



**SUOMEN AKATEMIA**

## **Research Ethics – Funders point of view**

Arja Kallio  
Academy of Finland

## Research ethics

### Why should we teach and discuss this matter?

- **Definition** of ethics and its philosophical background?
- What is ment by **research ethics**?
- Why ethics is globally important – **global changes and threats**?



## ***Ethical questions:***

**What are ethically acceptable research areas and methods?**

**Should the researcher take responsibility of the consequences of the research – now and also in the future?**

**Does the researcher need ethical codes and rules?**

**Who makes the ethical decisions: researcher, research advisor, university, funding agency?**

**What you should do if you know about misconduct of scientific/ethical rules?**

**What is your responsibility?**

***A researchers is responsible to other researchers, to all those participating in the joint research, to the whole scientific society and above all to him/herself***



**First and foremost it is the responsibility of the researcher him/herself but also:**

**Research team** collectively

**Supervisor** as a research director

**Head of research unit/organisation** as a developer of the working environment

**Learned societies and journalists** as mediators of research data and as promoters of science

**Funding organisations** as research policy makers

# Singapore Statement on Research Integrity

**Preamble.** The value and benefits of research are vitally dependent on the integrity of research. While there can be and are national and disciplinary differences in the way research is organized and conducted, there are also principles and professional responsibilities that are fundamental to the integrity of research wherever it is undertaken.

## PRINCIPLES

**Honesty** in all aspects of research  
**Accountability** in the conduct of research  
**Professional courtesy and fairness** in working with others  
**Good stewardship** of research on behalf of others

## RESPONSIBILITIES

**1. Integrity:** Researchers should take responsibility for the trustworthiness of their research.

**2. Adherence to Regulations:** Researchers should be aware of and adhere to regulations and policies related to research.

**3. Research Methods:** Researchers should employ appropriate research methods, base conclusions on critical analysis of the evidence and report findings and interpretations fully and objectively.

**4. Research Records:** Researchers should keep clear, accurate records of all research in ways that will allow verification and replication of their work by others.

**5. Research Findings:** Researchers should share data and findings openly and promptly, as soon as they have had an opportunity to establish priority and ownership claims.

**6. Authorship:** Researchers should take responsibility for their contributions to all publications, funding applications, reports and other representations of their research. Lists of authors should include all those and only those who meet applicable authorship criteria.

**7. Publication Acknowledgement:** Researchers should acknowledge in publications the names and roles of those who made significant contributions to the research, including writers, funders, sponsors, and others, but do not meet authorship criteria.

**8. Peer Review:** Researchers should provide fair, prompt and rigorous evaluations and respect confidentiality when reviewing others' work.

**9. Conflict of Interest:** Researchers should disclose financial and other conflicts of interest that could compromise the trustworthiness of their work in research proposals, publications and public communications as well as in all review activities.

**10. Public Communication:** Researchers should limit professional comments to their recognized expertise when engaged in public discussions about the application and importance of research findings and clearly distinguish professional comments from opinions based on personal views.

**11. Reporting Irresponsible Research Practices:** Researchers should report to the appropriate authorities any suspected research misconduct, including fabrication, falsification or plagiarism, and other irresponsible research practices that undermine the trustworthiness of research, such as carelessness, improperly listing authors, failing to report conflicting data, or the use of misleading analytical methods.

**12. Responding to Irresponsible Research Practices:** Research institutions, as well as journals, professional organizations and agencies that have commitments to research, should have procedures for responding to allegations of misconduct and other irresponsible research practices and for protecting those who report such behavior in good faith. When misconduct or other irresponsible research practice is confirmed, appropriate actions should be taken promptly, including correcting the research record.

**13. Research Environments:** Research institutions should create and sustain environments that encourage integrity through education, clear policies, and reasonable standards for advancement, while fostering work environments that support research integrity.

**14. Societal Considerations:** Researchers and research institutions should recognize that they have an ethical obligation to weigh societal benefits against risks inherent in their work.

## **Modes of action:**

**integrity, meticulousness and accuracy in conducting research, in recording and presenting results, and in judging research and its results**

**Ethically sustainable data-collection, research and evaluation methods and openness in publishing**

**Taking due account of other researchers' work and achievements**

**Planning, conducting and reporting according to standards set for scientific knowledge**

**Status, rights, co-authorship, liabilities and obligations of the research team are determined**

**Ownership of data**

**Storage of material**

**Recording matters agreed**

**Before starting: Sources of funding and other associations are made known to those participating in research and to public**

**Good administrative practice and personnel and financial management**





## **Ethical Problems – WHY?**

**Financial problems – competition between researchers**

**Co-work with commercial sector – rules of the game blend**

**Insufficient leadership training**

**Alienation from basic rules: do not lie, do not steal**

**Academy of Finland expects that:**

**1) Researcher follows ethical rules set by the National Advisory Board on Research Ethics. Commitment is verified by a written procedure in the application**

**2) All application documents, including CVs and lists of publications, are compiled with care and that the information presented in the documents is accurate and truthful.**

**- Academy of Finland trusts the scientist**

**- Control and immediate action responsibility is in the universities and research institutions**

**Very few cases obtained:**

- finances**
- usage of the funds**
- reporting**
- change of research topic**



## Procedure

**Responsibility for handling alleged violations of good scientific practice rests with the organisation conducting the research.**

**The decision on opening an inquiry or investigation proper shall be made by the organisation conducting the research.**

**The organisation shall inform the Academy of its decision in writing.**

## Procedure



**The ground rule is that persons who have committed serious violations of good scientific practice will not be considered for appointments to Academy research posts.**

**In each case the Academy will give separate consideration to how the suspicion of a violation of good scientific practice and the severity of the alleged violation affect the applicant's position with regard to the vacant post.**

## Procedure

**In serious cases even the suspicion of a violation will be grounds enough to make the decision not to award funding.**

**If the investigation concludes that the suspect has been in breach of good scientific practice, that will always have a negative impact on the Academy's deliberations on whether or not to award funding.**

**As well as considering the severity of the violation, the Academy will take into account the research group's current or forthcoming applications.**

## Procedure

Among the factors weighing in the balance are:

- *whether the violation was an instance of misconduct or fraud*
- *the severity of the violation*
- *repetition of the violation*
- *the extent of inappropriate conduct*
- *whether the act is criminalized or whether the act constituted grounds for dismissal under labour legislation.*



The Academy may also decide to impose a waiting period of up to five years.