

# AUTHORSHIP AND RESEARCH INTEGRITY

Anni Sairio, Senior Coordinator, TENK

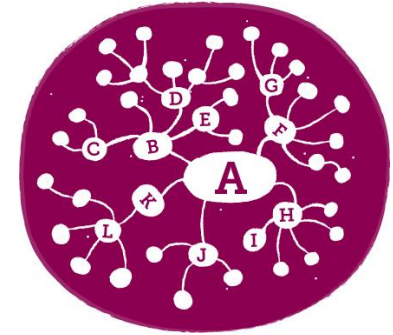


TUTKIMUSEETTINEN  
NEUVOTTELUKUNTA

FORSKNINGSETISKA  
DELEGATIONEN

FINNISH NATIONAL BOARD ON  
RESEARCH INTEGRITY TENK

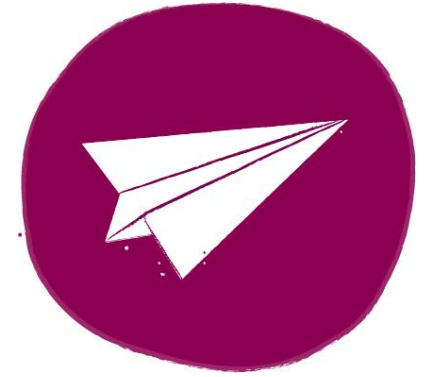
# What is authorship? Who is an author?



- From the Research integrity perspective, an author is someone who has made a **substantial contribution** to the creation of a scientific publication and deserves to have their name in the list of authors
- Authorship attributes credit and recognition + assigns responsibility
- Principles and practices regarding who are named as authors (and other contributors) of research publications vary depending on the research discipline



# What is a substantial contribution?



This depends on the discipline in question and can include

- Conception, idea or research design
- Methodological contribution
- Data collection
- Data analysis
- Drafting the manuscript
- Critical revision and editing
- Final approval of the manuscript
- Thesis supervision
- Acquiring funding for the project
- Illustration, design etc.

Contribution can also be described in acknowledgements, footnotes etc.





# Authorship issues that can be violations of research integrity:

- Not including someone who has made a **significant contribution** to the publication in the list of authors
- Manipulation of authorship by other means, for example
  - Including guest/honorary authors who haven't contributed to the work

These are examples of **disregard for good research practices** in the Finnish Code of Conduct for Research Integrity

Common reasons for disputes: poor communication, misunderstandings, false expectations, sometimes the research culture + misuse of power

The decision of who are included as authors should be

1. based on the generally accepted practices in the research discipline and
2. agreed upon by everyone involved

Key advice for avoiding problems: Transparent and clear communication before a manuscript is submitted for publication



# *Agreeing on authorship. Recommendation for research publications (2018)*

- TENK's general guide meant to be used alongside the established practices of research disciplines
- Intended to help researchers and research projects agree on principles of authorship as early as possible in order to prevent authorship disputes
- In Finnish, Swedish and English:

[https://tenk.fi/sites/tenk.fi/files/TENK\\_suositus\\_tekijyys.pdf](https://tenk.fi/sites/tenk.fi/files/TENK_suositus_tekijyys.pdf)



## Appendix 1. Table for assessing authorship

When planning a co-publication, the table below can be used to discuss the different roles associated with authorship and how they should be acknowledged.

<b>What kind of contribution confers authorship of a scientific publication</b>	<b>Name in list of authors</b>	<b>Name as editor or member of editorial board</b>	<b>Name in acknowledgements</b>	<b>Name in footnote, etc.</b>	<b>Name in caption</b>	<b>Name not mentioned</b>	<b>Other method</b>
Project design							
Obtaining funding							
Principal investigator/ head of the research group							
Member of the research group							
Gathering/ producing material							
Conducting interviews							
Analysing material							

<b>Guarantor</b>	
<b>Name of manuscript</b>	
<b>Name of publication series or publisher</b>	

<b>Names of authors and their contributions</b>								
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Writing/editing the text</b>	<b>Research conception/design</b>	<b>Producing research material</b>	<b>Analysis/interpretation of material</b>	<b>Other contribution, specify</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Signature</b>
1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								

Example list of contributions



# The Research Integrity Adviser system in Finland

- Research integrity advisers provide confidential and neutral advice for researchers in problematic situations
- They don't comment on whether an RI violation has occurred and they don't investigate cases, but they can explain the process and provide support for those involved
- TENK coordinates the network and organises RIA training
- There are currently 155 RIAs in 76 research organisations (May 2023)
- Check your organisation's website for your RIA's contact details!