

Research ethics for the humanities

Theories of science — KULT 8850/8851

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Fall 2025

SESSION PLAN

What is research ethics?

Three levels of research ethics

Research ethical challenges

Tools and resources

ROUND OF INTRODUCTION

- What is your field and topic of research?
- Methodology (if relevant)
- Have you experienced any research ethical challenges so far in your PhD? (One example – also ok to pass!)



Research ethics develops in response to crisis and scandal

A brief history of research ethics







RESEARCH ETHICS DEVELOPS IN RESPONSE TO EMERGING RESEARCH

- Internal norms are necessary, but not sufficient. We also need external oversight, legal frameworks, and institutional review.
- How do we preserve scientific freedom while ensuring adequate protection for individuals and society?
- Some fields are more mature than others
- New technologies (genetic editing, Al, big dato) pose novel risks that may challenge existing norms.

RESEARCH ETHICS IN THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



You are not testing medicines on people or making potentially world destructing weapons

But you will meet a variety of research ethical challenges in your research careers!

WHAT IS RESEARCH ETHICS?

- Research ethics emcompasses norms and values that regulate scientific activity.
- The professoinal ethics of researchers (role morality), but also:
- The ethics of research institutions

RESEARCH ETHICS IS NOT CHECKBOX ETHICS



- There is no comprehensive list of requirements that, if we can check them off, ensures our research is ethical.
- Research ethics is a practice that is continuously in development, and always contextual.
- Research ethical norms offer guidance, but never the full answer.

ACADEMIC CITIZENSHIP



- The overall aim of the course is to help the participants in their development of what we call academic citizenship.
- Academic citizenship is a broad set of efforts and norms that relates to internal as well as external features of academic life.
- The main feature is the ability to reflect about academic work and its context

THREE LEVELS OF RESEARCH ETHICS



- 1. Quality of research. Good research conduct and the 'ethos' of science
- 2. Protecting persons and/or groups affected by research.
- 3. The social responsibility of research



CUDOS NORMS



Communism

Universalism

Disinterestedness

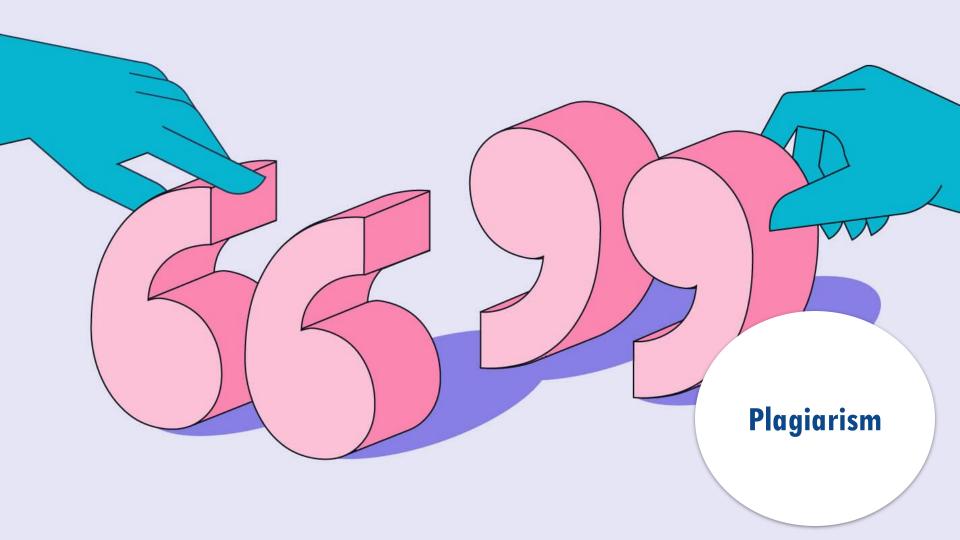
Organized Skepticism



SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT

- Fabrication: false data.
- Misleading analyses and interpretations.
- Plagiarism/theft of others' results, ideas, texts.
- •Self plagiarism or double publication.
- Misleading representation of the research of others.

What is the difference between fraud and sloppiness?



PLAGIARISM



Research ethics law on dishonesty:

Scientific dishonesty means forgery, fabricating evidence, plagiarism, and other serious violations of good scientific practice that is deliberately or negligently carried out. This applies to planning of, completing or reporting on research

PLAGIARISM



- Turning in someone else's work as your own.
- Copying words/phrases/sentences or ideas from someone else without giving credit.
- Crucial point: give false impression that the text is yours (whether you meant to or not).

knytter forbindelsen mellom "slik det er" og "slik det burde være". Det vil si hverdagen i tjenesten og sentralt utpekte mål og strategier i styringsdokument tilsvarende NOU 2011: 11. Mellomlederne tilrettelegger også for at kunnskap beveger seg mellom de ulike nivåene i organisasjonen, det vil si mellom individ-, gruppe og organisasjonsnivå. Den avanserte kunnskapsarbeideren både kan og vil lede seg selv, men trenger støtte, inspirasjon og læringsmuligheter. Det kan være grunn til å anta at tradisionelle lederferdigheter som analyse, planlegging og kontroll vil være mindre fremtredende i

krav til målstyring, samtidig som det forventes involvering fra ansatte og brukere. Komplekse problem kan være vanskelig å definere og det er vanskelig å finne åpenbare løsninger på problemene. Rittel og Webber (1973) argumenterer for at samfunnet har funnet løsninger for mange av de grunnleggende samfunnsproblemene. Problemet og løsning på problemet har relativt lett blitt identifisert og håndtert. De gjenværende problemene har en mer kompleks karakter. Rittel og Webber (1973) bruker benevnelsen wicked problems. På norsk kan dette oversettes komplekse. problem, selv om kompleks ikke helt fanger betydningen til det engelske begrepet wicked. Komplekse problemer har følgende kjennetegn: de er vanskelige å lokalisere, vanskelige å definere, og de har ingen objektivt riktig løsning (Rittel og Webber, 1973). Digitalisering av kommunehelsetjenesten er å regne som organisasjonsutvikling i store virksomheter

med brede samhandlingsflater mot familie og lokalsamfunn og spesialisthelsetjeneste. Vi mener



- Kjerkols masteroppgave -

Selv om velferdsteknologi har en stor potensiell verdi, vil effektene være ulike for de involverte aktørene. Både tilsiktede og utilsiktede effekter kan gjøre at noen påvirkes både positivt og negativt når nye løsninger tas i bruk, og det kan være vanskelig å veie disse effektene opp mot hverandre.

- Sintef-rapport -

Selv om velferdsteknologi har stor potensiell verdi, vil fordelingen av effektene være ulik for de involverte aktørene. Både tilsiktede og utilsiktede effekter kan gjøre at noen påvirkes både positivt og negativt når nye løsninger tas i bruk, og det kan være utfordrende å veie disse effektene mot hverandre.

THE GREY ZONES OF PLAGIARISM

- Plagiarism is almost never as clear as in this case.
- Research find that students and early career researchers often plagiarize without being aware that they do.
- Thought theft is common. Have you ever presented insight you heard on a podcast as if it was your own? (I have!)
- In research, it is natural to build on other people's insight
- we internalize it and it become our own. Do we cite it then?

Dag O. Hessen innklaget til forskningsetisk utvalg

Bokanmelder og idéhistoriker Frida Skatvik mener Dag O. Hessens nye bok om Zapffe inneholder plagiering og selvplagiering. – Helt utenfor mål, svarer Hessen.



- Svært ubehagelig, sier Dag O. Hessen om at forskningsetisk utvalg skal behandle klagen mot ham. Foto: Siri Øverland Eriksen



solveig.mikkelsen@khrono.no









Khrono Nyheter Debatt Student

SELVPLAGIERIN

«Kan man virkelig stjele av seg selv?» Student vil ta plagiering til Høyesterett

Utestengt etter å ha sitert seg selv. Har tapt i alle instanser. Håper Høyesterett vil ta saken.

Sykepleierstudent utestengt et helt år for selvplagiering

21-åringen ble utestengt i to semestre etter å ha kopiert noen setninger hun hadde skrevet selv. Universitetet sier det er studentenes ansvar å kjenne reglene for kildehenvisninger.



DISCUSS

- Can you steal your own work?
- How do we draw the line between building on our earlier work and copying it?

Selvplagiat er ikke plagiat

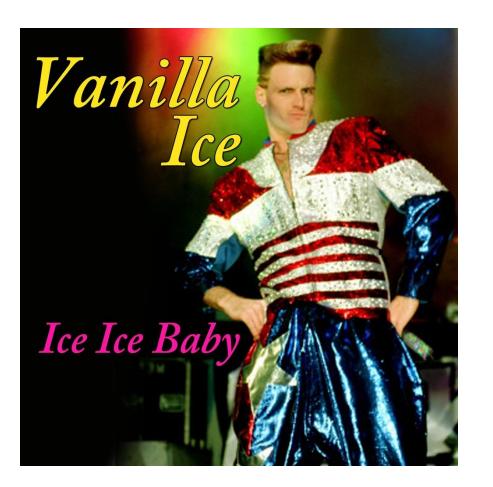
I forskningsetisk forstand er selvplagiat et meningsløst begrep, skriver De nasjonale forskningsetiske komiteene (FEK).



Helene Ingierd er direktør ved de forskningsetiske komiteer. Nå går hun og flere sekretariatsledere ut mot forståelsen av det mye omtalte begrepet selvplagiat. Foto: Ingrid Torp

CAN YOU STEAL FROM YOURSELF?

- Self-plagiarising is not plagiarising, but bad citation practice.
- It's YOUR work. You cannot steal from yourself. But you owe it to the reader to be honest about the origin of the idea. Don't present as a new idea an idea that isn't new.
- Cite yourself.
- Difference between published work and course assignments.



ICE: INTRODUCE, CITE, EXPLAIN

- Spend 2-4 times the length of a quote to explain why this quote is interesting in your case.
- Say what the other has said, in your own words, in a way that the author could recognize. If you can't, you haven't earned the quote.
- The reader is reading your text to hear YOU think, not someone else. If someone wants to read Kant, they'll read Kant.
- Allusions is ok!
- It's better to use a quote to complicate something you have said, than to support your own argument

QUESTIONABLE CITATION PRACTICES

- It's not always easy to know when to include a source!
- Excessive citations isn't always productive
- Strive to use primary sources





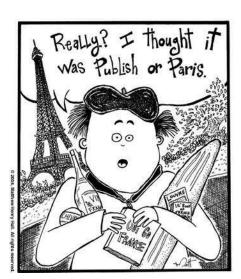
Published: 11 May 2016

The pressure to publish pushes down quality

Daniel Sarewitz ☑

Nature **533**, 147 (2016) Cite this article

1240 Accesses **81** Citations **1541** Altmetric Metrics









VANCOUVER-RECOMMENDATIONS



Requirements for publication in medical journals: (Gold standard) concerning the ethics of authorship, double publications, conflicts of interest etc.

On authorship:

Authorship credit should be based on 1) substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and 3) final approval of the version to be published. Authors should meet conditions 1, 2, and 3.

As a co-author, you should also be accountable for all parts of the text.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO QUALIFY AS A CO-AUTHOR?

ALL authors should

- 1. Give a substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
- 2. Draft the work or revise it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- 3. Give a final approval of the version to be published; AND
- 4. Agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved; be able to identify which co-authors are responsible for specific other parts of the work; confidence in the integrity of the contributions of their co-authors.



THE ETHICS OF ASYMMETRICAL RELATIONSHIPS

- Make plans, share expectations, it's useful to get things in writing.
- Co-authorship situations can change.
- Remember that it's ok to change your supervisor if things doesn't work out. Talk to your head of department or bring up concerns at the midway evaluation meeting, where your supervisor is not present.

DISCUSS

- Do you have plans to publish with your supervisor? What kind of discussions have you had concerning coauthorship?
- How do we draw the line between supervision and scientific contribution?

INTEGRITY IN SUPERVISION RELATIONSHIPS

If the supervisor wants to use the candidate's data material or research findings in his or her own publications or research, the supervisor must obtain permission from the candidate and follow the rules of the academic field for citing sources and attributing credit. In research projects with commercial potential, the supervisor must ensure that the ownership of ideas by the candidate and the supervisor is clarified from the start.

(From the code of ethics for teaching and supervisory relationships at NTNU)

UNEVEN POWER STRUCTURES

- Between supervisor and student/PhD-candidate
- Between junior and senior researchers
- Between 'big shots' in the subject and the rest

 Fear of being excluded from research projects, publications, labs, not get reference.

WHAT TO DO IF A SUPERVISOR RELATIONSHIP TURNS SOUR

- Professional distance is the responsibility of the supervisor
- Remember that you are allowed to change your supervisor, and that even though it can be challenging and you can experience a fear of repercussion, your chances of finishing your PhD on time is much higher with a supervisor you work well with.
- Talk to your peers, compare difficult situations.
- It is the responsibility of your head of department to offer support of you need to end or need help finding good solutions.
- Co-supervisors are important

WHAT IS SEXUAL HARASSMENT?



NTNU's definition:

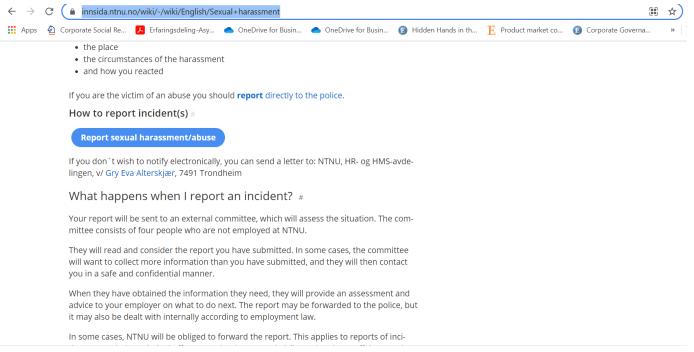
Sexual harassment is often defined as unwelcome sexual attention that is perceived as offensive and objectionable for the person affected. It is common to distinguish between physical, verbal and non-verbal harassment.

Legal definition:

Sexual harassment» means any form of unwanted sexual attention that has the purpose or effect of being offensive, frightening, hostile, degrading, humiliating or troublesome." (Equality and anti-discrimination act - likestillings-og diskrimineringsloven)

PROCEDURES AT NTNU









PREDATORY JOURNALS

- Predatory journals are publications that claim to be legitimate scholarly journals, but misrepresent their publishing practices.
- It is becoming increasingly more difficult to navigate this landscape.

HOW CAN YOU AVOID PUBLISHING IN PREDATORY JOURNALS



- Be sceptical towards flattering emails!
- Check if the Norwegian Center for Research Data and Directory of Open Access Journals have listed the journal
- Kanalregisteret (Level 1 and 2 is satisfactory, avoid level 0)
- Ask your colleagues
- Borderline predatory journals (MDPI?)

DISCUSS

Share your publishing experience! How did you decide where to submit? How did you experience the peer review process?



PROTECTING PERSONS AND GROUPS



Four basic, ethical principles (cf. Beauchamp and Childress, 2001):

- Beneficence (do good)
- Nonmalefience (do no harm)
- Justice
- Respect for autonomy



new terms of the service. I agree to the terms &

SOME GUIDELINES FOR INFORMED CONSENT

- Consider the scope of what you are asking your participant to contribute. What are the vital parts they should consider before accepting? How can you communicate this clearly?
- Are there any changes in the research design which conceivably could make the participant withdraw their consent?
- Proceed with special caution if the research participants are persons who are unable to give informed consent.

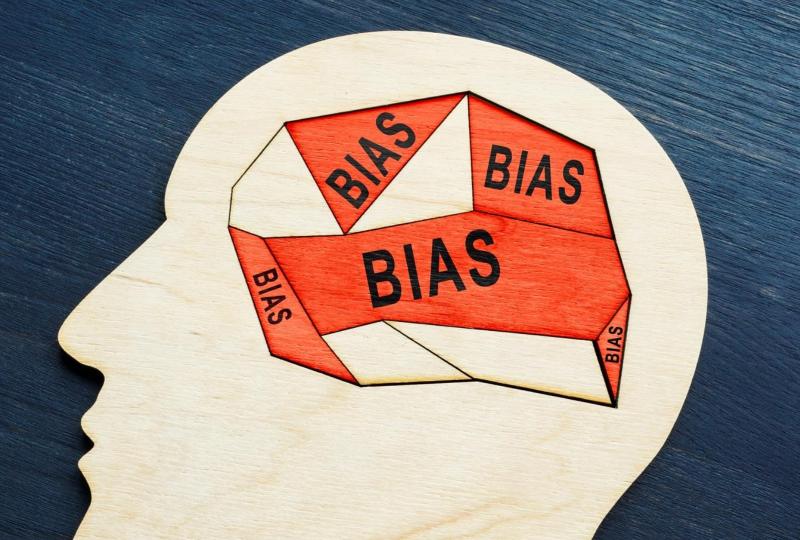
FURTHER GUIDELINES FOR INFORMED CONSENT

- What "informed" means has to be assessed on a caseby-case basis
- Rule of thumb: Research subjects must have information from which nothing has been excluded that could reasonably be expected to alter their consent.
- Check SIKT for consent form but adapt to your own needs.



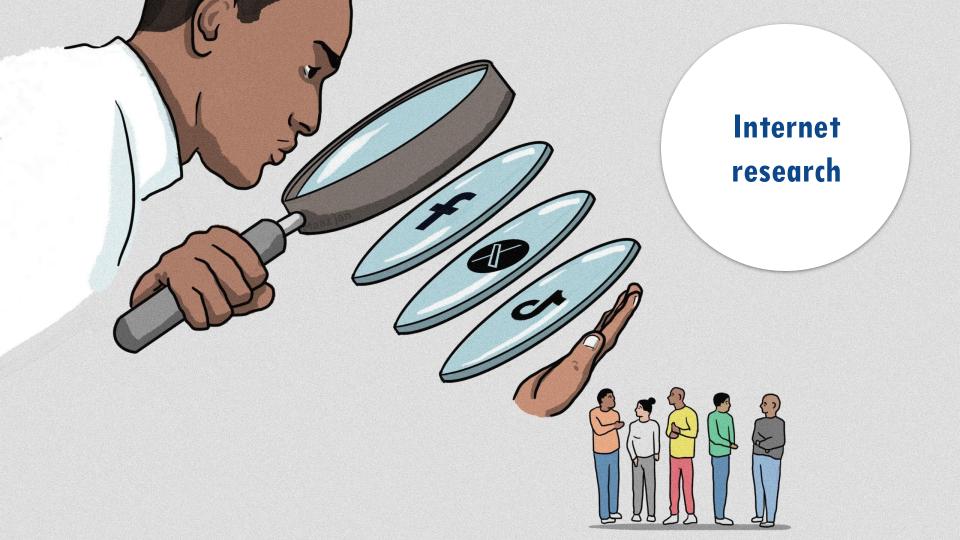
CONFIDENTIALITY IN RESEARCH

- Data management plan: How sensitive are the data, and who can have access to them? (SIKT)
- Depending on the sensitivity of the issue and consent, how should research participants be anonymized?
- It can sometimes be necessary to lower the quality of the research in order to ensure confidentiality.



BIAS IN RESEARCH

- We cannot completely avoid biases, but we can learn to be more aware of them!
- Selection bias: What data do you include in your research? If the aim is to be representative, how can representation be ensured?
- Publication bias: Bias with regards to language of research, journal access, familiarity bias, outcome bias
- Be honest about your biases (sometimes this is just stating the limitations of your study)



GUIDELINES FOR USING INTERNET DATA

- Assess the contextual integrity of the data
- Obtain informed consent when appropriate
- Ensure anonymity and confidentiality
- Reflect on the ethical implications of research methods



A Guide to Internet Research Ethics









ONTNU

Knowledge for a better world

Norwegian universities consider the ethics of oil and gas research

If Norway, one of the most oil-dependent countries in the world, can question petroleum research, will others follow?





DISCUSS

Should NTNU be involved in petroleum research, or is this in conflict with the vision ((Knowledge for a better world))?



UA

NTNU vedtar boikott av israelske akademiske institusjoner

Vi håper NTNUs kursendring vil motivere andre norske universiteter til å slutte seg til denne viktige bevegelsen. Samtidig er det en vei å gå ved NTNU også.



- Vi vil ikke gi oss før NTNU fryser samarbeidet med Kongsberg-gruppen til de slutter å selge våpen som brukes i folkemord, skriver Studenter for Palestina og Akademisk nettverk for Palestina. Foto: Benedikt Erikstad Javorovic



DISCUSS

Should we place restrictions on who we collaborate with?

阿州河北北京日本日東北五山 大学の大学でなる の一名でを見ててる 大学をからい 2010年上午0十日十日 HICTHING ATT TWO FLOXER! FILMKATATINA

PROPOSAL FOR A SCIENTIFIC OATH



I acknowledge that I am a part of an international community of researchers. I will practise my activities in line with the recognised standards for good research practice. I shall conduct my research in an honest and truthful way and show respect for humans, animals, and nature. I shall use my knowledge and skills to the best of my judgement for the good of humanity and for sustainable development. I shall not allow interests based on ideology, religion, ethnicity, prejudice, or material advantages to overshadow my ethical responsibility as a researcher.



WHY DO RESEARCH COMMUNICATION?

- Is the distinction between research and research communication always helpful?
- Having to communicate your ideas clearly and concisely to outsiders makes can be helpful to your own research process.
- Writing for other outlets than academic journals can help your form and make you a better writer.
- Research shapes what society we live in.



For medarbeidere

Hielp for forskere som vil formidle forskning og kunstneriske resultater til publikum og bestemte brukergrupper.

Formidling i medier og kanaler

- Tips til forskningsmagasinet Gemini
- Tips til forskning.no og forskersonen.no
- Tips til eksterne medier
- Tips til NTNUs kontoer i sosiale medier
- O Delta i samfunnsdebatten og NTNUs ekspertlister
- Skrive kronikk i aviser og magasiner
- Lage podkast
- Blogge
- Skrive i Store norske leksikon

Kontakt

- Kommunikasjonsteam ved fakultetene
- Andre kontaktpunkt ved NTNU

Noen råd

- Råd fra prisvinnende forskere
- Gjør forskningen din synlig
- Noen tips for effektiv formidling

Medieomtale

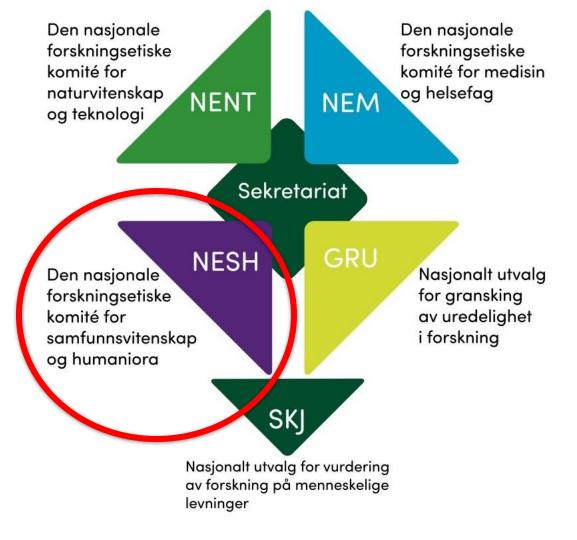
Oversikt over forskere i media

WHAT NOW?



Where do you go if you have questions?

Remember that research ethics should (in most cases) be a part of your dissertations! Write down experiences and reflections on choices you made throughout, this can be excellent material for "kappa".



Intranettet / Kunnskapsbasen / Forskningsetisk utvalg

Forskningsetisk utvalg



NTNUs forskningsetiske utvalgs medlemmer, mandat og oppgaver.

English version: The Research Integrity Committee

Samleside om etikk ved NTNU | Sider merket med forskningsetikk

Forskningsetisk utvalg for perioden 2024-2027 består av seks medlemmer. Utvalget har fått et mandat, rutiner for saksbehandling ved fakultetene ved mistanke om uredelighet i forskning samt rutiner for saksbehandling i selve utvalget.

Medlemmer 2024-2027

- Leder: Førsteamanuensis Rune Nydal, Program for anvendt etikk, Institutt for filosofi og religionsvitenskap, HF
- Seniorrådgiver Astrid Vigtil, fakultetsadministrasjonen, IV
- Professor Berge Solberg, Institutt for samfunnsmedisin og sykepleie, MH
- Førsteamanuensis Marte Daae-Qvale Holmemo, Institutt for industriell økonomi og teknologiledelse, ØK
- Lagdommer dr. juris. Ragnhild Ryssdal Vada, Frostating Lagmannsrett
- Ph.d.-kandidat Jørgen Kjøsen Lindgren, Institutt for maskinteknikk og produksjon, IV

Sekretariat

- Koordinator: Seniorrådgiver Gro Lurås, Avdeling for forskning, innovasjon og eksterne relasjoner

Innholdsfortegnelse [-]

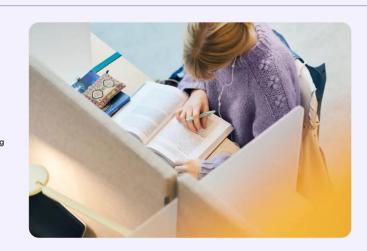
- 1. Medlemmer 2024-2027
- 2. Sekretariat
- 3. Oppgaver
- 4. Mandat for Forskningsetisk utvalg ved NTNU

 - Sammensetting og oppnevning
 - Rapportering og innsyn
- 5. Årsrapporter
- 6. Uttalelser fra Forskningsetisk utvalg
- 7. Se også
- 8. Kontakt



Kunnskapssektorens tjenesteleverandør

Sikt leverer produkter og tjenester til forskning og utdanning. Vi tilbyr infrastruktur og løsninger som trengs for at kunnskapssektoren skal nå sine mål om digitalisering, datadeling og åpen forskning.



The Ethics Portal





The Ethics Portal

The Ethics Portal is a website for all NTNU employees, and focuses on ethical dilemmas relating to research and personnel issues.

The aim is to stimulate ethical reflection at all levels at NTNU: by the individual employee/PhD candidate/student, by the various units, and by management at different levels in the organization.

The points below present specific cases based on episodes and constellations of cases from NTNU. The presentation of these cases has been recast to some extent where this was necessary to protect anonymity. What the cases have in common is that they represent dilemmas and issues that are not easy to resolve by referring to ethical guidelines and regulations. You are welcome to use these cases as a starting point for discussion.

Each case is followed by questions, comments, and relevant links to guidelines and regulations.

Contact



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Learning



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Studies

The 11 focus points

Focus points

- 1. Transparency and confidentiality
- 2. Freedom of expression and loyalty
- 3. Acceptable and unacceptable relationships
- 4. Handling conflicts of interest
- 5. Blowing the whistle on dishonesty and research fraud
- 6. The research process. Contracts and reporting routines
- 7. Governance of the relationship between the supervisor and the PhD candidate/student
- 3. Storage, use and publication of data and personal data
- 9. The dilemmas of multidisciplinary work
- 10. International cooperation
- 11 #MeToo Academia





Korttittel Forskningsetikkloven

Jf. tidligere lov 30 juni 2006 nr. 56.

Q Søk etter lover, forskrifter, dommer, stortingsvedtak, tariffavtaler m.m.

Lov om organisering av forskningsetisk arbeid (forskningsetikkloven)

Innholdsfortegnelse v

Søk



& Lovens forskrifter





Forskningsetiske retningslinjer for samfunnsvitenskap, humaniora, juss og teologi





Søk etter

Q

:■ Bibliotek

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Artikler fra Forskningsetisk bibliotek (FBIB)

Introduksjon	Forskersamfunnet	Forskningsdeltagere	Samfunnsansvar
Om artiklane	Redelighet og kollegialitet	Personvern og ansvar for den	Forholdet forskning/samfunn
Forskningsetikkens historie	Forskningsetikken i veiledning	enkelte	Hva er forskningsetikk? Smale og brede forståelser
	Veiledning og kollegialitet	Ansvar for den enkelte	
		Betaling av forskningsdeltakere	Nord/Sør Kulturarv med tvilsomt opphav
	Varslerfunksjoner	——————————————————————————————————————	
Metoder	Gråsoner i akademisk siteringspraksis	Konfidensialitet	
Biografi		Samtykke	Forskeres kommunikasjon med journalister, publikum og brukere
	Medforfatterskap		