



Springer Briefs Book

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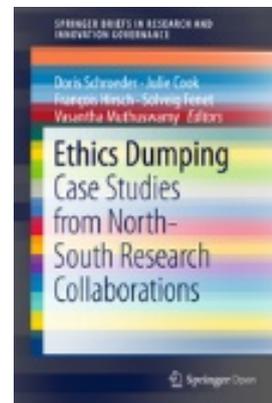


Executive Summary

The TRUST contract includes one Springer Briefs book. At mid-term, the TRUST team decided to publish two. This short report covers the second book with a short reminder of the first.

[*Ethics Dumping – Case Studies from North-South Research Collaborations*](#) was published in December 2017. It has since attracted over 50,000 downloads. It provides 14 real-life ethics dumping cases, i.e. cases where research was undertaken in countries with weaker regulatory mechanisms to stop unethical research.

The second Springer Briefs book was contracted with Springer in the summer of 2018 with a deadline for manuscript submission 31 January 2019. It is likely to be in print, gold open access, in early summer 2019.



Book short abstract

Ethics Dumping is incompatible with responsible research and innovation (RRI), the vision of research as supportive of societal concerns and values.

Equitable Research Partnerships - A Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings reports the fascinating story of how the Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings was built to counter the practice of Ethics Dumping. Using the values of fairness, honesty, care and respect, the code provides a vision of how equitable research relationships should look. Looking behind the scenes of the code development, justifications for the use of the four values are given, research on exploitation risks and existing codes is presented, the engagement activities with vulnerable populations, industry and funders are described, and an early version of the code in action in South Africa (San Code of Research Ethics) is analysed.

The book will be most useful to researchers active in resource-poor settings, research funders and scholars in the areas of research ethics and research governance.

Springer Briefs

SpringerBriefs are concise summaries of cutting-edge research and practical applications across a wide spectrum of fields. In particular, a snapshot of a hot or emerging topic is a typical area for a Springer Brief.

Equitable Research Partnerships - A Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings will be published as a Springer Brief under the theme of 'Research and Innovation Governance'. Academic editors of the series are Prof. Schroeder and Dr Iatridis. Conflicts of interest were avoided with a full peer review organised by the senior Springer editor Fritz Schmuhl.



Book Full Abstract

Research partnerships between high-income and lower-income settings can be highly advantageous for both parties. They can build capacity and bring the considerable richness and diversity of local knowledge into research. However, such partnerships can be marred by Ethics Dumping, the practice of exporting unethical research practices to low and middle income countries (LMICs). Research that would be prohibited or severely restricted in a high income country (HIC) is then carried out in a setting with lower regulatory capacity.

Ethics Dumping is incompatible with responsible research and innovation (RRI), the vision of research as supportive of societal concerns and values.

This book reports the fascinating story of how the Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings was built to counter the practice of Ethics Dumping. Using the values of fairness, honesty, care and respect, the code provides a vision of how equitable research relationships should look. Looking behind the scenes of the code development, justifications for the use of the four values are given, research on exploitation risks and existing codes is presented, the engagement activities with vulnerable populations, industry and funders are described, and an early version of the code in action in South Africa (San Code of Research Ethics) is analysed.

The book will be most useful to researchers active in resource-poor settings, research funders and scholars in the areas of research ethics and research governance.

Authors

The book is a co-authored book rather than a collection of chapters. The authors are: Doris Schroeder (Germany), Kate Chatfield (UK), Michelle Singh (South Africa), Roger Chennells (South Africa), Peter Herissone-Kelly (UK).

Chapter abstracts

Prior to the publication of the book, the chapters cannot be made available to the public for copyright reasons. We there include chapter abstracts instead.

Introduction - The need for a Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings

Ethics Dumping is the practice of exporting unethical research practices to low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs). Research that would be prohibited or severely restricted in a high-income country (HIC) is then carried out in a setting with lower regulatory capacity. This introductory chapter summarizes Ethics Dumping cases published in a previous Springer Brief, relates the recorded cases to the need to formulate a Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings, and introduces all further chapters.

A values-based Global Code of Conduct to avoid ethics dumping

This chapter reprints the Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings, which was launched in late spring of 2018. It is suitable as an awareness-raising tool and as guidance for new and established researchers of all disciplines and for funders concerned about Ethics Dumping. Importantly, the code has been adopted by the European Commission and the EDCTP (European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership) to govern any research projects that involve LMICs.

Fairness, Respect, Care and Honesty – A discussion

Values inspire, motivate and engage people to discharge obligations or duties. This chapter defines the four values chosen to structure the Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings after extensive engagement activities. The values are compared to the four principles by Beauchamp and Childress (non-maleficence, beneficence, autonomy and justice) and an argument is made for their use.

Respect and a *Global Code*?

The Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings claims global applicability *and* it promotes respect as one of its four values. Hence, the code anticipates potentially unresolvable differences between cultures, whilst maintaining it is globally valid. Examining, but discarding, several possibilities to deal with normative relativism, this chapter argues with Beauchamp and Childress, that values can be internal to morality itself, allowing their global applicability.

Exploitation risks in international research

Ethics dumping occurs in collaborative international research when people, communities, animals and/or environments are exploited by researchers. Exploitation is made possible by serious poverty and extreme power differentials between researchers from high-income countries and research stakeholders from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). To prevent its occurrence, the risks of exploitation have to be tackled. This chapter describes 88 risks identified for collaborative international research, categorized according to four values: fairness, respect, care and honesty. The risks were identified in a broad-based consultative exercise, which included more than 30 members and chairs of ethics committees in LMICs, representatives from vulnerable populations in LMICs, and an open call for case studies of exploitation. The findings of the exercise contributed to the development of the Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings.

The story of how the code was built

The global code of conduct was developed through an incredible systematic journey that encompassed extensive engagement with highly vulnerable research populations, researchers, research ethics councils, policy advisors, stakeholders, representatives from industry and funders of research. Importantly, it was also informed by existing ethics codes, guidelines and policy statements which were analysed to ensure that we learned from and built upon major efforts that preceded us. This chapter describes the diverse engagement activities undertaken by the consortium and concludes with the analysis of existing ethics codes to protect vulnerable populations in resource-poor settings from exploitation in research.

The San Code of Research Ethics – four values in action

The San Code of Research Ethics was launched in March 2017 by the San community of South Africa. The Code achieved instant attention from international journals such as Nature, Scientific American and Science. Like its sister code described in this book, the San Code is founded upon the values of fairness, respect, care and honesty. This chapter summarizes developments over the last 20 years, which culminated in the launch of this code of research ethics to guide all future partnerships with researchers. A first assessment is included to evaluate its effectiveness in reducing exploitation of the San community in research.

Good practice to counter Ethics Dumping

A code is not enough to avoid ethics dumping. The eradication of ethics dumping requires a multifaceted approach. While the Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings is central, it is but one component of a framework of strategic measures that are necessary for equitable research partnerships in low and middle income countries. This chapter outlines some of the other factors that are needed including ethical community engagement, an accessible complaints mechanism and a means for establishing fair research contracts when access to legal advice or support is limited. Additionally, we show how the four values of fairness, respect, care and honesty can be used to help guide decision-making and practical application of code.

Equitable research partnerships – a conclusion

This chapter summarizes the main conclusions from the book and explores what further action is needed to reduce ethics dumping.

Unique Selling Points

Three unique selling points for the book are summarized below.

