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# ULB PhD Day

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# Responsible Research

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ULB PhD Day 2025



# Responsible Research



## Introduction

A concept to be developed in

- ▲ Human Research Ethics
  - ▲ Ethics of Animal Experimentation
  - ▲ Data Protection
  - ▲ Dual Use and Compliance with international law (Responsible Partnership)
  - ▲ Integrity in research
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### Characteristics of the concept

- ▲ No universally accepted definition
  - ▲ A set of disciplinary fields characterized by common objectives, including:
    - (1) strengthening the bond of trust between science and society
    - (2) producing better quality science
    - (3) protecting the well-being of those involved in research
  - ▲ However, distinctions must be made because the actors, reference frameworks, sources of authority, and reasoning are different
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## Introduction

Traditionally, a concept that can be subdivided into three main disciplinary fields...



Created by Nilsman Tabin  
from Noun Project

### Éthique de la recherche

Analyse de grandes questions  
que soulèvent certains  
développements scientifiques  
(*bioéthique s.l.*)

Analyse de la conformité de protocoles de  
recherche aux règles de droit et aux normes  
éthiques en vigueur dans le domaine



Created by words  
from Noun Project

### Déontologie

Ensemble d'obligations  
propres au bon exercice  
d'une profession



Created by Tofrom  
from Noun Project

### Intégrité scientifique

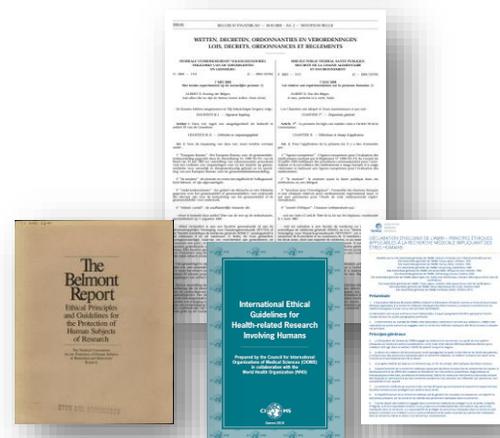
Bonnes pratiques en  
matière de production et de  
diffusion de connaissances

... but new challenges are emerging and becoming integrated into the process.

# Human Research Ethics

In summary, these are the set of principles and rules that must be taken into account when research involves human participants, their biological samples, and/or their personal data.

## Reference framework



## Stakeholders



Created by nico bayu saputro from Noun Project

## Binding force



Created by iPhu Dicky Adh Pramesta from Noun Project



European  
Research  
Council

**Valeur sociale et  
scientifique de la recherche**



Created by Linus Hoernig  
from Noun Project

**Valeur  
sociale**



Created by David Kind  
from Noun Project

**Valeur  
scientifique**

**Principe de Justice**



Created by Magron  
from Noun Project

**Sélection  
équitable**



Created by Boris Depiret  
from Noun Project

**Vulnérabilité**

**Principe de Bienfaisance**



Created by Jordan Corbett  
from Noun Project

**Réduction  
des risques**



Created by jaylene  
from Noun Project

**Balance  
risques -  
bénéfices**



Created by Samy Nasser  
from Noun Project

**Soins  
ancillaires**

**Principe de Respect des  
personnes**



Created by Adrian Cooper  
from Noun Project

**Autonomie  
de la volonté**



Created by Marie Van der Brack  
from Noun Project

**Compensation  
(incitation induite)**

# Ethics of Animal Experimentation

In summary, these are the set of principles and rules that must be taken into account when research involves vertebrate and/or invertebrate animals that are capable of feeling pain.

Reference  
Framework



Stakeholders



Created by nico bayu saputro from Noun Project

Binding force



Created by I Putu Dicky Adi Pranatha from Noun Project



European  
Research  
Council



**+ Transposed in Belgian law**



## The principles of the 3R in animal research



### Research with animals

#### Replace

Achieve a research objective by avoiding or replacing the use of animals.

#### Reduce

As many experiments as necessary, but as few laboratory animals as possible.

#### Refine

Minimize the potential suffering and stress of laboratory animals and enhance their wellbeing.

In connection with research ethics, because certain data protection issues are ethical issues and because the objectives are shared.

The need to comply with the GDPR in order to obtain an ethical opinion in the context of one's research.

But also autonomous content and issues.

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# Protection of personal data for research conducted at ULB

- **Legal obligation** = EU Regulation 2016/679 – General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- **Improved protocols** = a guarantee of quality for research
  - the scientific community is judged according to stricter standards of ethical behavior
- Protection of **participants**
- Protection of the **ULB** = reputation, legal and financial security (risk of fines)
- Protection of **researchers** = against complaints from participants, against security incidents, against sanctions from the Data Protection Authority (which could put an end to the research!)
- **GDPR compliance essential** for positive ethical opinion – required in particular for publications, European funding, etc.

# Principles

- GDPR applicable throughout the research process = **collection, analysis, and publication**
- Personal data = information about an **identified** or **identifiable** (directly or indirectly) person (as long as he or she is alive)
- **Pseudonymized** data = personal data
- **Anonymized** data = identity **permanently impossible** to recover, including by a third party, even by cross-referencing data – **very rare in practice**
- **Sensitive** data [ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, mental or physical health data, data on sexual life or orientation, biometric data (to identify a person – fingerprint recognition) and criminal convictions and offenses] = mandatory **enhanced security**, in particular through encryption
- Applicable principles = **transparency** (mandatory GDPR information), **minimization** (strictly necessary data), **storage limitation** (5 years after the end of the research project/funding), **purpose limitation** (use for research purposes only), and **security**.
- IT tools used must be **compliant** (transcription, translation, etc.).
- Additional constraints if partner(s) outside ULB = contact [rgpd@ulb.be](mailto:rgpd@ulb.be)
- Obligations
  - report security incident = [Cybersécurité: Incident de sécurité, qu'est-ce que c'est ?](#) + [Formulaire ULB de signalement d'incident de sécurité](#)
  - Properly handling participants' requests to exercise their rights

# Ressources

- Data Protection Unit ([rgpd@ulb.be](mailto:rgpd@ulb.be)) for advice / protocol verification
- [Recherche et protection des données](#)
- [FAQ RGPD : Recherche](#)
- [Bonnes pratiques informatiques à destination des membres de la communauté universitaire](#)
- [Mener une recherche de qualité en toute légalité : les obligations en termes de protection des données](#)
- [Guide pratique pour mener des enquêtes électroniques à l'ULB](#)

# Integrity in Research



- Increasing Competitiveness
- Growing Pressure on Researchers to produce results and secure funding

**=Context favoring scientific fraud  
(threatens science and trust in it)**

= “The University must ensure the integrity of its researchers and provide them with a respectful and ethical research environment, fostering trust and development”  
(FNRS/ULB Code)

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# Principles Guiding Research



- **Fiabilité**

(garantir qualité de la recherche = conception, méthodologie, analyse et utilisation des ressources)

- **Reliability**

(ensuring research quality = design, methodology, analysis, resource use)

- **Honesty**

(conducting, evaluating, and reporting research in a transparent, fair, complete, and objective manner)

- **Respect**

(for colleagues, research participants, society, ecosystems, etc.)

- **Responsibility**

(for research activities = ideas, publications, management, organization, supervision, etc.)

- **Transparency**

# Co-Authorship Practices



- **Definition of Authors:**
  - Significant contributions to: design and conception, data acquisition, analysis, or interpretation
  - Active participation in writing or critical review (adding intellectual value)
  - Acceptance of responsibilities
- **Prohibited Practices:**
  - Manipulating authorship order
  - Unequal credit distribution
  - Fabrication, Falsification, and Plagiarism
  - Non-transparent use of AI technologies
  - Undeclared conflicts of interest

# Plagiarism, Parasitism & Other Misconduct



- **Definition of Plagiarism and Parasitism:**

- Using others' work and ideas without referencing the original source, violating intellectual property rights

+

- Self-plagiarism
- Altering authorship or diminishing other researchers' roles in publications
- Selective citation
- Withholding results from publication
- Inflating bibliographies
- Covering up misconduct
- Creating or supporting predatory journals

# In Case of Suspensions or Misconduct



- Referral to ULB Integrity Council:
    - Upon complaint
    - Upon referral by the Rector
    - Proprio motu (own initiative)
  - Procedure:
    - Investigations, hearings, consultations with external experts, etc.
    - Fact-finding committee
    - Adherence to contradictory principle, presumption of innocence, possible anonymity
    - Report to the Rector with recommendations
    - Appeal before CSIS
-

# Contacts & Sources



- Contact:  
[damien.scalia@ulb.be](mailto:damien.scalia@ulb.be)  
[anaelle.dalez@ulb.be](mailto:anaelle.dalez@ulb.be)
  - European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity – ALLEA
  - Code of Ethics for Scientific Research in Belgium – FNRS
  - Code of Ethics and Integrity in Research, Valorization, and Spin-off Creation - ULB
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# Responsible partnerships



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How can international  
cooperations be developed  
while respecting ULB values  
and international law?



## Institutional Context

- ✓ ULB defines itself as a committed university

*“[ that] has constantly demonstrated its independence and its commitment to the great struggles for democracy, individual liberties and human rights”;*

- ✓ Strategic objectives of our authorities:

*“Ensure that our international relations are consistent with our values”*

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- ▲ Preventive dimension : **Fundamental rights test**
  - ▲ Reactive dimension: **Human rights Clause**
  - ▲ **Committee on Compliance with International Law and Dual Use**
  - ▲ **Dual Use Regulation**
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## Institution/Partner

*Is there a risk that the partner institution or organisation could directly or indirectly contribute to a serious or systematic violation of human rights ?*

A partner is not responsible for violations of fundamental rights **committed by the government** in which it is not involved, nor for **simply applying a problematic law.**

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## Activities

ULB Tools

*Is there a risk that the activities undertaken under the agreement will contribute directly or indirectly to a violation of human rights?*



## ULB Tools

*«Both parties subscribe, within their partnership, to the respect of human rights and academic freedom. Each of the parties may terminate this agreement with immediate effect if the other party is responsible for a serious or systematic violation of human rights or academic freedom».*

- ✓ Response if violations occur after signing or if they were not known at the time the partnership was signed
  - ✓ Reciprocal clause
- 





# Committee on Compliance with International Law and Dual Use

- ✓ Ensures that ULB's international relations are established through partnerships that respect values such as international law and dual-use regulations.
  - ✓ Composed of the authorities and department administrators + 4 thematic experts
  - ✓ Scope: all external institutional partners and integration of dual use
  - ✓ Committee makes recommendations to the Academic Board and/or the Rector
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- ✓ **Dual use items** are goods, materials, technology, software and technical knowledge that meet specific technical parameters and whose properties can be useful for civilian as well as military applications
  - ✓ Some research requires authorisation (export licences) to transfer knowledge, equipment or software to certain countries or partners. ([Réglementation double usage | Région de Bruxelles-Capitale](#))
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What should I do if I wish to  
develop a new international  
collaboration?



## Conclusion

1. Complete the **fundamental rights test**.
  2. Ensure that I do not need to apply for an export licence by completing **the dual-use self-test**.
  3. If in doubt, contact the point of contact for the International Law Compliance and Dual-Use Committee.
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## Useful links

- ✓ [Informations générales et décisions du CoA](#)
- ✓ [Fundamental rights test – ULB](#)
- ✓ [Test Dual use: Dual use database - European Studies Unit \(ESU\)](#)
- ✓ Contact point Committee:  
[lara.rauwers@ulb.be](mailto:lara.rauwers@ulb.be)

