



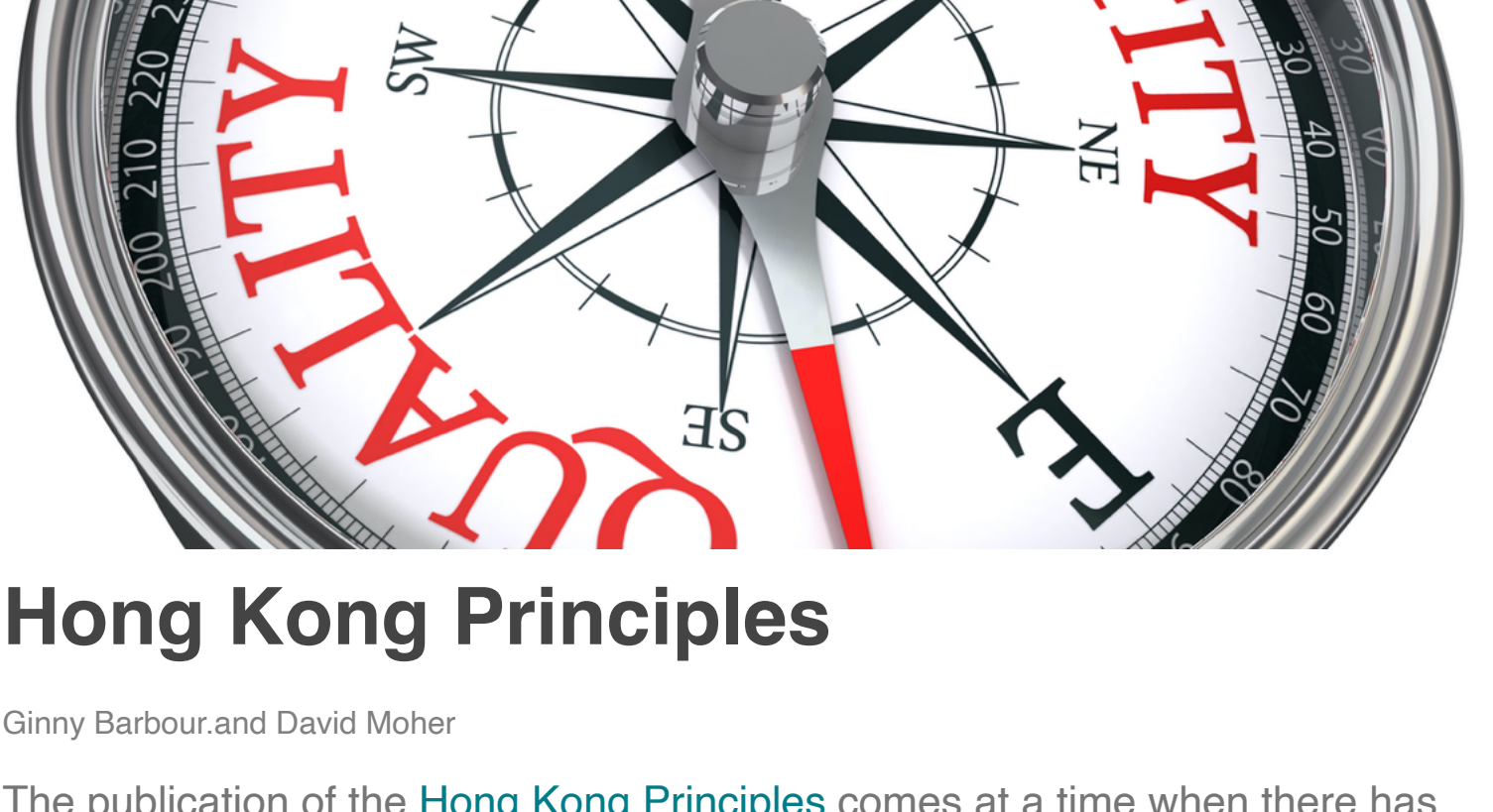
Dear <<First Name>>,

Welcome to the August/September 2020 edition of the Research Ethics Monthly.

If you aren't named above, please [subscribe](#) to the *Research Ethics Monthly*, because it is incredibly affirming, free and would be greatly appreciated. Subscribing is free, easy and keeps our in-house internet elf happy.

More information about the Research Ethics Monthly can be found on the [blog pages](#).

The Research Ethics Monthly is possible thanks to the generous support of our [institutional](#) and [individual patrons](#). If you enjoy the monthly dose of human research ethics and research integrity, don't delay [please consider becoming a patron](#). It's not a lot of money, but makes a **HUGE** difference to **us**.



## Hong Kong Principles

Ginny Barbour and David Moher

The publication of the [Hong Kong Principles](#) comes at a time when there has never been more scrutiny of research. In this pandemic, the importance of science has been reinforced time and time again, but the importance of efforts to enhance reproducibility and transparency in research has also come to the fore. What the Hong Kong Principles do is provide a framework whereby research practices that strengthen integrity in research – a core component of reproducibility and trustworthiness – can be recognised, supported and rewarded.

The principles came out of an initiative led by David Moher and Paul Glasziou, which were then further developed and refined at the 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Research Integrity, held in Hong Kong in June 2019 in what was a much less challenging time for the world.

The principles are built around the concept of responsible research practices and are as follows:

Principle 1: Assess researchers on responsible practices from conception to delivery, including the development of the research idea, research design, methodology, execution, and effective dissemination

Principle 2: Value the accurate and transparent reporting of all research, regardless of the results

[Read more](#)

## We apologise for asking, but...

**Do you enjoy Research Ethics Monthly, or refer to our Resource Library or like our daily posts in social media?**

When we started operating AHRECS a little over nine years ago we started setting aside a proportion of our income to cover the costs of these community services; we did so because we strongly believe in the importance of nurturing a community of practice in research ethics and integrity in Australasia.

We will continue to do so, but we need a bit of help.

Some of you have become patrons (institutionally for AUD350/year on <https://www.ahrecs.vip> | Individually USD1 to USD15/month via Patreon – <https://www.patreon.com/ahrecs>). If you are one of our current patrons thank you so much for the lovely support. Please do keep renewing. If you are not yet a patron, please consider supporting these community services.

Not only do you gain the warm inner glow of helping REM continue, the Resource Library staying online and us posting, you'll also receive access to a growing library of great HRE/RI stuff.

## The revamped www.ahrecs.com

**We are really quite excited to have it online**

This week, our web developer (Savior Agency NYC) has uploaded our revamped web site. We are really quite excited to have this uploaded. There are a few things to tidy up so please bear with us for a short while. We would be thrilled to hear your feedback (loudly), but also need to know if links have decayed (quietly).

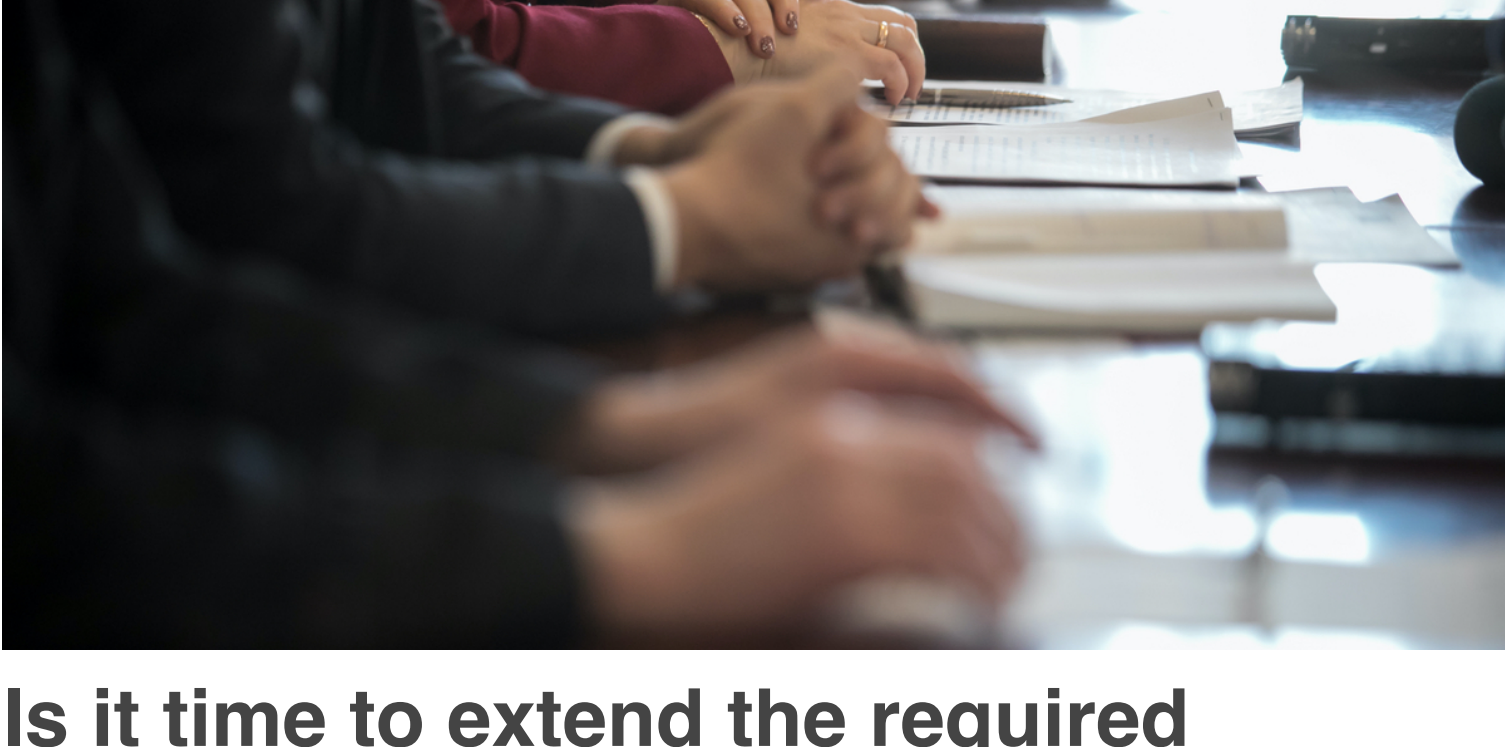
It is much more than a revamped look; we think it will improve the visitor experience.

## A new web host

Speed isn't everything, but being slow is annoying

The main web site and <https://www.ahrecs.vip> have been moved to a new host which is better equipped to handle streaming videos. The host comes with a carbon offset, which appeals to our ethical sensibilities.

We may have a couple of days of spotty connectivity, but we'll try to keep any interruption as brief as possible.



## Is it time to extend the required membership of research ethics committees?

Dr Gary Allen

It doesn't seem so long ago that all that HRECs in Australia needed to do was consider a project through the frame of four core principles (merit + integrity, beneficence, justice, and respect). Section 1 of the National Statement called upon us to judge whether a project was justified with respect to those core principles.

In 2018, the new Chapter 3.1 made it easier to pivot that discussion to the elements of a project's design. It helped provide a common frame for talking about the ethical considerations of a project's design.

For those of us that have been around a while (I just passed my 23rd anniversary in research ethics), it is fundamentally the same review task as it was in 1999. Arguably, it is just that the tools and language have been refined. This is especially true for qualitative designs, action research, research in the broad social sciences, humanities and the fine arts.

So, tweaked but still substantially the same job.

[Read more](#)



## Reframing Indigenous consultation: engagement and risk management

Lindsey Te Ata o Tu MacDonald with commentary by Mandy Downing

As a member and then chair of both a University and a community human research ethics committee in Aotearoa New Zealand, I found often that applicants considered our questions about Māori consultation almost mystical, if not downright mysterious, and had almost no idea what it meant practically. While this is changing, I thought it might be helpful to write up the framing I use to teach researchers how to go about Indigenous consultation. While I write from my experience in the Aotearoa New Zealand experience, I also have recently co-edited a volume on Indigenous experiences of research ethics (George et al., 2020), and consider these basic principles will hold up whatever jurisdiction you may happen to be in.

Researchers tend to know they should consult with Indigenous peoples, but cannot work out with whom, where to start, and how to write it up. Research ethics committees, and thus researchers, tend to explain consultation via a frame set by any number of good principled reasons as to why Indigenous peoples are a 'special group' with whom researchers should consult.

The reasons provided are usually some combination of Indigenous peoples being vulnerable, or a minority with unique disparities, or on the basis of a special relationship with government institutions for whom the researcher works. For instance, in New Zealand the Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi, frames the special relationship Māori individuals and organisations have with the Crown. Notwithstanding that these are important ideas, none are particularly helpful in explaining to a researcher the mechanics of working with indigenous peoples.

I suggest that instead of justifying consultation and the resulting dutiful paragraphs by researchers noting Indigenous differences in history, cultural and socio-economics, research ethics committees should attempt to focus the researcher's mind on the practice of consultation.

[Read more](#)



## Updated checklist for HDR Supervisors

Back in May, we published a resource for supervisors of postgraduate research students to assist with evaluating whether a research ethics application is ready to be submitted for review.

Thank you everyone who sent in comments and suggestions on the draft. A special thank you to Nicola Pritchard (QUT) who sent us some great notes.

We were thrilled when Brighton and Sussex Medical School in the United Kingdom let us know they were using the first version to assist their research community apply for review.

Based on the feedback, we have updated the resource. A copy of the revised version is included here as a locked and watermarked PDF. We have also included on <https://www.ahrecs.vip> a clean and open version, as an MS Word document, for copying and use.

[Read more](#)

## While you are here...

Did you enjoy this edition? **Would you like to support the work we do?** If so, please consider helping us cover the cost of matters such as hosting the Research Ethics Monthly and other web development by becoming an AHRECS Patron.

In addition to the warm glow from supporting our work, you will be subscribed for monthly updates of useful material (such as resources for use in your local workshops).

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A few profiled items from the subscribers' area:

1. An Australian history of human research ethics | A ppt produced by Colin Thomson AM - A Human Research Ethics resource
2. Is my application ready for research ethics review? - A Human Research Ethics resource
3. Duped - A research integrity commentary
4. Setting up a monitoring arrangement for human research - A human research ethics talk by Kim Gikins
5. A summary consent sheet - A Human Research discussion activity
6. eConsent - A Human Research Ethics talk by Nik Zeps
7. Lost data - A Research Integrity discussion activity
8. Disaster recovery plan - A Research Integrity discussion activity
9. Diversity in consent strategies - A Human Research Ethics discussion activity
10. Urgent rather than late - A Human Research Ethics commentary

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- University of Melbourne
- The University of Sydney Ethics Office
- University of Wollongong Ethics Unit

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## Things You May Have Missed...

### Our Resource Library

01. [Why Professors Are Writing Crap That Nobody Reads](#) – NewsIn Asia
02. [Five better ways to assess science](#) – Nature Index
03. (US) [Where Should COVID-19 Vaccines Be Tested? It's a Moving Target](#) - WIRED
04. [Controversial 'human challenge' trials for COVID-19 vaccines gain support](#) – Science
05. [The Problems With Science Journals Trying to Be Gatekeepers – and Some Solutions](#) – Science
06. (Australia and Canada) [How I got fooled: The story behind the retraction of a study of gamers](#) – Retraction Watch
07. (UK) [Misconduct allegations push psychology hero off his pedestal](#) – Science
08. [The Hong Kong Principles for assessing researchers: Fostering research integrity](#) - Paper
09. (Australia) [Why did a journal suddenly retract a 45-year-old paper over lack of informed consent?](#) – Retraction Watch
10. [Characteristics of registered clinical trials assessing treatments for COVID-19: a cross-sectional analysis](#) - Paper
11. [Extending credit](#) – Chemistry World
12. [Exploring Critical Issues in the Ethical Involvement of Children with Disabilities in Evidence Generation and Use](#) – UNICEF Office of Research
13. [Self-plagiarism in philosophy](#) – COPE
14. (US) [Fauci says White House told NIH to cancel funding for bat virus study](#) – Politico
15. (Australia) [UTS loses application to appeal against reinstatement of academic sacked for not publishing enough research](#) – Sydney Morning Herald

There were more than 62 more great items in the last 50 days. Follow us on social media to get an alert when new items are added ([LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#))

### Our Blog

1. [Questionable publishing practice? Are you harmed?](#)
2. [What are questionable research practices as reported by ECRs in STEM in Australia?](#)
3. [Embedding clinical research as part of routine healthcare: Managing the potential for competing interests](#)
4. [Worried your researchers might not be treating human research ethics as a core component of good research practice? Concerned they are not seeing it as their responsibility?](#)
5. [The ethical petri-dish: recommendations for the design of university](#)
6. [When Research is the treatment: why the research/clinical care divide doesn't always work](#)
7. [How we interpret the words 'proportional review'](#)
8. [A checklist to assist a supervisor to check a candidate's research ethics](#)
9. [Why autism research needs more input from autistic people](#)
10. [AHRECS and COVID-19](#)



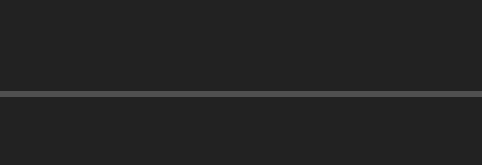
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Got an idea for a post or a suggestion for a guest? Send an email to [gary@ahrecs.com](mailto:gary@ahrecs.com)



Do you have a view, feedback or some constructive criticism on this or other posts? Every item has comment link so you can have your say and continue the conversation.



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