

# Research Ethics Monthly - April/May 2018 Edition

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**On the Problem of “Worldlessness”. Do The Declaration of Helsinki and the Council for International Organizations of Medical Science Guidelines Protect the Stateless in the Research Context?**

The [Declaration of Helsinki](#) has considerable guidance on working with vulnerable research participants, and vulnerability in research is the focus of the [Council for International Organizations of Medical Science \(CIOMS\)](#) guidance document. Both of these documents have undergone recent revisions[1]. However, a broader question remains about these and other national guidelines; namely, how can we translate them into practice? When conducting research with one of the world's most vulnerable populations, namely those seeking asylum, guidelines must be operationalised with creativity so that the research imperative can be fulfilled.

For Hannah Arendt, the refugee was the archetypical figure that revealed the contradiction between universal rights and national sovereignty. For her it was the loss of rights which was, and remains, the defining attribute of the refugee. She insists that the fundamental deprivation of human rights is manifested first and above all in the deprivation of a place in the world.

In Australia the vulnerability experienced by statelessness is further exacerbated by such persons being incarcerated in offshore detention centres on Nauru and in Papua New Guinea, shut away from the oversight of human rights institutions. Nonetheless, there is an imperative to conduct research about this population, in order to record the conditions of detention and to bear witness, as an act of solidarity, the egregious human rights violations suffered by those detained.

What then do the guidelines say about vulnerable populations, and how can we translate this into research with refugees and asylum seekers?

[Read more](#)

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## What's been going on at AHRECS

We're thrilled by how the AHRECS team has been growing and the expertise [Sarah](#), [Barry](#) and [Nik](#) have brought to the team and the new services we can now provide. We hope in the coming weeks to announce some more additions to the team. The central ethos of resourcing reflective practice remains unchanged and we still strive to be a voice for constructive change.

You may have noticed a few refinements of the AHRECS web site have been happening quietly:

- The Resource Library [ahrecs.com/resources](https://ahrecs.com/resources): the search functionality has improved (but still needs some work), and there's now related materials with a link to other items in the Resource Library.
- The blog pages [ahrecs.com/blog](https://ahrecs.com/blog): a form to subscribe to the *Research Ethics*

*Monthly*; pdf copies of earlier editions, and within stories there will be links to related blog items and related Resource Library items.

- The Our Services pages <https://ahrecs.com/our-services> describes our various service.
- The Research Ethics Adviser Platform <https://ahrecs.com/about-this-service> can now be used to obtain expert and independent advice on a research ethics review application prior to its submission to a research ethics committee. A quick advisory costs AUD50 and can be returned in less than 14 days.
- The AHRECS home page has links to the COPE site (AHRECS is an associate member of COPE) and Retraction Watch (we're proud to support their work).

The Research Ethics Monthly and Resource Library will remain free, but work is underway to:

- Provide downloadable vignettes and discussion activities for your use in workshops.
- Short articles reflecting on recent news in the human research ethics/research integrity spheres.
- An AHRECS app for smartphones.
- A human research ethics game.
- A research integrity game.
- An online Q&A clinic.
- Hosted webinars
- And much more.

We hope that strikes you as useful, because we're excited to be working on them.

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## Did you miss...

### Resource Library ([www.ahrecs.com/resources](http://www.ahrecs.com/resources))

- [Evolving friendships and shifting ethical dilemmas: Fieldworkers' experiences in a short term community based study in Kenya;](#)
- [#UsToo movement targets sexual harassment in science;](#)
- [Chileans Criticize US Scientists Over Treatment of Ata the "Alien" Mummy;](#)
- [Cambridge University rejected Facebook study over 'deceptive' privacy standards;](#) and
- [The retraction process needs work. Is there a better way?](#)

### Blog ([www.ahrecs.com/blog](http://www.ahrecs.com/blog))

- [Hints for Using Worked Examples in Training Sessions;](#)
- ["More what you'd call guidelines";](#)
- [Disaster Research and its Ethical Review;](#)
- [Ethical Use of Student Data in Higher Education – Advancing the conversation;](#) and
- ['Don't mention the c word: Covert research and the stifling ethics regime in the social sciences'](#)

[Read more](#)

You can this post and earlier posts at [www.ahrecs.com/blog](http://www.ahrecs.com/blog)



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## RESOURCE LIBRARY

Have you checked out the resource library recently? New items are added daily. There are separate sections for Human Research Ethics and Research Integrity. There are subsections for different categories of items e.g. 'In the news' and books.

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