
 **TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH AND ETHICS**

Physics and Astronomy Group

Good research practice – what is it?

 **CUDOS**


Four principles for a "moral consensus" in science

Communism (Communalism)
The research community has right to be informed of the results of research. No "intellectual property".


Universalism
Scientific work should be evaluated with reference to scientific criteria alone.

Disinterestedness
The researcher must have no other motive for her research than desire to contribute new knowledge

Organized Scepticism
Constantly question and scrutinize. Refrain from expressing an assessment until she has sufficient evidence.



Robert K. Merton

 **COMMUNISM (COMMUNALISM)**


The research community has right to be informed of the results of research. No "intellectual property".

Can everything be said?

The case of Mordechai Vanunu

Mordechai Vanunu is a former Israeli nuclear technician who, citing his opposition to weapons of mass destruction, revealed details of Israel's nuclear weapons program to the British press in 1986.




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What do you think?
Was Mordechai right in disclosing these informations?

Can you separate your political personal opinion from your scientific activity?

And what if an american scientist working on nuclear weapons would decide, for openness, to share his knowledge with North Korean colleagues?

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Universalism
Scientific work should be evaluated with reference to scientific criteria alone.



Richard Lynn

The case of Richard Lynn

Richard Lynn is a British Professor Emeritus of Psychology at the University of Ulster who is known for his views on racial and ethnic differences. Lynn argues that there are hereditary differences in intelligence based on race and sex.


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Men are on average five points ahead on IQ tests, compared to women.
Professor Richard Lynn claim the difference grows when the highest IQ levels are considered.
Their research was based on IQ tests given to 80,000 people and a further study of 20,000 students.

If scientifically proved, would you be ready to accept it?

What if a research is not socially-acceptable or not-politically-correct?
If you would find evidence for it, would you risk your job publishing these results?

Disinterestedness
The researcher must have no other motive for her research than desire to contribute new knowledge.



So why do you get a salary?

Organized Scepticism
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Refrain from expressing an assessment until she has sufficient evidence.



Thank you for your attention

