

## Code of Ethics for Researchers Committee

### Ethics for Researchers involving Human Subjects : Standards and Procedures

1. The University of Cape Town Code for Research Involving Human Subjects should be complemented by further specialist codes for particular disciplines. It is envisaged that in some faculties, for example in the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, more than one specialist code might have to be applied, as there are specific accepted codes for disciplines such as anthropology and psychology. In other faculties, such as the Faculty of Medicine, a single code could be applied.
2. Research proposals from within faculties should be approved by the faculty through the Faculty Research Committee or Higher Degree Committee whichever is appropriate.
3. The Faculty Committees should have the primary responsibility for ensuring that human subjects used in social research in their faculties are protected adequately by the application of the appropriate code of ethics to every project involving human subjects in a particular faculty.
4. In order to do so, the Faculty Committees should, in the first instance, consider what code or codes are appropriate to the research conducted in their faculties. Copies of such codes should be lodged with the secretary of the Senate Code of Ethics for Researchers Committee within six months of the establishment of the Faculty Committees. Changes which may be made to these codes should also be reported to the Senate Committee.
5. The Faculty Committees should report annually, or when asked to do so by the Senate Committee, on:
  - a. the code or codes of ethics applied in their particular faculties;
  - b. the steps taken to inform researchers of their contents;
  - c. the procedures adopted by the faculty to ensure that all projects are evaluated to ensure that they meet the code or codes of ethics adopted by the faculty; and
  - d. statistics on the number of projects considered, approved and rejected.
6. 'Hard cases', i.e. instances where there is disagreement within a faculty committee, or where a researcher is unhappy with the decision of a faculty committee, or where the faculty committee is of the view that an important issue of principle is raised, should still be referred to the Senate Committee.
7. The Senate Committee should retain the overall responsibility for the protection of human subjects in social research. This means that it would continue to be able to intervene *mero motu*, in specific cases when it elected to do so.
8. Projects conducted by individuals or bodies outside the university which involved staff or students, should remain the concern of the Senate committee.