



Research Ethics in the Real World: Issues and Solutions for Health and Social Care Professionals, Tony Long, Martin Johnson. Churchill Livingstone (2006). Paperback 240 p. 6 Illustrations, Price: £19.99, ISBN: 0443100659/9780443100659

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BOOK REVIEWS

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Contents

Introduction. Rigour in research as a matter of ethical concern. The person in research. The social context of research and ethics. What are ethical issues in research? How are ethical issues in research to be addressed? Criticising research from ethical perspectives. Research governance: an international perspective. Getting ethics approval. Dissemination: ethics and politics. Conclusions. Bibliography

Review

Ethics in research is concerned with minimisation of harms; maximising of goods. Justice should be done and where possible participants should agree with what is proposed in the research project. Information collected for one purpose should not be used for another, should be kept in confidence or anonymously and stored securely; the research methods and analysis should match the study aim. Easier said than done! The fine balance between good and harm or inconvenience; the implementation of justice for all and the correct handling of complex information present significant challenges to researchers. Ethical review systems are naturally complex as well: amongst all the bureaucracy

of approval and governance of health research, it is important to keep a focus on what is really important. Johnson and Long are editors of this little book on research ethics which may become invaluable to researchers and ethics reviewers alike. They take a refreshingly down-to-earth practical approach to the balance between potential harms and likely benefits of research. They succeed in their avoidance of heavy ethical theory, using many case studies to illustrate “Real World” issues. There is space given here for useful overviews on rights and user involvement; ethical issues and their resolution; useful criteria for ethical review of research studies (whether at proposal stage, in action or in publication of results). The idea of self-assessment (p. 148) has a lot of appeal in resolving many issues and needs more debate. Self assessment has the potential to empower researchers to behave ethically throughout their projects, not just tick boxes and jump hoops. There is some reference to International perspectives on systems of review: there is a clear emphasis on UK systems. Included are very helpful chapters on ethical committee procedures. Plain accessible language characterises the writing style which will make this book useful to novices, experienced health researchers and those charged with giving ethical opinions on a day-to-day basis.

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Grossman, S.C., Valiga, T.M., 2005. The New Leadership Challenge: Creating the Future of Nursing. F.A. Davis Company, Philadelphia, ISBN: 10:0-8036-1258-3

This textbook serves as a good resource for those interested in an inaugural or basic look at nursing

leadership. As such, it is better suited for undergraduate students and those nurses in entry level management and leadership positions. The text includes nursing and non-nursing sources of information and evidence. It draws upon the management literature and is successful in applying this content to health care or nursing situations. This book