

# **Ethics and Research Integrity**

Department of Government  
London School of Economics and Political Science

1 Ethics

2 Ethics at LSE

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## 2 Ethics at LSE

# History: Key Moments

- 1 Nuremberg Code (1947)
- 2 Helsinki Declaration (1964)
- 3 US 45 CFR 46 (1974) & “Common Rule”
  - Tuskegee Study (1932-1972)
  - The Belmont Report (1979)
- 4 EU Data Protection Directive (1995)
  - UK Data Protection Act (1998)
  - General Data Protection Regulation (2016)

# Helsinki Declaration

- Adopted by the World Medical Association in 1964<sup>1</sup>
- Narrowly focused on medical research
- Expanded the Nuremberg Code
  - Relaxed consent requirements
  - Risks should not exceed benefits
  - Institutionalization of ethics oversight

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- Do these rules apply to non-experimental research? To non-medical research?

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# Social Science Examples

- 1 Milgram Obedience Study (1961)
- 2 Stanford Prison Study (1971)

# The Belmont Report

- Commissioned by the U.S. Gov't in 1979<sup>2</sup>
- Three overarching principles:
  - 1 Respect for persons
  - 2 Beneficence
  - 3 Justice
- Three policy implications:
  - Informed consent
  - Assessment of risks/benefits
  - Care for vulnerable populations

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<sup>2</sup><http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/guidance/belmont.html>

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  - What is “informed” consent?
- Cross-national variations
  - Consent forms required in U.S.
  - Not (legally) required in UK

# Benefits and Harm

- What is a “benefit”?
- What is a “harm”?
- How do we balance the two?

# UK Privacy Law/Ethics

- Heavily informed by EU law
  - EU Data Protection Directive (1995)
  - UK Data Protection Act (1998)
  - General Data Protection Regulation (2016)
- Data can be processed when:
  - Consent is given
  - Data are used for a “legitimate” purpose
  - Anonymous or confidential
- Data generally cannot leave the EU

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- 6 End uses/users of research

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- 7 Others?

Questions?

# Activity!

- Read each ethical scenarios
- Decide what ethical issues are raised by the scenario (if any)
- Decide what modifications are necessary for the project to be ethically acceptable



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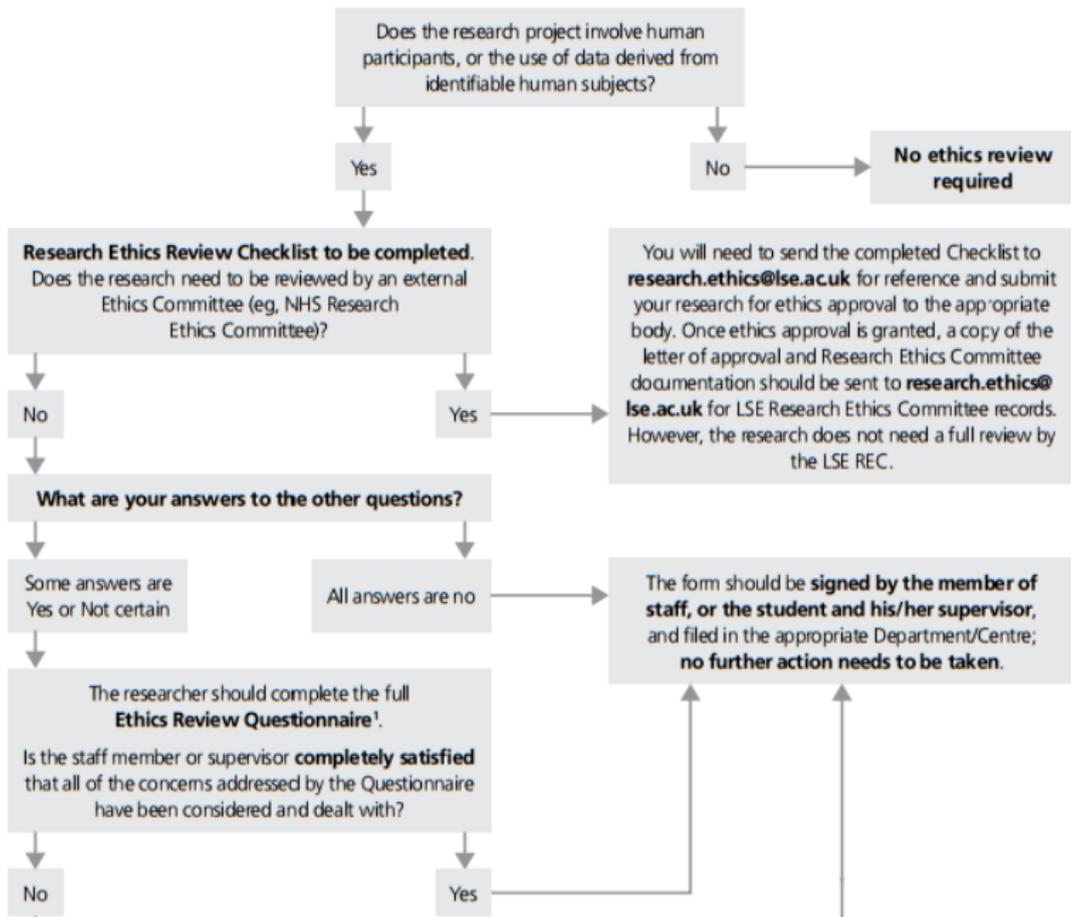
# Research Ethics at LSE

- Ethics Code <sup>3</sup>
- Research Ethics Policy <sup>4</sup>
- Levels of review:
  - 1 Staff: Self-certification
  - 2 Students: Supervisor certification
  - 3 LSE Research Ethics Committee
  - 4 External review

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<sup>3</sup><http://www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/LSEServices/ethics/home.aspx>

<sup>4</sup><http://www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/LSEServices/policies/pdfs/school/resEthPolPro.pdf>



# Activity!

- Complete an LSE Ethics form for your proposed research project

