Research Ethics in the Social Sciences

Course description, Ph.D. course at the department of Informatics and Media, Spring 2022
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This course covers topics related to research ethics in the social sciences, with a strong focus on ethics in qualitative empirics. It corresponds to 7.5 HP (Bologna model) at Ph.D. level.

The course consists of literature seminars and practical exercises. The practical parts include invited lectures, fictive ethical reviews of publications, and planning your own data collection / ethical application. Please note that Ph.D. students must get approval from their Ph.D. examiner to attend the course.

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. Students that miss more than one seminar will be required to do complementary assignments.
- Present some of the literature for each seminar and participate actively in seminar discussions.
- Hand in documentation of a research intervention or data collection which details the ethical considerations made in its planning. This can be (part of) an ethical application, or a research plan.
Schedule

All seminars are held over Zoom. The times below are indicative: some seminars may not need all the time but book it in your calendars.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Seminar</th>
<th>Deadlines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11, 13-16</td>
<td>Conventions and Codes of Conduct.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 24, 13-16</td>
<td>Ethnography.</td>
<td><strong>Note that this is a Monday!!!</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 1, 13-16</td>
<td>Participation, positionality and power.</td>
<td><strong>Deadline:</strong> Bring a paper to discuss</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 15, 13-16</td>
<td>Conflict zones and repressive regimes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 1, 13-16</td>
<td>Sensitive research.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 15, 13-16</td>
<td>Online research.</td>
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<td>Mar 29, 13-16</td>
<td>GDPR.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 12, 13-16</td>
<td>Swedish regulations and institutions.</td>
<td><strong>Deadline:</strong> Draft an invitation to study and a consent form/process</td>
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<td>April 19</td>
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<td>April 26, 13-17</td>
<td>Participation and Intervention.</td>
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<td>May 10, 13-16</td>
<td>The Ethics of Ethical Reviews.</td>
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<td>May 16th</td>
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<td><strong>Deadline:</strong> Documentation of research intervention or study.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 23rd and May 24th, 12-17</td>
<td>Final seminars</td>
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Literature List

**Jan 11th:** *Conventions and Codes of Conduct.*
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
The Nuremberg Code
https://mp.uu.se/en/web/info/forska/etiskafragar

**Jan 24th:** *(A MONDAY!)* Ethnography.
**Guest:** Stefan Eriksson, Rector counsellor in research ethics

Feb 1st: Positionality and Power.
Practical exercise: Do fictive ethical reviews of selected publications. Why are they ethical/not ethical?


Feb. 15th: Research in Conflict Zones and Repressive Regimes.
Guest: Kristine Höglund, professor in Peace and Conflict Research


Mar 1st: Sensitive research.
Guest: Amanda Lagerqvist, Professor in Media and Communication Sciences. An existential ethics of care: slowness, silence and waiting


**Mar 15th: Online research**
**Practical exercise:** Ethical applications, go through format and read example applications


**Mar 29th: GDPR.**
**Guest:** Christer Lagvik, Uppsala University Library, Department of scientific communication

- https://mp.uu.se/en/web/info/stod/dataskyddsforordningen


**April 12th: Swedish regulations and institutions.**
**Guest:** Johan Modin, Head of Etikprövningsmyndigheten

- https://oredlighetsprovning.se/
- https://codex.uu.se/

**April 26th: Participation and Intervention.**
**Practical exercise:** Invitation to study and consent form/process.


**May 10th: The Ethics of Ethical Reviews.**

**Guest:** Åsa Cajander, Professor in Human – Computer Interaction at the department of Information Technologies and Rector counsellor in equal opportunities.


Complementary readings

This course covers ethical considerations over a wide variety of research fields and methodologies. Hence, the readings are somewhat restricted. If you want to go deeper in a particular issue, here are some pointers for further reading.


Bassett E, O'Riordan K. Internet research ethics. Ethics of Internet research: contesting the human subjects research model. http://www.nyu.edu/projects/nissenbaum/ethics_bas_full

Zimmer, M. (2010). “But the data is already public”: on the ethics of research in Facebook. Ethics and information technology, 12(4), 313-325.