

## Ethics in Research

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Ethics in research are very important when you're going to conduct an experiment.

Ethics should be applied on all stages of research, such as planning, conducting and evaluating a research project.

The first thing to do before designing a study is to consider the potential cost and benefits of the research.

### **Research - Cost and Benefits-Analysis**

We evaluate the cost and benefits for most decisions in life, whether we are aware of it or not.

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The first thing to do before designing a study is to consider the potential cost and benefits of the research.

This can be quite a dilemma in some experiments. Stem cell research is one example of an area with difficult ethical considerations.

As a result, stem cell research is restricted in many countries, because of the major and problematic ethical issues.

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## Ethical Standards - Researchers Should...

- avoid any risk of considerably harming people, the environment, or property unnecessarily. The Tuskegee Syphilis Study [1] is an example of a study which seriously violated these standards.
- not use deception [2] on people participating, as was the case with the ethics of the Stanley Milgram Experiment [3]
- obtain informed consent [4] from all involved in the study.
- preserve privacy and confidentiality [5] whenever possible.
- take special precautions when involving populations or animals [6] which may not be considered to understand fully the purpose of the study.
- not offer big rewards or enforce binding contracts for the study. This is especially important when people are somehow reliant on the reward.
- not plagiarize [7] the work of others
- not skew their conclusions based on funding [8].
- not commit science fraud [9], falsify research [10] or otherwise conduct scientific misconduct [11]. A con-study, which devastated the public view of the subject for decades, was the study of selling more coke and popcorn by unconscious ads [12]. The researcher said that he had found great effects from subliminal messages, whilst he had, in fact, never conducted the experiment.
- not use the position as a peer reviewer [13] to give sham peer reviews [14] to punish or damage fellow scientists.

Basically, research must follow all regulations [15] given, and also anticipate possible ethical problems in their research.

Competition [16] is an important factor in research, and may be both a good thing and a bad thing.

Whistleblowing [17] is one mechanism to help discover misconduct in research.

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### Links

[1] <https://staging.explorable.com/tuskegee-syphilis-study>

- [2] <https://staging.explorable.com/deception-and-research>
- [3] <https://staging.explorable.com/milgram-experiment-ethics>
- [4] <https://staging.explorable.com/informed-consent-policy>
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