“You can correct my spelling and grammar, but my ethics are none of your business!”
The aim of this presentation is to enlight potential complexities and contradicitons between different levels and categories of research ethics
Researchers ethics are leveled and categorised

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Different aspects to follow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National and International rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Different work categories, norms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researchers personal ethics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Three meanings of professional ethics

• The research activity is driven by a number of implicit and explicit norms that dictate what *good* science is (performing good work)

• Researchers, like all other professionals, must follow national and local rules, directions and norms regarding workplace

• Various researcher categories often have their own professional codes of ethics that address various aspects of the researcher role and activity. Often-used central concepts for professional practice are *serving mankind* and *having respect for human life*.

http://codex.vr.se/en/forskarensetik.shtml
The researcher's own ethical responsibility forms the basis for all research ethics. That is, the researcher him/herself has the ultimate responsibility to see that the research is of good quality and is morally acceptable. (…) Investigation on research ethics, ethical reflection must be a natural part of a researcher's daily routine

(http://codex.vr.se/en/forskarenssetik.shtml)
What shall we do when it clashes?

Bob gets filed under "annoying"
Example one

A researcher, Adam, collects data from a specific group of adult informants. He promises that no one outside his research group will have access to the data. Later his findings are questioned by two other researchers, Brian and Cecilia, who request access to his source data. Adam refuses to hand them over, referring to his promise to his informants. The case reaches an unexpected conclusion when colleagues of Adam’s say they have destroyed the source data on their own initiative.

Is the action taken by Adam’s colleagues ethically acceptable? Is it compatible with existing legislation? Has Adam promised more than he can deliver?
Example two

A researcher sits together with children in a school class. The theme of interview/discussion is children's opinion upon TV-programs for children. It is decided that the researcher shall be the only adult at the session, so the children will not be consciously or non-consciously influenced by the teacher. During the conversation the children start speaking about how much it hurts when their parents hit them.

*It is forbidden to hit children in Sweden (governmental laws). The researcher has promised to keep silence of things that is said between the children, and she has been given their trust. To report is to break their trust and her promise as a researcher. Not to report is to allow parents to continue to hit them.*