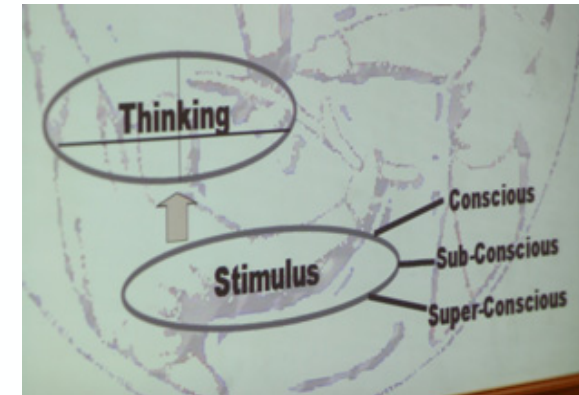


# Ethics of research in the digital age and COVID-19 era

Ethics of research and its evolution over time:  
What lessons can we learn?



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**24 November 2020**

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# What are the main challenge? - 6 observations

Reference	Pointer
The “Cardinal sins” of research conduct	Falsification, fabrication & plagiarism (FFP)
Gemma Conroy - “The 7 deadly sins of research” [Nature Index, November 2019]	Data – not selective, not bias, no double duping
Agnes Grudniewicz, David Moher, Kelly D. Cobey and 32 co-authors - Predatory journals: no definitions, no defence [12 December 2019 <i>Nature</i> 576, 210-212 (2019)]	Not about scholarship, editorial & publication practices or quality
S.R. Hemer - Informality, power and relationships in postgraduate supervision: Supervising PhD candidates over coffee [Higher Education Research and Development, 31(6):1-13]	Balance between knowledge, power and trust
<b>From own context:</b> (a) University’s Policy on plagiarism and other scientific misconduct (2019) (b) DHET Report on the Evaluation of the 2018 Universities’ Research Outputs	(a) Misrepresentation of research results + misuse of information + resources + promoting own interest only. (b) “Gamming” the system

**Observation:** In the pretention to create new knowledge, individual benefit and not serving the science community + social communities (as end-users of knowledge)

Pointer question: Why are you doing research?

# The “global” discussion - 6 observations

Reference	Pointer
Singapore Statement on Research Integrity (2010)	4 Principles and 14 Responsibilities
Montreal Statement on Research Integrity in Cross-Boundary Research Collaborations (2013)	Responsibilities in collaboration, relationships and research outcome
Amsterdam Agenda (2017)	Registry for Research on the Responsible Conduct of Research (problem, impact, intervention, hypothesis or anticipated outcome, assessment and data sharing.
The Hong Kong Principles for assessing researchers (2019)	Knowledge must be trustworthy. Trustworthy research is robust, rigorous, and transparent at all stages of design, execution, and reporting.
<p>From own context:</p> <p>(a) Statement on Ethical Research and Scholarly Publishing Practices Jointly issued by ASSAF, CHE, DHET, NRF and USAF (2019)</p>	12 Principles informing ethical research and publishing

**Observation:** For knowledge to be trustworthy, it requires professional behavior, transparent research processes and building relationships with the science community and research partners.

**Pointer question:** What are the four principles guiding your research?



## Taking on a new direction – 6 guidelines

Reference	Pointer
Susan Tilley – Doing respectful research [Fernwood Publishing, 2016].	Respect for research participants. Moving from “outsider” to someone “familiar”.
Belmont Report (1979) + Georgetown mantra. Biomedical and behavior research	Autonomy, goodness, no-harm and justice.
The role of training. Example EUA Council on Doctoral Education	The role of the supervisor, doctoral student and university. Important, but one size does not fit all.
Martin Szomszor and Nandita Quaderi - Global Research Report: Research Integrity Understanding our shared responsibility for a sustainable scholarly ecosystem (2020)	Ecosystem – the integrity of the research does not end with the publication thereof.
<b>From own context:</b> (a) Mariana Kruger, Paul Ndebele & Lynn Horn - Research Ethics in Africa [SuN Media, 2014]	(a) Addressing development, vulnerability, transparency and trust

**Observation:** Important principles are autonomy, freedom, justice, care, trust, respect, no conflict of interest, IP protection, objectivity, confidentiality and responsible publication.

**Pointer question:** How are you building your research career?



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