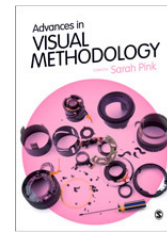


Week 4 Ethical Questions

1 October 2018 10:15-13:00

Preparation

1. Clark, Andrew, 2012. Visual Ethics in a Contemporary Landscape, in: Pink, S. (eds) Advances in Visual Methodology. [Blackboard Researching Africa in the 21st Century MA – Course Documents](#)
2. Jackson, Michael, 2007. Intersubjective ambiguities. http://tma.socsci.uva.nl/19_1/jackson.pdf
3. Kruger, M. & Paul Ndebele. 2014. Research Ethics in Africa. <https://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/healthsciences/paediatrics-and-child-health/Documents/9781920689315%20Research%20Ethics.pdf>
4. Tan, Daniel, et al. 2017. Moral case deliberation. [Blackboard Researching Africa in the 21st Century MA – Course Documents](#)



Intersubjective ambiguities

Michael Jackson

This paper is a critique of the view that knowledge of others consists in grasping how they collectively represent the world to themselves. It explores the extent to which efficacy and mutuality in human social life and ethnography is either only incidentally outcomes of cognitive pre-understandings, ethical principles or cultural ideals: rather, such notions of intersubjective life (like autonomy, misanthropism and intelligence) are born of experience, thoughtfully and/or blindly, in shared situations over time. Theologies and theories of knowledge are like shadows rather than facts, and they emerge mostly as retrospective abridgements and rationalisations of events that unfolded in the momentary spaces between us and lay largely outside our conceptual comprehension and control.

¹⁰ "We take almost all the decisive steps in our lives as a result of slight inner adjustments of which we are barely conscious." W.C. Schickel, *Austerlitz* (2001: 149).



Moral case deliberation

Daniel Y B Tan,¹ Bastiaan C ter Meulen,^{1,2} Albert Molewijk,^{2,4}
Guy Widdershoven³

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 Published online 17 December 2012

support'. Within this framework, participants (glycolysis, anaerobic, aerobic, and so on) all reflect upon a specific moral question that derives from a concrete experience, with the conversation method specifically structured and led by a named facilitator. The facilitator is neutral and gives no direct advice, as the case but supports participants' moral inquiry through a structured dialogue. The aim is to have an open and equal exchange of ideas in order to find answers to the moral questions within the case. It requires decision making processes and to develop moral competencies (building healthy decision processes). It is not about 'winning' or 'losing' an argument; consensus is not required.

There are several ways to perform moral case deliberation,¹ of which the

Additional Background

5. Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2013. Responsible research data management and the prevention of scientific misconduct. [Blackboard Researching Africa in the 21st Century MA – Course Documents](#)
6. Leiden University. Academic Integrity. <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/research/quality-and-integrity/academic-integrity>

Guest Lecturer



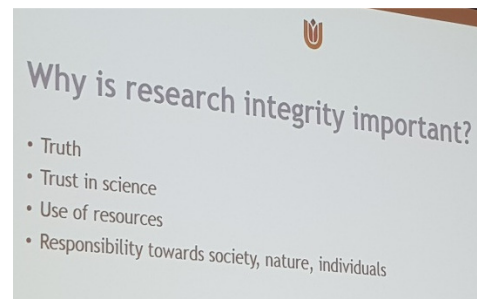
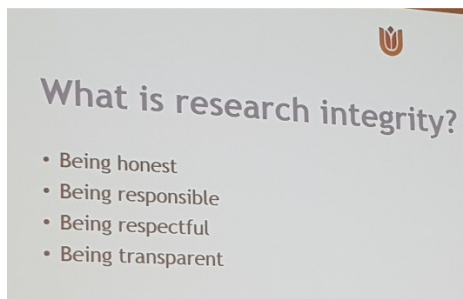
Prof. dr. Guy Widdershoven, Head of Department Medical Philosophy and Ethics,
VU University Medical Center (VUmc).

Outline

Research that involves human subjects, create ethical, legal, political and social issues and obligations for researchers. In the context of new methods of conducting research, such as digital ethnography, research integrity, which traditionally focused on issues in biomedical research, has become a major concern in humanities and social science research. For example - as explored later in the seminar, research that involves vulnerable persons, such as political or economic at risk children.

Relevance of research integrity

How do you conduct research in such a way that it allows others to have trust and confidence in the methods used and your findings?



Codes of Conduct

Focussing on principles, values and virtues, codes of conduct explain **what is the right thing to do, not what can be prevented**. Whilst normative codes guides the do's and don'ts, standard operating procedures describe concrete steps to be taken.



<https://www.allea.org/allea-publishes-revised-edition-european-code-conduct-research-integrity/>

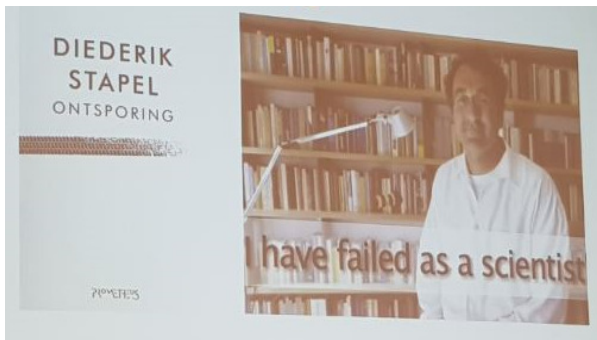


https://www.vsnu.nl/en_GB/news-items/nieuwsbericht/471-new-netherlands-code-of-conduct-for-research-integrity.html

Research Misconduct and Questionable Research Practices

Three important spectrums of research practices:

1. Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) the practice of scientific investigation with integrity
2. Questionable Research Practices (QRP) sloppy science
3. Research misconduct (RM) falsification, fabrication and plagiarism



Dutch anthropologist Mart Bax faked 61 papers, says university

A former anthropologist at the Free University in Amsterdam appears to have made up data for at least 61 papers, and invented awards and other parts of his CV, according to a university investigation.



The news was first reported by NRC Handelsblad and the Volkskrant newspaper.



As illustrated in: Ranking major and minor research misbehaviours: results from a survey among participants of four World Conferences on Research Integrity, by Lex M. Bouter, Joeri Tjink, Nils Axelsen, Brian C. Martinson and Gerben ter Riet in Research Integrity and Peer Review 2016 1:17

<https://researchintegrityjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s41073-016-0024-5>

The article also lists research misbehaviours in all disciplinary fields, and identifies research behaviours that were perceived to be major problems. Sloppy science is the biggest concern, and the top five contributing factors for this, being:



Subjectivity

All research results are subjective.

- Knowledge is interpretation
- Understanding is based on experience
- Research is dependent on perspective

It is essential that opinions are challenged.

- Enlarged by broadening one's perspective
- Dialogue results in a merger of perspectives

Learning is a result of intersubjective processes of mutual understanding



<http://eloquentscience.com/2013/04/a-subjective-discussion-of-the-meanings-of-subjective-and-objective/>

Replication

The main reason for replication is to test if the same research in a different culture, geographical location, etc. would have a similar outcome. It is also used to test over time, if the findings have changed due to changing social, economic, political, etc conditions. A huge problem is that in reality even in the exact sciences 90% is not replicable.

Replication

- Re-analysis of the same data set (with same or alternative data-analysis plan)
- Direct replication (methods reproducibility): collect (and analyse) new data with the same study protocol
- Conceptual replication (external validity, triangulation): collect (and analyse) new data with an alternative study protocol for the same study objective

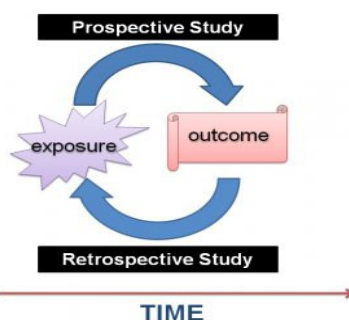
Repeating experiments is not enough

Transparency

In principle all researchers should make the essential components of their work visible to fellow scholars.

Prospectively

Study protocol
Log data collection
Analyse plan
Syntaxes
Conflict of interest



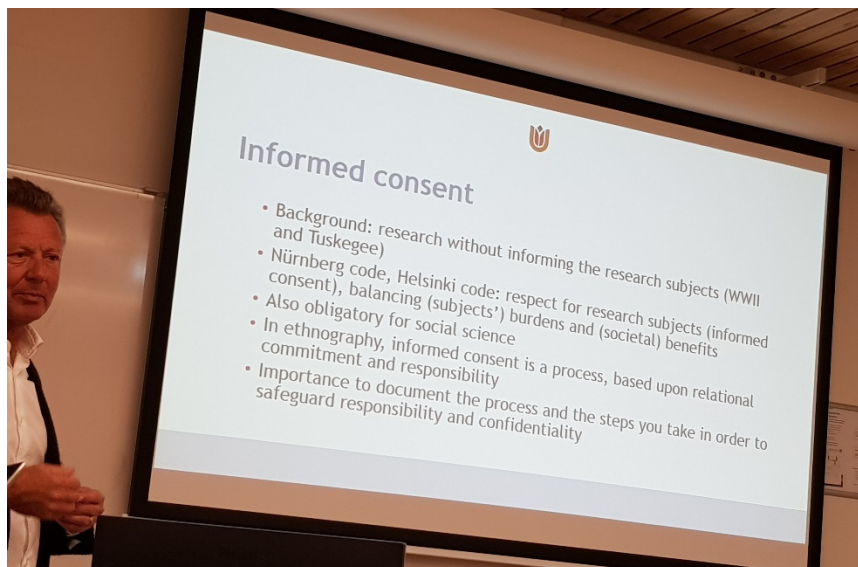
Retrospectively

Publish data (open data)
Reports (open access)

<https://www.manuscriptedit.com/scholar-hangout/tag/retrospective-cohort-study/>

Informed Consent

Informed Consent is a voluntary agreement to participate in research. It is not merely a form that is signed but a process in which the person(s) involved have an understanding of their rights, the purpose of the study, the procedures to be undergone, and the potential risks and benefits of participation.



In Conclusion: What else can we do?

- Take RCR, QRP and RM serious
- Take good care of data storage
- Set a good example
- Promote an open research culture

Moral Case Deliberation as Ethics Support for Practitioners

In Moral Case Deliberation (MCD), a group of participants reflects on a moral dilemma in daily practice. The group is guided through a structural process of investigation of the dilemma by a trained facilitator. The focus is not on advice by experts trained in ethics and law, or by professionals knowledgeable about rules and regulations, but on fostering reflection and dialogue on the moral experience of participants. MCD is action oriented: what is the right action in a specific situation?

Ethical Dilemma Case Study

Facilitator: Dr. Jonna Both

Leiden University Institute for History



Although the identity of children is anonymous, can we share this documentary online?

Moral Case Deliberation

Panel: 7 MAAS students

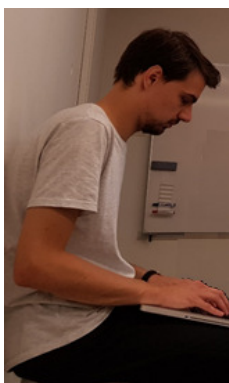
Leiden University African Studies Centre

Steps:

1. Discuss dilemma
2. Ask Questions
3. Analyse Situation from different perspectives
4. Decision & recommendations



Special thanks to our lecturers and assistant



Ruben van Gaalen



Sjoerd Sijsma



Mirjam de Bruijn