Value Pluralism in Research Integrity

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Codes for Responsible Conduct of Research



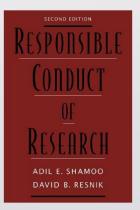


UK Research Integrity Office











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

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

- Epistemic
- Cognitive
- Moral
- Legal
- Prudential
- Conventional / professional
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Honesty and Scrupulousness



Epistemic:

 "... present the nature and scope of ... results with the greatest possible precision."

Conventional:

 "Accurate source references provide a clear indication of the intellectual provenance of cited and paraphrased text."

Moral:

- "... respect for the people and animals involved in scientific teaching and research."
- "scrupulousness ... also applies to relationships..."

Professional:

"Good mentorship is essential...
responsibilities are clearly
defined and observed..."

Value Pluralism in RI (2): Multiple Epistemic Values



- Truth / true belief
- Avoidance of false belief
- Well-grounded belief
- Knowledge
- Understanding
- Wisdom
- •

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 contraindications"

- "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."

Well-Grounded Belief

- Reliability: "provide a full account of the research conducted. This ensures that scientific and scholarly research can be traced, verified and retested."
- Verifiability: "It is made clear what the data and conclusions are based on,

... from where they originate and how they can be verified."

 Impartiality: "... only take up and defend a certain scientific or scholarly viewpoint when there are sufficient grounds to support that viewpoint."

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Why Conceptual Investigation Matters

- Clarity and systematicity
- Reducing unnecessary plurality
- Identifying potential blind spots
- Recognizing and navigating trade-offs between value conflicts



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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

Understanding: A Blind Spot?

- "Academic practitioners know that the ultimate aim of science is to establish facts."
- "The choice of methods and criteria is made solely to establish facts."

- Facts vs.
 understanding
- The significance of speculation, qualitative reasoning, integration, imagination, etc.