

Ethics in Research I

ICERM Professional Development Program



Responsible Conduct in Research

Expectations Regarding:

- ▶ Publications
 - ▶ Plagiarism
 - ▶ Copyright and References
 - ▶ Reproducibility and Integrity
 - ▶ Authorship and Acknowledgement
 - ▶ Offensive Material
- ▶ Peer Review Process
- ▶ Professionalism in the Workplace
- ▶ Title IX

Publications - Plagiarism, Copyright, References

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- ▶ Seek permission for figures from other copyrighted work and attribute sources clearly (this may include your own figures!)

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 - ▶ As painful as it is, better to acknowledge it and move past it.

Publications - Reproducibility

Your paper includes the output of your algorithm (perhaps against those of others) on real or simulated data.

Consider:

- ▶ Are you obligated to provide the data itself (or at least the means for generating it)?
- ▶ Are you obligated to report the values of all the parameters set?
- ▶ How far do you need to go to ensure reproducibility?

Publications - Acknowledgement and Authorship

How do I **acknowledge contributions** from others? For instance:

- ▶ Outcomes of discussions with others
- ▶ Suggestions received from others
- ▶ Suggestions from referees (what if they are anonymous? what if they are not?)

How do I **avoid conflicts when collaborating**, such as:

- ▶ Who will be co-authors on a paper?
- ▶ Who will be first author (if in non-alphabetical order)?
- ▶ Often difficult to predict when problems arise: be aware of potential problems and handle them professionally – seek advice from advisors or mentors

Publications - Offensive Material

Some journals have policies on publication of offensive materials. For example, this is taken from SIAM's webpage that gives their journal's policies on potentially offensive material:

... Unless the authors can make convincing arguments [to the editor] that the particular material is essential to convey the scientific contribution, it is expected that the material be replaced prior to review and further consideration for publication. For example, the “Lena image” has been used in past publications on imaging but is inconsistent with efforts to promote inclusion in mathematics, science, and engineering. SIAM will not consider submissions containing this image.

Know the policy and abide by it!

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When in doubt, ask!

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 - ▶ disseminate your review to anybody except the editor or program officer who requested the review
 - ▶ contact the author with questions or comments (You may be able to reveal your identity by signing the review, if the process allows.)

Professional Ethics in the Workplace

- ▶ Ethical use of institutional computer, email, corporate cards, and office facilities
- ▶ Confidentiality of privileged information (grades, referee reports, recommendation letters, etc.)
- ▶ Be aware of, and abide by, copyright and software license requirements:
 - ▶ Use care when installing software on different computers or for different users
 - ▶ Do not download scanned copies of copyrighted material
- ▶ Be aware of personal conflicts of interest:
 - ▶ Financial, family, etc.
 - ▶ Dating students and postdocs
 - ▶ Asking students or postdocs for personal favors

Title IX

Title IX is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity.

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to the Higher Education Act of 1965

Brown University's Title IX and Gender Equity Statement of Non-Discrimination:

Brown University does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, age, disability, status as a veteran, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, or any other category protected by applicable law, in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, or other school administered programs. Full policy: <https://www.brown.edu/about/administration/title-ix/home>

Brown policy covers:

Privacy and Confidentiality
Sexual or Gender-based Harassment
Sexual Assault
Relationship and Interpersonal Violence

Stalking
Retaliation
Consent

Title IX

ICERM's statement:

ICERM is committed to creating a safe, professional, and welcoming environment that benefits from the diversity and experiences of all its participants. Brown University's "Code of Conduct", "Discrimination and Workplace Harassment Policy", "Sexual and Gender-based Misconduct Policy", and "Title IX Policy" apply to all ICERM participants and staff. Participants with concerns or requests for assistance on a discrimination or harassment issue should contact the ICERM Director or Assistant Director of Finance and Administration; they are the responsible employees at ICERM under this policy.