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Practical Ethics 1 – research

Practical Ethics 2 – publishing

Ingela Nyström

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Course: Research Methodology for Information Technology

Lecture 3

April 3, 2019





My best critical friends

I keep six honest serving-men,
They taught me all I knew;
Their names are What and Why and When
And How and Where and Who
~Rudyard Kipling

The Elephant's Child (1902)



A PhD student's dilemma

- You send a manuscript intended for a conference to all co-authors prior to the submission deadline, but you do not receive comments on it from all of the co-authors by the time of the deadline.
- *What do you do?*



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<https://mp.uu.se/web/info/forska/etiskafragor>

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Research ethics and good research practice



What is good research practice?

Good research practice rests on some fundamental principles: that one can be assured that research is of high quality; that research is conducted and reported in a truthful way and with respect to important societal values; and that researchers take responsibility for their research and its consequences.

When serious deviations from good research practice occurs, the research can be reported as fraudulent, which at the University is defined in brief as falsifying, misrepresenting or plagiarising research. The researcher also might not have the necessary permits to conduct research or might specify someone as an author (participant in the research) who is not entitled to this.

Uppsala University places great emphasis on awareness of research ethics and compliance with good research practice. Society, the public and businesses need reliable scientific results, and it is important that the public has confidence in research. To this end, it is self-evident that every researcher should ensure that



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- Uppsala universitet
Nämnden för utredning om oredlighet i forskning
Board for Investigation of Misconduct in Research
NUOF
- Vetenskapsrådet
Centrala etikprövningsnämnden
Central Ethical Review Board
CEPN

2019-04-03

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Board for Investigation of Misconduct in Research (NUOF)

- NUOF is responsible for investigating suspected misconduct at UU
- Misconduct in research includes
 - falsification
 - misrepresentation
 - plagiarism
 - failure to obtain permits or comply with established terms and conditions
- Contact: oredlighet@uadm.uu.se
- NUOF also has the task of providing information about misconduct in research and counteracting such misconduct in other ways
- NUOF is not charged with taking a position on the quality of research
- NUOF includes a legally qualified member, teachers, a student representative, an attorney and the University Director



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NUOF 2017—2019

(8 meetings per year)

Board for investigation of misconduct in research

Erik Lempert, ordförande, f.d. lagman

Magnus Hallberg, universitetsjurist

UU Katarina Bjelke, universitetsdirektör

TN Leif Kirsebom, professor

HS Olle Lundin, professor

MF Bengt Gerdin, seniorprofessor

student Jezzica Israelsson, doktorand

Ersättare

UU Per Abrahamsson, akademiombudsman

TN Ingela Nyström, professor

HS Pauliina Remes, professor

MF Lena Kjellén, professor

student Johanna Axling, doktorand

Adjungerad ledamot

Stefan Eriksson, rektorsråd god forskningsse

- Adviser to the Vice-Chancellor for good research practice

Sekreterare

Frida Ringholm



NUOF mission

- NUOF works under the auspices of the UU Vice-Chancellor
- When UU receives a report of misconduct, the UU Vice-Chancellor is notified
- The UU Vice-Chancellor decides whether the case should be referred to NUOF for investigation
- NUOF's task is to investigate whether there is misconduct in research for the case
- NUOF's mission is not to investigate whether there is good research practice
- The report and decisions on cases of suspected misconduct in research are public documents

Process to investigate misconduct in research

1. The accused researcher is informed and an inquiry begins. A reporting officer on the Board is appointed.
2. The researcher is offered an opportunity to comment.
3. The Board may obtain the opinions of experts, of which at least one is to be from another higher education institution. The expert's task is to analyse certain specific issues that are important to the inquiry. During the process, additional documentation may be requested.
4. The University may, if necessary, seek the opinion of the Central Ethical Review Board, but always is to do so if the person making the allegation or the person being accused desires it and it is not obviously unnecessary.
5. When the experts have made their assessment, the accused individual is to be given an opportunity to comment on the assessment.
6. When the inquiry is completed, the Board writes a statement of opinion for the Vice-Chancellor, who makes the final decision.
7. If the allegations are confirmed, the Vice-Chancellor then decides on a process for possible penalties and disciplinary measures.
8. If the study has been published, the publication concerned and any funding agency are contacted.



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NUOF statistics

- NUOF aims to handle a case in 6 months
- 2019-03-21:
 - 4 of 24 cases have been confirmed as misconduct
 - 3 open cases today
- nämndärende – hämndärende
- board case – revenge case

2019-04-03

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Whistle-blowing

- <https://mp.uu.se/web/info/anstallning/stod-arbetsmiljo/meddelande-om-missforhallande>



2013-04-03

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Vancouver definition of co-author

A co-author should meet the following 4 criteria

- has made a substantial contribution to the research itself
AND
- has provided an important intellectual contribution to the writing of the report
AND
- has accepted the version to be published
AND
- in this way has accepted responsibility for the report if questions regarding its accuracy or integrity should arise



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Vancouver recommendations for authorship

- ICMJE – International Committee of Medical Journal Editors
- See 5-minute film of Stefan Eriksson at <https://mp.uu.se/en/web/info/forska/etiskafragor/grundlaggande-riktlinjer>



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