitative Research*. <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/socsi/qualiti/publications.html> This report provides a comprehensive exploration of risks in relation to researchers and of how such risks can and should be managed.

SRA (2003), *A Code of Practice for the Safety of Social Researchers*. Available from: <http://www.the-sra.org.uk/guidelines.htm> This provides some useful guidance for enhancing researcher safety.

Lee, R. (1993), *Doing Research on Sensitive Topics*, London: Sage. This book reviews studies on sensitive topics and explores (among other ethical issues) some of the risks of undertaking such research for both researchers and their participants.

Consent

General books on ethics all discuss issues of consent; the following books and resources focus specifically on this issue.

Smyth, M. & Williamson, E. (eds.) (2004), *Researchers and Their 'Subjects': Ethics, Power, Knowledge and Consent*, Bristol: Policy Press.

Wiles, R., Health, S., Crow, G. and Charles, V. (2008), *Informed Consent in Social Research: A Literature Review*. <http://eprints.ncrm.ac.uk/85/>

Informed Consent and the Research Process project web page http://www.sociology.soton.ac.uk/Proj/Informed_Consent/index.htm

Ethical issues in relation to specific methods

There are a number of resources that focus on ethical issues in online or e-research. Particularly useful are the following:

<http://www.restore.ac.uk/orm/site/home.htm> This website has an extensive section on online research ethics which includes resources, reading lists and training materials.

<http://www.oii.ox.ac.uk/publications/> The Oxford Internet Institute also has a number of publications on ethical issues in online and e-research.

There are also resources relating to ethical issues in visual methods, for example:

Wiles, R., Prosser, J., Bagnoli, A., Clark, A., Davies, K., Holland, S. and Renold, E. (2008), *Visual Ethics: Ethical Issues in Visual Research*. <http://eprints.ncrm.ac.uk/421/>

There are also numerous resources relating to the archiving of qualitative data and the ethical issues in archiving and the re-use of data available from the UK Qualidata archive at: <http://www.esds.ac.uk/qualidata/>

The UK Timescapes projects has also produced various guidelines relating to the ethics of archiving and reusing qualitative longitudinal data, for example: Neale, B. and Bishop, L. 'The ethics of archiving and re-using qualitative longitudinal data: a stakeholder approach.' *Timescapes Methods Guides Series. Guide no 18*. Available at: <http://www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk>

Professional guidelines and codes

All the social science discipline-specific organisations have guidelines or codes of ethical conduct which can be accessed from their websites. In addition, the Social Research Association has produced ethical guidelines for social researchers that are relevant across sectors of work and disciplines. These are accessible via their website (www.the-sra.org.uk). The EU RESPECT guidelines (<http://www.respectproject.org/code/>) are relevant for social and economic researchers working in EU countries. These are a synthesis of professional and ethical codes of practice and legal requirements across the EU.

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Framework for Research Ethics (<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/about-esrc/information/research-ethics.aspx>) provides a code of conduct for social research. Compliance with this is mandatory for research funded by the ESRC and recommended for research funded by other bodies.