

# ETHICAL OVERSIGHT OF VARIOUS DISCIPLINES

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# Topics to be discussed:

- Ethical Foundations Across Various Disciplines
- Ethical Challenges in Varied Fields
- Regulation of Research
  - *UPD REB, AHHMSREB and the CHK REC*
- Universality in Research Ethics: Context-sensitive Research Ethics

# Introduction

Ethical oversight: ensuring **actions align with moral and societal standards**, recognizing the role of ethics in decision-making across different fields.

- ✓ Protects public trust and welfare.
- ✓ It prevents harm and promotes fairness.
- ✓ Encourages innovation with accountability.

**“Ethics is the backbone of trust in every discipline.”**

## The Nuremberg Code (1947)

"Permissible Medical  
Experiments"

These rules include:  
voluntary consent,  
benefits outweigh risks,  
ability of the subject to  
terminate participation



## WMA Declaration of Helsinki

<https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-declaration-of-helsinki-ethical-principles-for-medical-research-involving-human-subjects/>

Ethical Principles for Medical  
Research Involving Human  
Subjects (1964-2013)

Cornerstone document on  
human research ethics.

Focus on responsibilities of  
researchers (physicians) towards  
protection of research subjects  
(rights); within clinical trial  
protocols; consideration of  
identifiable human material and  
data (privacy); Informed consent

## Basic Principles of Human Research Ethics

(The Belmont Report)

The National Commission for the  
Protection of Human Subjects of  
Biomedical and Behavioral  
Research. April 18, 1979

**Respect for persons**  
Vulnerable populations, Informed  
Consent

**Beneficence (*doing good*):** Assess  
*risk and benefits*

**Justice (*fairness*):** Eligibility criteria  
and recruitment methods must be  
fair

# Common Ethical Foundations Across Various Disciplines

These principles are flexible guidelines that may be tailored to each discipline.

1. Beneficence - Acting for the benefit of others
2. Justice - Ensuring fairness and equity
3. Autonomy - Respecting individuals' rights
4. Non-maleficence - Avoiding harm

# Oversight Mechanisms

Importance of **interdisciplinary collaboration** for robust policies.

Examples of oversight bodies

1. IRBs (Institutional Review Boards) in research
2. Ethics boards in AI development
3. Professional organizations (e.g., medical associations, bar councils, sport associations and doping regulatory systems)

# Research Regulation: Ethics Review

- International Ethical Guidelines for Health-related Research Involving Humans (CIOMS-WHO, 2016)
- PHREB Phil. Health Research Ethics Board National Ethical Guidelines 2017
  - *Accredited RECs (Level 1, 2, 3)*
- **Institutional Review Board**
  - *S.A. UPM ERB (Ethical Review Board) and the UPD REB*
- UPD College/Cluster Review Board
  - *CHE, CSSP*
  - *AHHMS REB*
    - CHK REC (Research Ethic Committee) Reviewers with BRET and GCP certifications

# The CHK Research Ethics Committee (CHK REC)

- The CHK Research Ethics Committee (CHK REC) is a subset of the UP Diliman Arts, Humanities, and Human Movement Science Research Ethics Board (AHHMSREB). Member Colleges include:
  - College of Arts and Letters
  - College of Fine Arts
  - College of Human Kinetics (Sports Science and Physical Education)
  - College of Mass Communications
  - College of Music
- The CHK has piloted the AHHMSREB ethics review process since January 2023
- Follows a structured and tiered review process to ensure ethical compliance and protection of human subjects in research.
- The application process requires submitting the research proposal, CVs, and informed consent form (available on the CHK website).

University of the Philippines Diliman  
Arts, Humanities, and Human Movement Science  
Research Ethics Board

## Standard Operating Procedures Manual





# Importance of Ethical Conduct of Research

- Major methodological flaws can undermine the study's impact
- Ethical approval is often a prerequisite for publication.
- Involvement of Participants in Research Design: Researchers should involve participants, including children and young people, in the design and dissemination of research findings to ensure their perspectives and consent are considered
- Feedback pathways: Researchers are responsible for deciding whether to give feedback findings to participants, ensuring clear communication and consent, and managing expectations with a practical feedback pathway.
- Transparency and independence: Researchers should ensure the independence of their projects and be transparent about the involvement of other parties, such as funders, to avoid potential biases and conflicts of interest.

# Ethical Challenges in Varied Fields

## Examples

1. Navigating ethical dilemmas in organ transplants or genetic engineering (Medicine).
2. Balancing AI innovation with privacy and bias concerns (Technology).
3. Ensuring corporate social responsibility over profit-driven motives (Business).
4. Avoiding bias in curriculum design and pedagogy (Education).
4. Informed consent for vulnerable populations (Various disciplines with humans as participants).
5. Physical or mental distress, confidentiality, and anonymity (Social Science and other disciplines).
6. Sponsored research and conflict of interest (Various disciplines).
7. Scientific misconduct, dishonesty, fraud (Various disciplines).

# Ethical standards in sports and exercise science research: 2020 update

Harriss DJ et al. Ethical Standards in Sport ...  
Int J Sports Med 2019; 40: 813–817  
DOI <https://doi.org/10.1055/a-1015-3123>

Aspects of ethics relevant to sport and exercise scientists: Research involving human participants

1. Basic ethical research principles
2. Ethical review
3. Research Protocol
4. Informed Consent
5. Secondary Data Analysis
6. Use of Placebo
7. Use of Gatekeepers
8. Privacy and Confidentiality
9. Vulnerable Populations
10. Sample Size

# Universality in Research Ethics

- Universality in research ethics is appealing for the following reasons:
  - universal systems advocated that are morally attractive- beneficence, justice, non-maleficence, and respect for autonomous persons
  - easier for practitioners and ethics committees to apply the systems
  - congruent with globalization, and easier to apply the views of the culturally dominant
- Despite the emphasis on Western models of bioethics, whether ethical principles are common across cultures is questioned
  - *universally applied or relative to each culture and applied individually (Barnes et al., 1998)*



# Context-sensitive Research Ethics

- Religious or spiritual beliefs, including religious taboos
  - *Islamic holy law prevent skinfold body fat measurements in Muslim women*
- The signed informed consent form
- Hierarchical issues or unequal power relationships
  - *impoverished societies (payment for participation)*
  - *perceived inducement (e.g. access to vaccines or medical treatment)*
  - *little formal education in the sciences (e.g. understanding concepts such as use of randomization, control groups and placebo)*
    - potential distrust, which could affect the conduct of the research



Context-sensitive research ethics are desired, where both individual autonomy and the dominant local authorization patterns are respected.

# Culture and values

## Western standards

- self-reliance
- individualism
- materialism
- technology
- independence
- achievement
- reliance on the power of science



## Asian cultures, African and central American

- stresses family, communitarian or patriarchal models of decision-making
- serving others
- deference to elders
- compliance with authority
- group communal assistance
- privacy
- importance of hard work
- reliance on religious or spiritual beliefs and practice

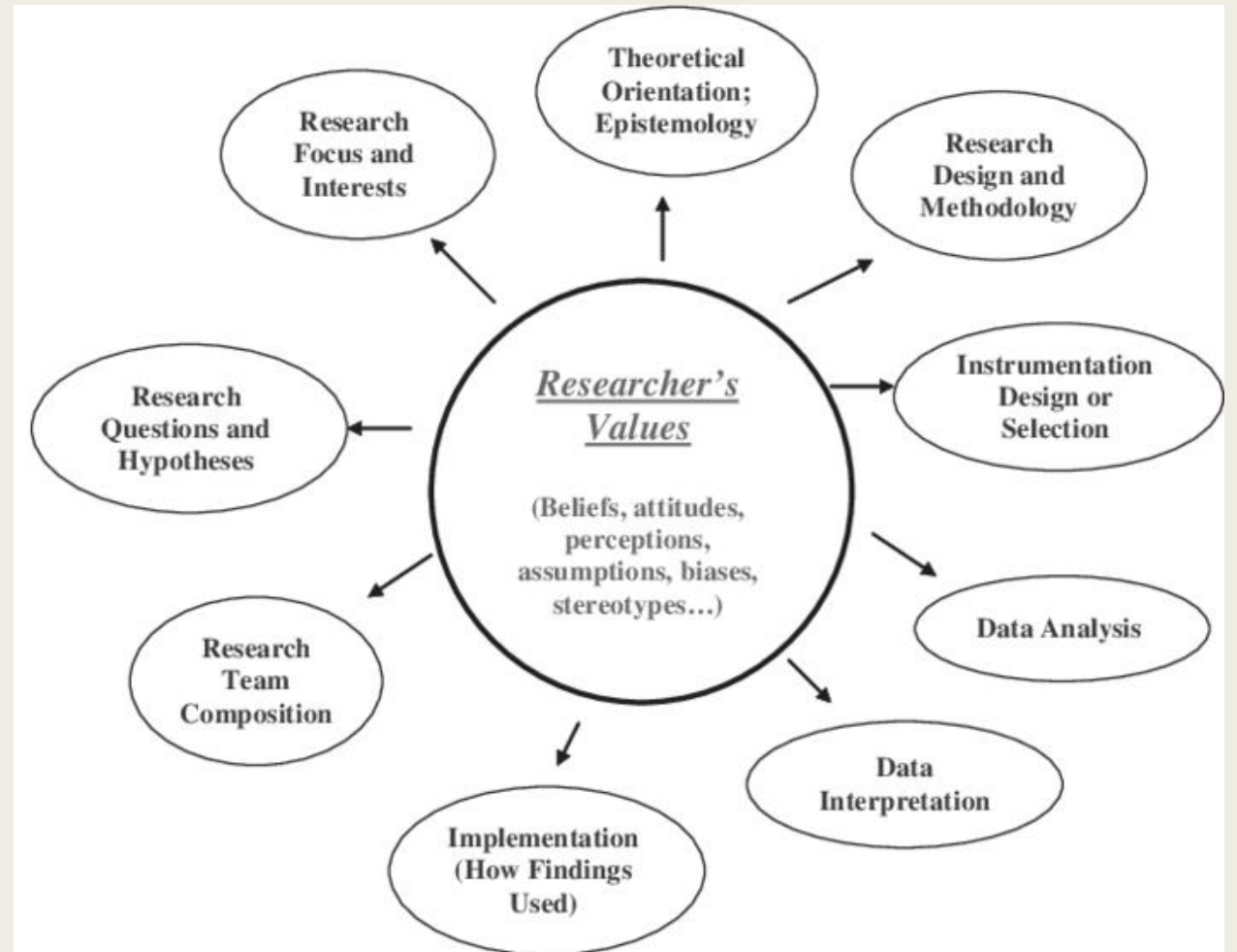
# Applications for research in sports and exercise science

- particular relevance for psychology, management and marketing, communication
- context-sensitive applications for research in sports and exercise science
  - *s.a. utilizing the Asian BMI, FNRI Pinggang Pinoy, whenever local or regional literature can be found it should be used*
  - *general training and nutritional recommendations are mostly universal (macronutrient requirement instead of specific food identified) – but the needs of each individual and per sport are different*
  - *a general lack of published research on basic anthropometric measurements of the Filipino child, adolescent and adult and athletes*



# Researcher values in research

- cross-cultural research in gifted education
- researchers should be mindful of the need to consider their humanness (values)
- limitations of their humanness when working with research participants from racially, culturally, and linguistically diverse backgrounds, especially those that differ from theirs
- research is culture-bound



Ford et al. (2008)



# Key take-aways

Ethics isn't about restrictions—it's about fostering trust and progress.

Different disciplines will have their ethical considerations. You can't go wrong if common ethical foundations are used as a guide to tailor-fit ethical guidelines.

Context-sensitive ethics is key for research involving various disciplines.