Lego Academics
somewhat improbable 'risk' on their ethics
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Ethics and integrity

Researchers responsibilities

Ethics approval and permissions

Q&A

Questions:

i. Research practice is self-evident, Researchers self-regulate: True or False

ii. How do research staff and students learn to do research well?

Research practice is self-evident, Researchers self-regulate: True or False

Neither true nor false,

How do research staff and students learn to do research well?

From those around them! Fostering research integrity is necessary to cultivate a good research culture.

Stapel did not deny that his deceit was driven by ambition. But it was more complicated than that, he told me. He insisted that he loved social psychology but had been frustrated by the messiness of experimental data, which rarely led to clear conclusions. His lifelong obsession with elegance and order, he said, led him to **concoct sexy results that journals found attractive It was a quest for aesthetics, for beauty — instead of the truth** he said

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/28/magazine/diederik-stapels-audacious-academic-fraud.html?pagewanted=all

58 papers of Stapel's papers have been retracted (as of Dec 2015).

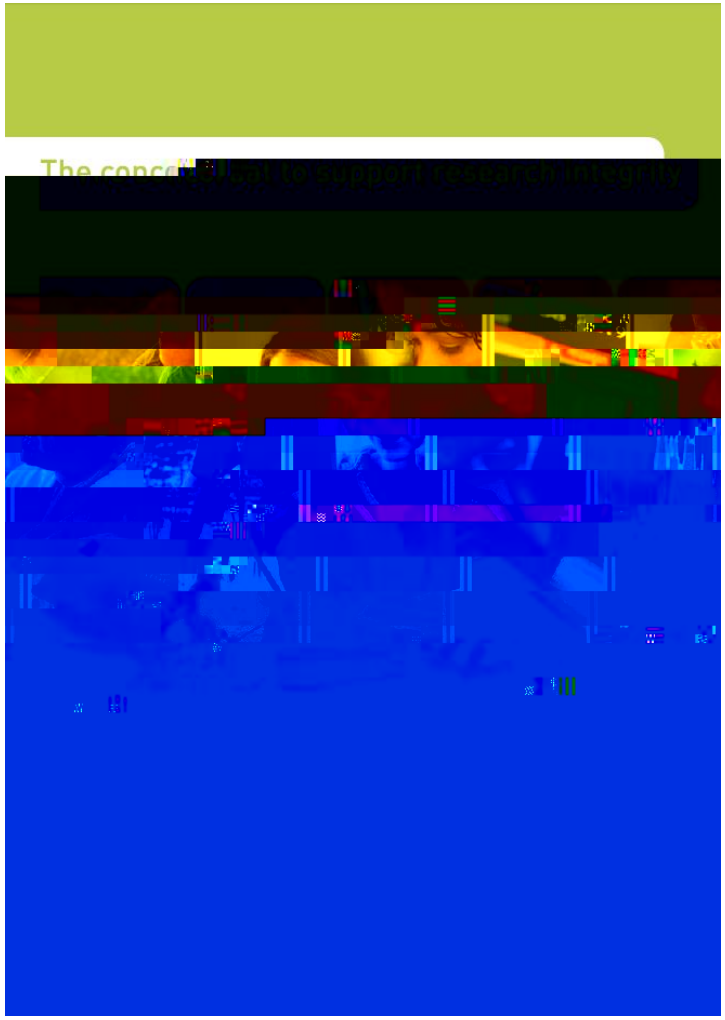
UoS procedure for the Investigation of Allegations of Misconduct in Research http://www.sussex.ac.uk/staff/research/spg/research-policy.

UoS whistle-blower policy http://www.sussex.ac.uk/ogs/policies/goodconduct/raisingconcerns

UK Research Integrity Office Code of practice for research: http://www.ukrio.org/publications/code-of-practice-for-research/3-0-standards-for-organisations-and-researchers/3-16-misconduct-in-research/

What is Research Integrity or Responsible Research Conduct?

- Being responsible for your research
- Undertaking your research to a high ethical standard
- Follow the University Research Governance Code of Practice
- Follow your professional body's ethical code



Why is Research Integrity important?

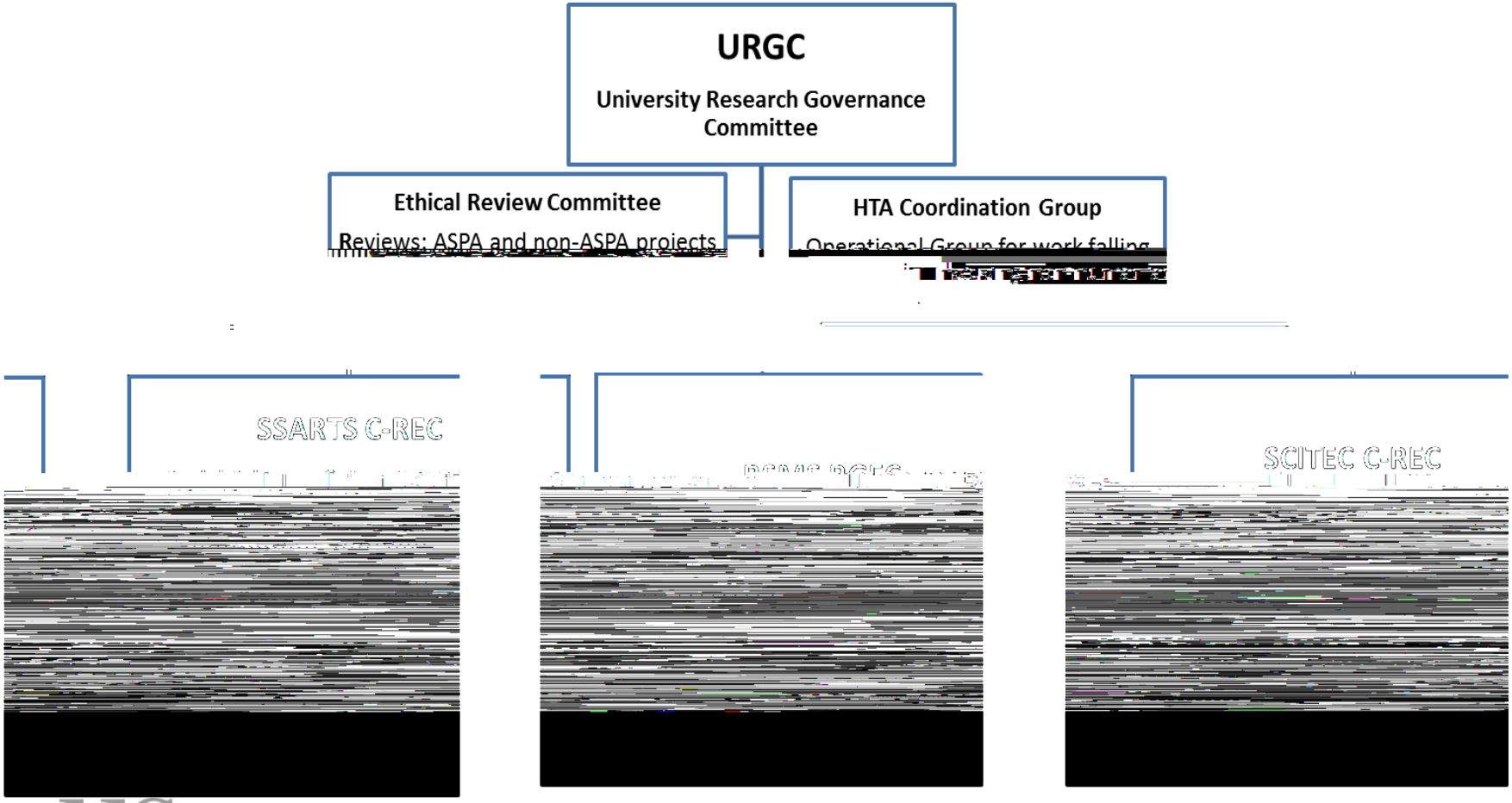
The University is committed to facilitating research with the highest ethical standards.

Shared responsibility to reassure the public and funders that the methods, conduct, results and outcomes of research are trustworthy and valuable.

Meeting the Concordat. If a University fails to meet the expectations their RCUK funding may be withdrawn.

University of Sussex

Research Governance Framework



Sponsorship

The sponsor is the organisation responsible for the research (particularly conduct and management) where ethical review is undertaken by a national body (e.g. NHS, social care or local authority services)

i. BSMS through RGEC then NHS

ii. Non-BSMS through HoS & CREC Chair then NHS or SCREC

http://www.sussex.ac.uk/staff/research/governance/sponsorship

Other Permissions

DBS clearance: children, Mental Capacity Act,

What makes a strong ethical application

Explain your objective - what you want to explore and why

Write all content in lay language (avoid acronyms and subject specific terms unless explicitly unexplained)

Put yourself in the reviewers shoes– demonstrate that you've considered ethical concerns, risk/benefit analysis of the research for the participant(s), the researcher(s), wider society, the environment and the institution

Ensure all supporting documents are attached (where applicable);

i. Information sheet and consent form
ii. Recruitment materials e.g. poster or advert
iii. Questionnaire / topic guide / interview questions
iv. Overseas Travel Safety and Security Risk Assessment form http://www.sussex.ac.uk/hso/healthandsafety/riskassessment/fieldwork/overseastravelsafetyandsecurity
v. Letter to the gatekeeper organisation

Take time to consider how to:

i. protect the care and welfare of participants and researchers

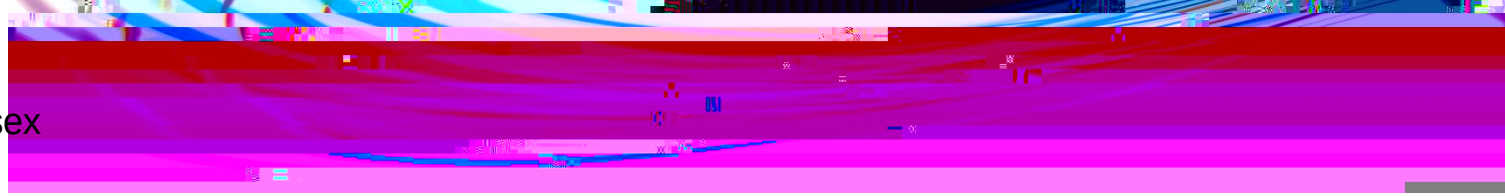
ii. minimise any risk of physical and mental discomfort, harm or danger to yourself, others and the environment

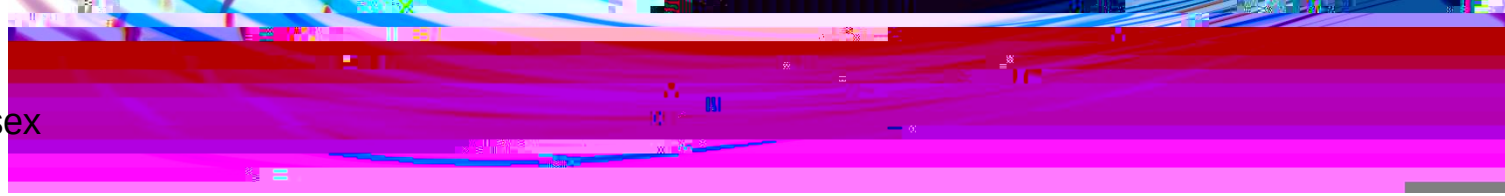
iii. maximise the value and benefits

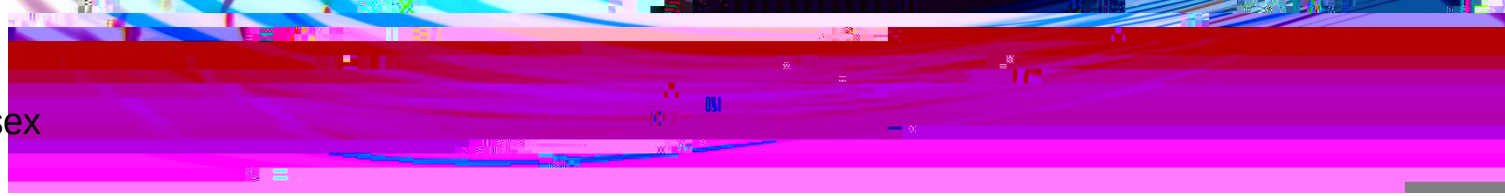
iv. ensure confidentiality and anonymity of participants

v. get informed consent (unless you have strong justification for not gaining consent)

vi. provide participants with information about the research, how it will be used and their right to withdraw in everyday language.





Good record keeping

Openness