



Value Pluralism in Research Integrity

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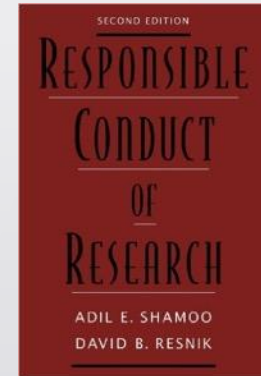
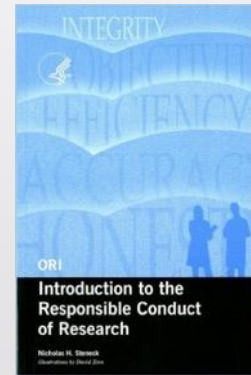
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Codes for Responsible Conduct of Research





Sample of Codes

- *European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity* (ALLEA, 2017)
- *Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity* (VSNU, 2018)
- *Directives on Research Integrity Brazil* (Brazilian Council for Scientific and Tech Development, 2011) & *FAPESP – Code of Good Scientific Practice* (Sao Paulo Res. Found., 2012)
- *Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research* (Japan, 2014)
- *Australian Code for the responsible Conduct of Research* (2016)
- *Guidelines for Researchers and Ethics Review of Committees in Zimbabwe* (2004)
- *Code of Conduct* (National Research Council Canada, 2013)

Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity



- Honesty and scrupulousness
- Reliability
- Verifiability
- Impartiality
- Independence
- Responsibility



Value Pluralism in RI (1): Different Categories of Values

- Epistemic
- Moral
- Professional
- Social
- Legal

Honesty and Scrupulousness



- Epistemic:
 - "... present the nature and scope of ... results with the greatest possible precision."
- Moral:
 - "... respect for the people and animals involved in scientific teaching and research."
 - "scrupulousness ... also applies to relationships..."
- Professional:
 - "Accurate source references provide a clear indication of the intellectual provenance of cited and paraphrased text."
 - "Good mentorship is essential... responsibilities are clearly defined and observed..."

Incommensurable Values and Norms

E.g., ALLEA Code

- *Epistemic* norms for openness and transparency
- E.g. “Researchers, research institutions, and organizations ensure access to data is as open as possible, as closed as necessary...”
- *Legal/professional* norms for privacy and secrecy
- E.g.: “Researchers publish results and interpretations of research in an open, honest, transparent, and accurate manner, and respect confidentiality of data or findings when legitimately required to do so.”

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No principled way to make the trade-off!



Value Pluralism in RI (2): Multiple Values in One Category

Epistemic values:

- Truth / true belief
- Avoidance of false belief
- Well-grounded belief
- Knowledge, understanding, wisdom
- ...

Potential Conflict: Maximizing True Belief vs. Minimizing False Belief

- "... present the nature and scope of ... results with the greatest possible precision."
- "precision and nuance" in teaching, publishing, knowledge transfer
- "presentation of doubts and contra-indications"
- "Speculation spurred by results of academic research is recognisably presented as such."
- "publications should make mention of the statistical uncertainty of research results and the margins of error."





Potential Conflict: Moral Norms for Transparency vs. Privacy

- “Research methodology, research findings and knowledge will be shared and communicated openly” (Australian Code)
- “Disclose and manage actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest” (Australian Code)
- “...the researcher must maintain the confidentiality of all data, information, procedures, and partial results until the final results of the study are published ...” (Brazil)
- “provisions for protecting the confidentiality of personal data, and respecting the privacy of subjects...” (Zimbabwe)



Conclusions

- Value pluralism in research integrity
- Potential conflict
- Incommensurability
- Irreducible pluralism



Why It Matters

- Clarity and systematicity
- Reducing unnecessary plurality
- Identifying potential blind spots
- Recognizing and navigating trade-offs between value conflicts and incommensurable values
- Need for intellectual humility and context-sensitive interpretation and judgement

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- Honesty in reporting and communicating
- Reliability in performing research
- Objectivity
- Impartiality and independence
- Openness and accessibility
- Duty of care
- Fairness in providing references and giving credits
- Responsibility for future science generations