Handling of research material

Bo Cao
Anastasios Gorantis
Patryk Kusek
Rebecca Lodin
Svenja Lohmann

Ethics of Technology and Science,
Uppsala University
Problem:

- Researcher A collects data from informants.
- Promise: no external access to data.
- Researchers B and C request access.
- A denies access.
- Colleagues of A destroy the data.
Questions:

- Can A promise whatever he wants?
- Who owns the data?
- Should the data be shared?
- Can the data ever be destroyed?
Answers (I):

- A made a mistake. He promised more than he can deliver. (Illegal!)

- We can only promise anonymity and confidentiality.

- A could maybe ask informants again for further permission.
Answers (II):

- In general, the research organisation owns the data.
- For publicly funded research, the data should be shared for peer review and further use.
- Data destruction by the researchers is forbidden.