

Research Ethics & Integrity

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Why it is necessary to differentiate ethics from integrity?



- Distinct perimeter/issues and different relevant bodies
- A common commitment to responsible research
- Freedom of research, a fundamental condition but not an absolute

Ethics is more a matter of societal (external) regulation of scientific activities

Integrity is mainly a matter of internal control of Science (peers to peers, scientists by scientists)

Research ethics

*Taking into account
« other voices »*



- A set of concerns that emerged in the 20th century (≠ Hippocratic medical ethics)
 - Gives concrete expression to a societal view on:
 - goals,
 - the means,
 - the consequences.
- Of research activities
- **It has led to changes in scientific practices and expresses society's contemporary expectations of the scientific community.**



Research Ethics: relevant bodies and Issues (I/II)



- Research Ethics Committees (RECs):
 - Independent
 - Multidisciplinary
 - Pluralistic
- The “usual” ethics issues:
 - Participation of **(living) human subjects** in research,
 - Use of **personal data** (to be collected or already collected) (GDPR)
 - Use of **human biological material/samples** (blood, urine, stool, cerebrospinal fluid, etc.)
 - Use of vertebrate and cephalopod **animals** beyond the stage of organogenesis

Research Ethics: relevant bodies and Issues (II/II)

Risks of damaging :

- individuals (research participants),
- Society as a whole
- the values we hold dear,
- the reputation of ULB



- "Emerging" ethical issues

- **Sensitive technologies:** AI, nuclear, GMO, **Dual-use items**

- **Extractive practices:**

- Cultural or heritage relics
- Non-human genetic resources (plants) and associated traditions (Nagoya Protocol)

- **Sensitive areas :** war, criminal networks, authoritarian regimes and dictatorships, etc.

- **Sensitive partnerships** (tobacco, alcohol, gambling, armaments, petrochemicals,...)

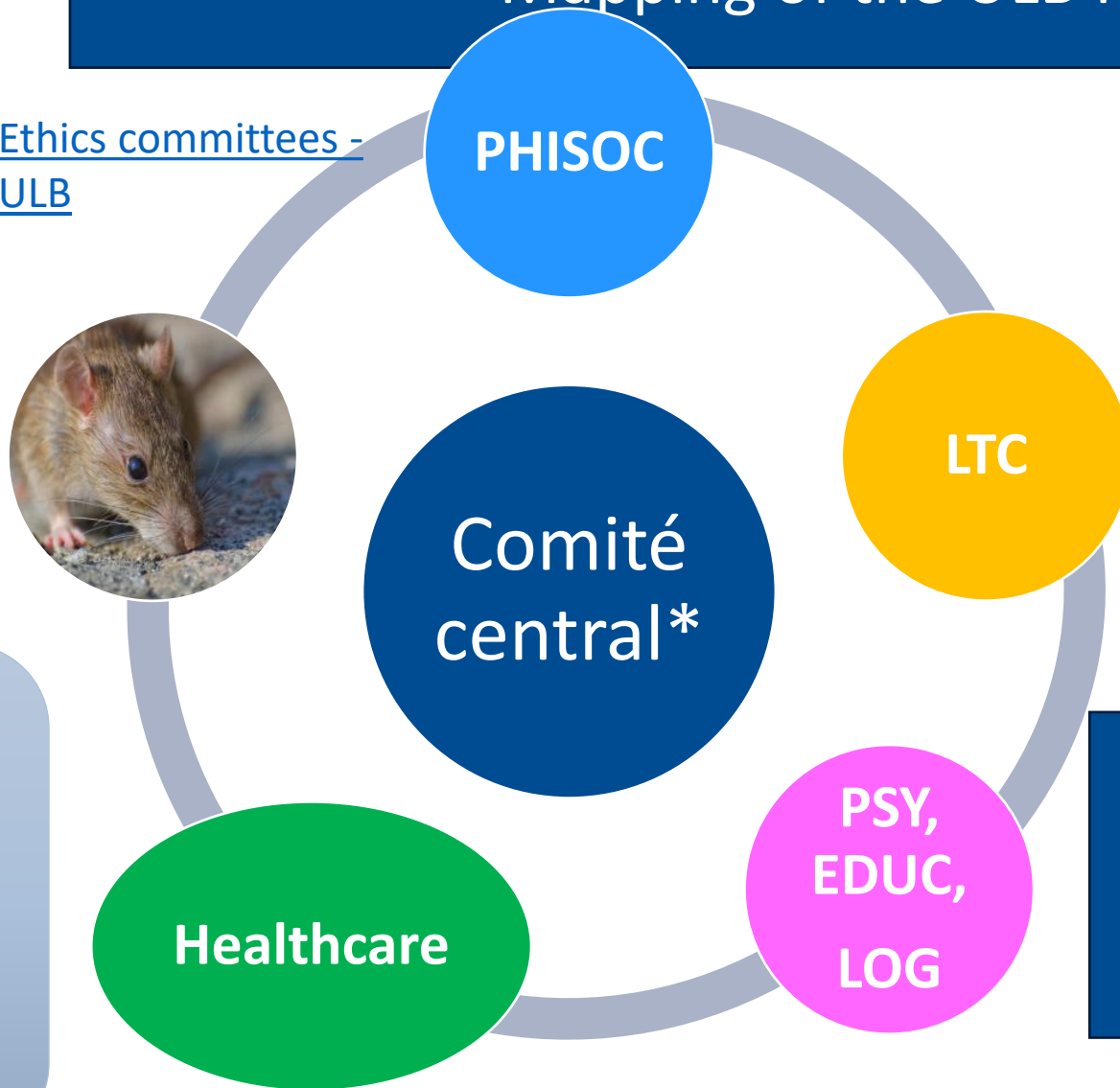
How to comply with the human rights framework?
How to promote important values?
How to manage research risks?

***Ask your PHD
supervisor
and (dare to)
start the
dialogue on
these
questions!***



Mapping of the ULB RECs

Ethics committees -
ULB



*The 6 RECs
and the DPO
can advise
you!*

Comité « Respect du
droit international et
Dual Use »
lara.rauwers@ulb.be

Data Protection Officer
(GDPR)
rgpd@ulb.be

*Comité Central d'éthique de la recherche de l'ULB.



Questions to ask yourself (and who can help)

- ***Does my research involve ethical issues?***
 - ***Supervisor***
 - → ***Your faculty's REC or Central REC***

 - ***How do I draft a protocol or a presentation of my project to submit it to the REC?***
 - ***Supervisor***
 - → ***Your faculty's REC or Central REC***

 - ***Where can I find the list of the ULB RECs and how can I contact them?*** [Ethics committees – ULB](#)

 - ***GDPR/DPO:*** rgpd@ulb.be
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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)

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

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- 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
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Contacts & Sources



- Contact:
damien.scalia@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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