



# Decolonising Research Ethics

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## **Defining decolonising: dignity of difference\***

**D**iversify the syllabus, canon, curriculum, infrastructure and staff

**D**ecentre knowledge and knowledge production away from the global North

**D**evalue hierarchies and revalue relationality

**D**iminish some voices and opinions that have predominated, and magnify those that have been unheard

\*beyond EDI/REC

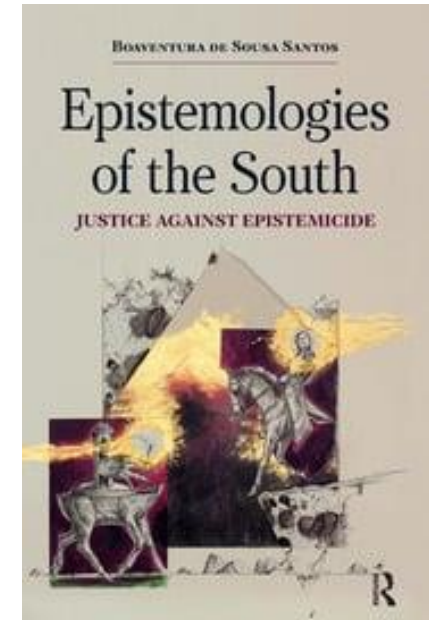
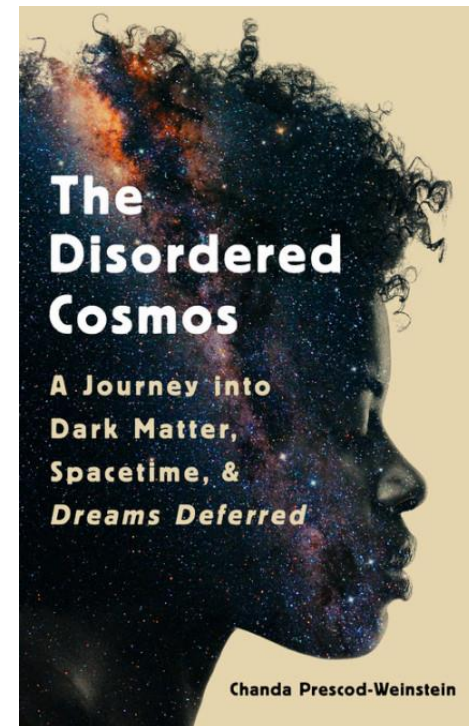
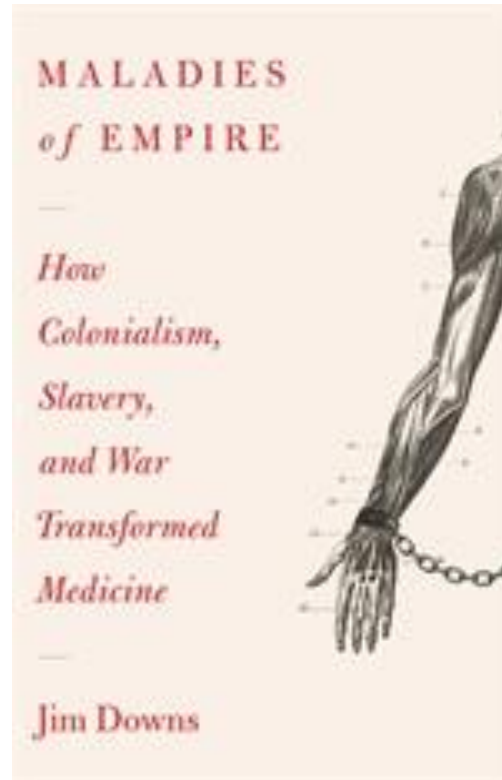




Some context for ethics.

1. Attraction, inspiration and progression.
2. Mentorship, sponsorship and networks.
3. The culture of chemistry.
4. Funding systems and structural barriers.
5. Global community.
6. Leadership in the community, accountability and allyship.





- Issues of consent, surveillance, quantification
- Issues of position in institutions, disciplines and society for researchers and citizen scientists
- Issues of process/knowing, rather than outcome/knowledge



## On the intersection of ethical considerations with decolonising

1. Scope
2. Methodology/method
3. Human participants, including the researcher(s) (identify, approach/consent, withdrawal, protected characteristics)
4. Data management (access, openness, control)
5. Integrity and risk (vulnerability, sensitive research and harm)
6. Environmental concerns and research as extraction (modification, harmful)

Issues of exploitation, expropriation and extraction





Exploitation, expropriation and extraction: ethics and competition



- Who decides how and why information gets collected?
- Who does the collecting, sorting and quantifying?
- Who provides funding?
- What agendas, audiences, beneficiaries and historical/material legacies shape projects?
- Also, who is reviewing ethics, and what are their agendas?

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# Statement of Ethical Principles

## 1. Honesty and integrity



## 2. Respect for life, law, the environment and public good



Engineering professionals have a duty to obey all applicable laws and regulations and give due weight to facts, published standards and guidance and the wider public interest.

They should:

- hold paramount the health and safety of others and draw attention to hazards
- ensure their work is lawful and justified
- recognise the importance of physical and cyber security and data protection
- respect and protect personal information and intellectual property
- protect, and where possible improve, the quality of built and natural environments
- maximise the public good and minimise both actual and potential adverse effects for their own and succeeding generations
- take due account of the limited availability of natural resources
- uphold the reputation and standing of the profession

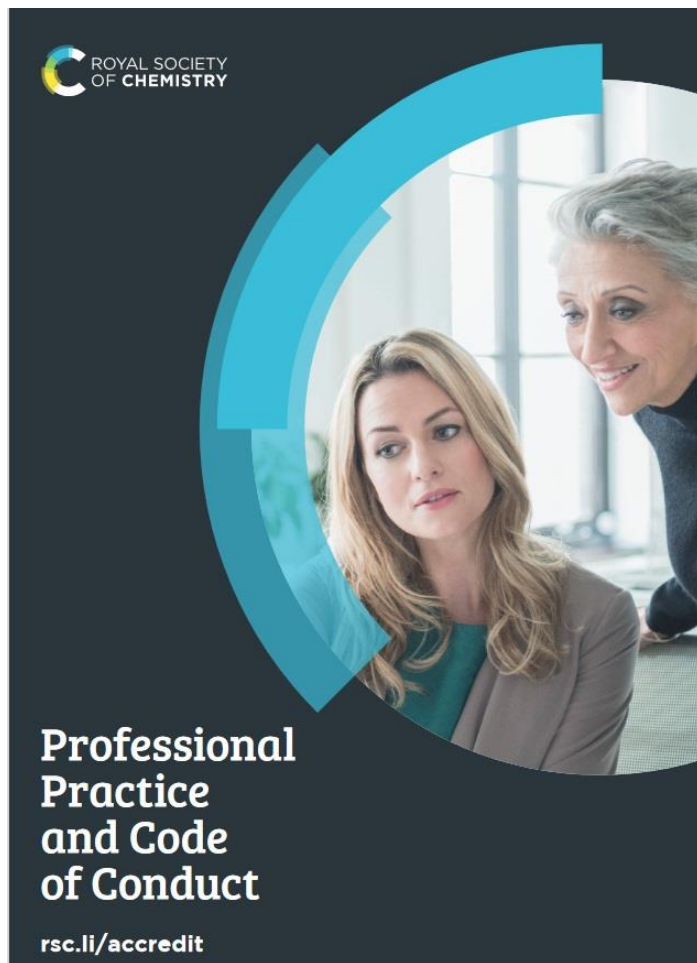
## 3. Accuracy and rigour



## 4. Leadership and communication







Inclusivity – respect  
Integrity – rigour  
Leadership – responsibility

A focus on EDI?

How might this Diversify, Decentre,  
Devalue (relationality), Diminish?





Is our approach to ethics relational?

- Different histories/cultures/beliefs.
  - Acceptance and limits, including freedom of speech? What do we tolerate in any society.
  - Historical and material process and change.
  - The impact on different contexts.
- 
- How do we negotiate this, or are values fixed forever?
  - Is our approach to ethics asking people to assimilate to the majority or the mainstream? [Is this multi-culturalism or ethics as EDI?]



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# Managing risk: vulnerability, sensitivity, harm

- Does your research involve participants who are in a potentially vulnerable situation?
- Does your research focus on topics that may be regarded as sensitive? (e.g. UKRI note on gender, ethnicity.)
- Does the research involve invasive or potentially intrusive procedures?
- Does the research have potential to cause distress or discomfort to any member of the research team/involve lone working/involve international travel and/or travel to a potentially risky environment?
- Does the research involve data sharing of confidential information beyond the initial consent given?
- Does the project have the potential to cause environmental damage or harm?

# Ethics, relationality, and ways of knowing

## Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing



Booklets available in:

[Ar](#) | [En](#) | [Es](#) | [Fr](#) | [Ru](#) | [Zh](#) | [Courtesy Translations](#)

The *Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity* is an international agreement which aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way. It entered into force on 12 October 2014, 90 days after the date of deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification. [Learn more about the Nagoya Protocol.](#)

Research | [Open Access](#) | [Published: 13 March 2022](#)

## Ethics framework for citizen science and public and patient participation in research

[Barbara Groot](#)  & [Tineke Abma](#)


[BMC Medical Ethics](#) **23**, Article number: 23 (2022) | [Cite this article](#)

**1** Accesses | **3** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Haematology (incl blood transfusion)

Original research

## Sickle Cell Disease Genomics of Africa (SickleGenAfrica) Network: ethical framework and initial qualitative findings from community engagement in Ghana, Nigeria and Tanzania

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