Research Ethics in the Social Sciences
Course description, Ph.D. course at the department of Informatics and Media, Autumn 2020

This course covers topics related to research ethics in the social sciences, with focus on ethics in qualitative empirics. It corresponds to 7.5 HP (Bologna model) at Ph.D. level. Please note that Ph.D. students must get approval from their Ph.D. examiner to attend the course. The course is given for the first time and is for this reason only open to students from the department.

Goals
The course covers theoretical and practical aspects on ethics in empirical research, broadly related to the Social Sciences. After the course, students are expected to
- Be able to reason critically about the legal, philosophical and constitutional grounding of research ethics.
- Be able to make nuanced judgements concerning risk, privacy, and informed consent for a wide range of empirical approaches within the social sciences.
- Be able to plan a research intervention or data collection, making nuanced judgements about research ethics.
- Be able to write a high-quality ethical application.
- Be versed in Uppsala university institutions and Swedish formal procedures ensuring ethical conduct in research.

Examination
To pass the course, students must individually
- Participate in most seminars
- Present some of the literature for each seminar and participate actively in seminar discussions.
- Towards the end of the course, hand in documentation of a research intervention or data collection which details the ethical considerations made in its planning. This can be an ethical application or a research plan.

Schedule
All seminars are held over Zoom. Book 13-17 in your calendars, so that we have time to also include practical work as part of most seminars. (Not all seminars will be this long, but book the time.) The practical parts will be planned later, and will include invited lectures, fictive ethical reviews of publications, and planning your own data collection / ethical application.

Below is a suggested schedule.
1. Sept. 1st: Conventions and Codes of Conduct. Guest: Åsa Cajander
5. Oct 27th: Large scale studies, Data Mining and AI.
6. Nov 10th: Ethics in HCI (Interventions and design research)

8. **Deadline Dec 3rd**: Documentation of research intervention or draft ethical application.

9. **Dec 8th**: The Ethics of Ethical Reviews. **Peer review** of individual hand-ins.

**Preliminary Literature List**

**Seminar 1: Conventions and Codes of Conduct.**

**Guest**: Åsa Cajander, Experiences from an ethical conduct review, 13-14.

- APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct
- ASA Code of ethics, sections 11, 12, 13
- The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity
- [https://mp.uu.se/en/web/info/forska/etiskafragor](https://mp.uu.se/en/web/info/forska/etiskafragor)

**Seminar 2: Ethnography.**


**Seminar 3: Virtual Ethnography.**

**Practical exercise**: Review of examples of empirical work – bring your own examples!!

- AOIR Internet Research: Ethical Guidelines 3.0

**Seminar 4: GDPR.**

**Guest**: Johan Modin, Etikprövningsmyndigheten.

- [https://mp.uu.se/en/web/info/stod/dataskyddsforordningen](https://mp.uu.se/en/web/info/stod/dataskyddsforordningen)

Seminar 5: Large scale studies, Data Mining and AI.

**Practical exercise:** Ethical applications, go through format and read example applications

Seminar 6: Ethics in HCI (Interventions and design research)

**Practical exercise:** Construct your own invitation to study and consent form.
Seminar 7: Swedish Regulations and Institutions. Uppsala University Resources.

**Guest:** Stefan Eriksson, “Rektorsråd för redlighet i forskning” 13-14.
- [https://mp.uu.se/en/web/info/forska/etiskafragor/verktyg](https://mp.uu.se/en/web/info/forska/etiskafragor/verktyg)
- [https://open.karnovgroup.se/utbildning/SFS2003-0460](https://open.karnovgroup.se/utbildning/SFS2003-0460)
- [https://oredlighetsprovning.se/](https://oredlighetsprovning.se/)

Seminar 8: The Ethics of Ethical Reviews.

**Practical exercise:** Peer review of individual assignments.

Contact person

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