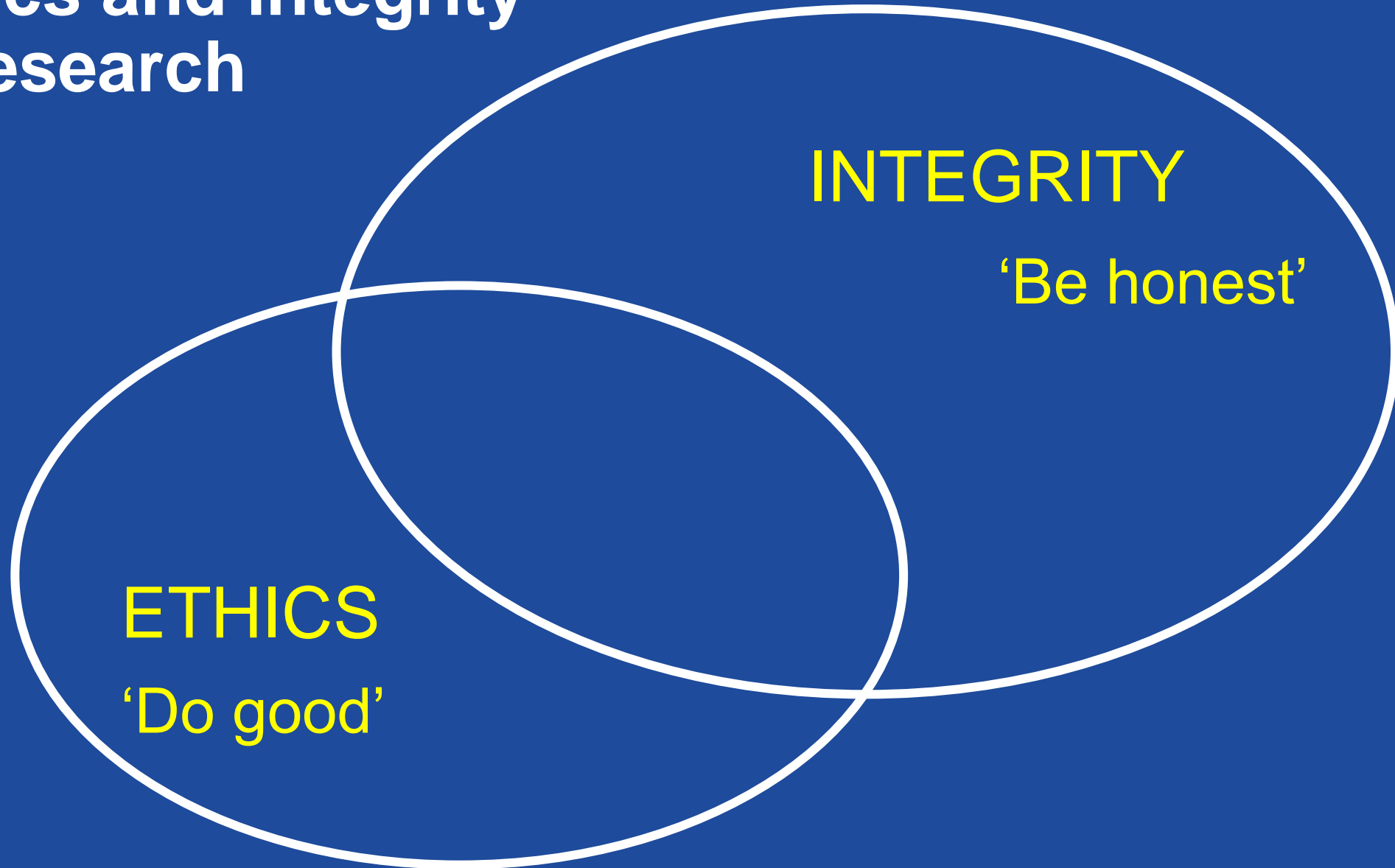# Expanding ethics and integrity

John Oates

Professor of Developmental Psychology

Ethics and integrity in research

INTEGRITY

'Be honest'

ETHICS

'Do good'

Ethics in flux

Ethics are based on socially constructed moral memes hence have historical and contextual fluidity

Tension between absolute and relative standards

Democratic versus autocratic morality

Human rights versus popular culture

Research ethics codes versus participants' values and attitudes

patient

participant

participant

family

'While research ethics has a long history, originating with medical ethics and then extending to other forms of research with humans, it also has a history of evolution and development. Research ethics in the social sciences initially drew on the 'patient protection' model of medical research, but has more recently broadened in scope to include consideration of benefits, risks and harms to all persons connected with and affected by the research and to the social responsibilities of researchers.'

2016 revision of the ESRC Framework for Research Ethics

So, fixed codes struggle to keep up with change

Solutions: 'living documents'
                    high-level principles
                    value statements
                    explicit standards

                    inculcating ethical values in researchers

ARISTOTLE'S VIRTUE FRAMEWORK

Sphere of action or feeling	Excess	Mean	Deficiency
Fear and Confidence	Rashness	Courage	Cowardice
Pleasure and Pain	Licentiousness/Self-indulgence	Temperance	Insensibility
Getting and Spending (minor)	Prodigality	Liberality	Illiberality/Meanness
Getting and Spending (major)	Vulgarity/Tastelessness	Magnificence	Pettiness/Stinginess
Honour and Dishonour (major)	Vanity	Magnanimity	Pusillanimity
Honour and Dishonour (minor)	Ambition/empty vanity	Proper ambition/pride	Unambitiousness/undue humility
Anger	Irascibility	Patience/Good temper	Lack of spirit/unirascibility
Self-expression	Boastfulness	Truthfulness	Understatement/mock modesty
Conversation	Buffoonery	Wittiness	Boorishness
Social Conduct	Obsequiousness	Friendliness	Cantankerousness
Shame	Shyness	Modesty	Shamelessness
Indignation	Envy	Righteous indignation	Malicious enjoyment/Spitefulness

Research virtues throughout the research phases

phase	vice of deficit	virtue	vice of excess
framing	cowardice	courage	recklessness
negotiating	manipulativeness	respectfulness	partiality
generating	laziness	resoluteness	inflexibility
creating	concealment	sincerity	exaggeration
disseminating	boastfulness	humility	timidity
reflecting	dogmatism	reflexivity	indecisiveness

MacFarlane B. (2008) Researching with Integrity: The Ethics of Academic Inquiry. New York: Routledge.

Ethics review and the research cycle

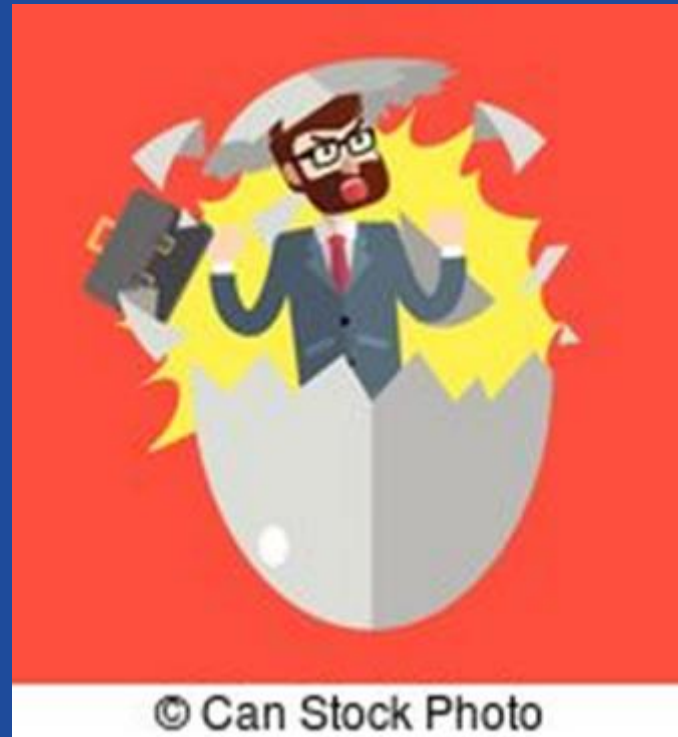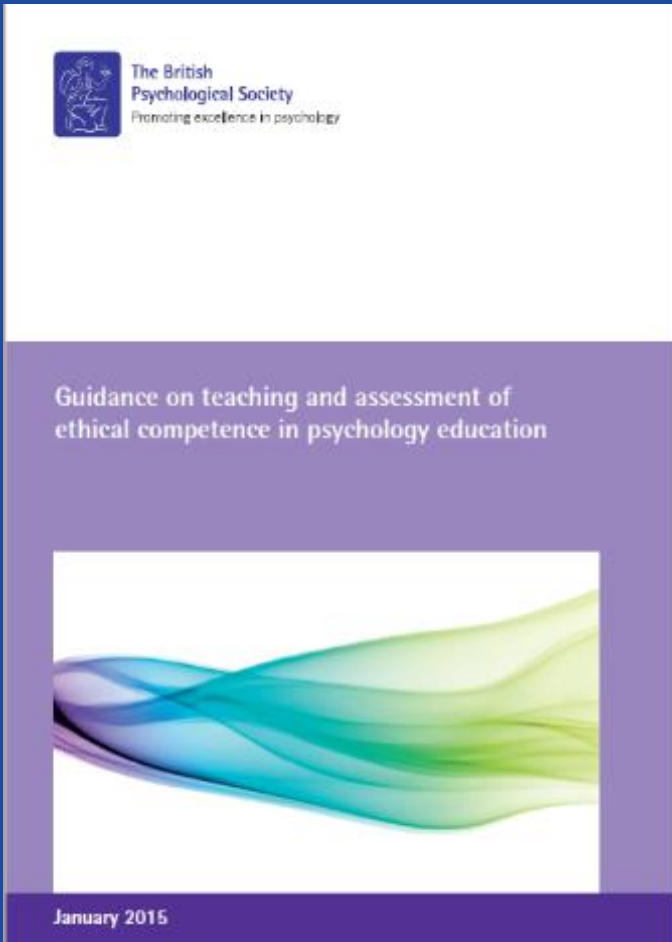| Phase: |
|---|
| framing |
| negotiating |
| generating |
| creating |
| disseminating |
| reflecting |

advice, education

← pre-emptive (formal) ethics review

reporting back, critical incident support

advice, review, audit

The virtuous researcher does not just 'emerge' fully formed

Guidance on teaching and assessment of ethical competence in psychology education

The British Psychological Society
Promoting excellence in psychology

January 2015

© Can Stock Photo

https://tinyurl.com/y7324q3k

Four component model

- Ethical sensitivity: Interpreting the situation, and identifying the presence of an ethical issue

- Ethical reasoning: Formulating the morally ideal course of action by identifying the relevant ethical principles and using these to consider appropriate actions.

- Ethical motivation: Deciding what one actually wishes and intends to do

- Ethical implementation: Executing and implementing what one intends to do

Rest, J. (1994). Background: Theory and research. In J. Rest & D. Narvaez (Eds.), Moral development in the professions: Psychology and applied ethics (pp. 1–26). New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc

	Vice of deficit	Virtue	Vice of excess
Ethical sensitivity	imperceptiveness	awareness of risks and benefits	over-cautiousness
Ethical reasoning	incapacity	solution-focused rationality	over-complication
Ethical motivation	indolence	altruism	over-involvement
Ethical implementation	ineffectiveness	resoluteness	recklessness

New guidance: Research Ethics Support and Review in Research Organisations

guidelines designed to help research organisations develop the quality of their policies/ procedures for managing ethics issues in research.
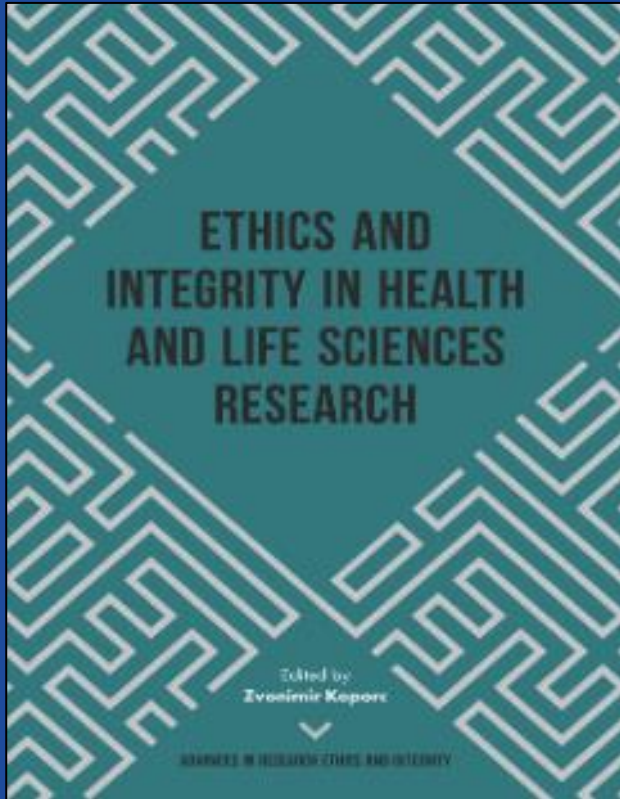
H2020 PRO-RES: PROmoting integrity in the use of RESearch results

The PRO-RES project, coordinated by the European Science Foundation (ESF), France, aims at building a research ethics and integrity framework devised cooperatively with the full range of stakeholders. It seeks the same reach that the Oviedo and Helsinki frameworks have in the medical field. The project is covering all non-medical research fields.

http://prores-project.eu/

Advances in Research Ethics and Integrity

ETHICS AND INTEGRITY IN HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES RESEARCH

Edited by Zvonimir Koporc

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