

ELTE Gusztáv Bárczi Faculty of Special Needs Education

Scientific and Research Ethics Committee

RESEARCH ETHICS PRINCIPLES

The Commission evaluates the research proposals submitted to it primarily in accordance with the following research ethics principles.

Preamble

Research in special needs education, disability studies, medicine, psychology, social sciences, education, etc. (hereinafter referred to as the sciences cultivated by the Faculty), especially those involving persons with disabilities, must be conducted in accordance with the research ethics principles of the Scientific and Research Ethics Committee (SREC) of ELTE BGGYK, as delineated below.

The research ethics opinion issued by the SREC for each research project shall in all cases include a reference to the Code of Scientific Ethics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA), 2010 ([Code of Scientific Ethics.pdf](#)) as referred to in Section 1.1 of this document. ELTE BGGYK declares in all its research-related contracts that its participation in the research is conditional on the researchers' compliance with the provisions of the research ethics opinion.

In order for ELTE BGGYK SREC to be able to examine and assess the compliance of the research plan submitted with the research ethics principles delineated in this document, the research leader must complete and submit the document titled Request for Research Ethics Review, which is attached to the rules of procedure of the ELTE BGGYK Scientific and Research Ethics Committee. Request for Research Ethics Review.

1. Introduction: The Broader Field

1.1. The principles stipulated by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Scientific research, research procedures, research methodology and the research process itself are governed by scientific ethics, research ethics and local regulations. They summarise all the experience, value judgments and moral requirements that the scientific community of the given discipline or the institution hosting the research imposes on researchers and research. The Scientific and Research Ethics Committee of ELTE BGGYK considers the chapters of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences' Code of Scientific Ethics 2010 authoritative, which in general:

- summarise the moral and ethical principles of scientific research (Chapter 2);
- cover the conduct of scientific research, including research programme planning, setting research goals, research ethics and quality, research plan documentation, conflicts of interest, patents and copyrights (Chapter 3);

- contain research ethics requirements concerning the communication of scientific results, including scientific publication, completeness and impartiality, proper citation, authorship of publications and corrections (Chapter 4).

1.2. The following aspects of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

According to Article 4(1)(f) and (g) of the CRPD:

"... States Parties undertake to ...:

(f) conduct or promote research and development in relation to universally designed goods, services, equipment and facilities, as defined in Article 2 of this Convention, which meet the specific needs of persons with disabilities with the least possible modification and expense, facilitating their accessibility and use, and promote universal design in the development of standards and guidelines;

(g) conduct or promote research and development of new technologies, including information and communication technologies, mobility aids, devices and aids, giving priority to technologies that are affordable."

When publishing research results, access to research data and results must be ensured for the widest possible audience, including, above all, stakeholders, decision-makers, law enforcement officials and those working with persons with disabilities (CRPD Article 31(3)).

2. Obligations of representatives of individual scientific fields and sciences cultivated by the Faculty during research, especially in the case of research involving persons with disabilities

2.1. Personal data relating to disability (special educational needs, changed working capacity, etc.), in particular sensitive and intimate data not recorded in institutions dealing with the persons concerned, must be protected and the rights associated with them must be enforced during the research.

2.2. The researcher must have, if necessary, alternative or augmentative forms of communication:

- Before commencing the research, the researcher must obtain the informed consent of the adult or child with a disability participating in the research, or, if necessary, their reference persons, expressed in verbal, written or nonverbal signs, which may be revoked until the completion of the research.

- Before commencing the research, the researcher must submit a confidentiality statement.

2.3. Due to the lack of legal capacity or limited legal capacity of the research subjects, statements expressing personal will or, if necessary, statements by legal representatives or reference persons are of increased importance.

2.4. It is a fundamental expectation that researchers treat research participants with professional care that recognises, understands, and takes into account their necessary subordination, heightened vulnerability and more limited ability, compared to the average, to defend

themselves or enforce their rights. Such treatment must never exploit these inherent disadvantages during the research process.

2.5. Due to the subordinate and power-laden nature of the relationships described in points 2.1 and 2.2, and because the researcher occupies a position of power within the research, researchers are obliged to ensure the enhanced protection of research participants and to minimise any risks arising from the research. They must fully respect the participants' mental, physical and emotional well-being throughout the research and provide protection against both potential and actual risks or dangers associated with the research.

2.6. The researcher is obliged to guarantee the voluntariness of participation, the provision of information about the research and the possibility of withdrawing from or re-entering the research situation. (For example, by way of a particularly thorough level, method, technique, intensity and repetition of information provided about the research; or, if necessary, by requiring multiple declarations of consent, one for each research phase, instead of a single initial declaration of consent.)

3. Additional Necessary and Recommended Considerations

3.1. In everyday social functioning, persons with disabilities are typically in a subordinate position. Consequently, during foundational (preliminary) research, it is advisable to explore the power relations relevant to the specific research area.

3.2. During foundational examinations, it is worth conducting a careful preliminary analysis, that is, it is valuable to attempt to reinterpret the seemingly self-evident conceptual bases of the main terms used in the research field, and to uncover their power-determined foundations (a deconstruction-oriented analytical strategy). Revealing the argumentation and interpretive methods rooted in the principles and workings of the dominant discourse, and the interest relations underlying them, is a progressive scholarly act. Similarly important is the unfolding and text-based critical interpretation of historical and cultural contexts (so-called hermeneutic analysis).

3.3. It is an important consideration that the researcher understands their own worldview as situated knowledge, recognising that knowledge is temporary, historically determined and gender-dependent. It is appropriate for the researcher to critically position themselves (reflecting on their own stereotypes, prejudiced patterns of thought, oppressive uses of concepts and cultural narratives).

3.4. It is advisable to conduct research in a collaborative, inclusive manner together with persons with disabilities (participatory and/or emancipatory approaches). In the case of persons with high support needs, they themselves are the cooperating partners. The collaboration may also be complemented by reference persons.

3.5. It is necessary to identify risk factors that may affect the sustainability of the research from its beginning through to its completion and dissemination.

3.6. Inadequately prepared, led and disseminated research may cause inadequately justified use of participants, possible damage and waste of resources, and are unethical, therefore it is

necessary to examine certain methodological issues during the ethical review procedure of the research.

****Appendix**

Additional Legal and Publication-Related Considerations for Research**

1. Legally Relevant Background Aspects of Research Conducted at ELTE BGGYK

1.1. The protection of personal rights (according to the currently effective Civil Code, Sections 75–85, and the new Civil Code entering into force in 2014, Sections 2:42–2:50), including:

- a) violation of life, physical integrity and health;
- b) violation of personal liberty, privacy and the inviolability of the home;
- c) discrimination against a person;
- d) violation of honour and good reputation;
- e) violation of the right to privacy and the protection of personal data;
- f) violation of the right to bear one's name; and
- g) violation of the right to one's image and voice recording.

Special attention must be given to the protection of personal data and to ensuring that the related rights can be effectively exercised during the research.

1.2. The protection and enforcement of copyright during the research process, including both the intellectual creations of the researchers involved in the given project and the works of other scholars.

1.3. The enforcement of the rights of both the commissioning party and the researcher under a research contract (according to the currently effective Civil Code, Sections 412–414/A; and the new Civil Code entering into force in 2014, Section 6:253).

1.4. Compliance with conflict-of-interest rules delineated in public finance, grant application, civil nonprofit (public benefit) and company law regulations.

1.5. In the case of research grant applications, it is necessary to meet the requirements delineated in legislation, in calls for proposals based on legislation, and in contractual conditions regarding the applicant's legal status and eligibility (for example, legal personality, research organisational unit, references, academic qualifications, scientific achievements, publication record, etc.).

1.6. If the planned research also has medical or healthcare implications, under Section 158 of Act CLIV of 1997 on Health, the research falls under the scope of Decree 23/2002 (V.9.) of the Ministry of Health on biomedical research conducted on humans. In such cases, the relevant application must be submitted to the Scientific and Research Ethics Committee of the Medical Research Council (ETT-TUKEB). The Faculty form must also be completed and forwarded to the Research Ethics Committee (KEB) of the ETT. The KEB will subsequently issue a statement

on whether it considers the research and the principal investigator appropriate. This statement will later serve as an attachment to the application submitted to ETT-TUKEB.

2. Matters Not Falling Within the Scope of Research Ethics Review

Primarily, those research-strategic and research-policy considerations do not fall within the scope of ethical review which influence university or faculty-level decisions regarding the research itself or regarding participation in the research, but which are not directly related to the conduct of the specific study. For example:

- a) in the case of a research grant, assessing whether the requirements for professional reporting and financial accounting can be met under public finance, EU-funding, civil nonprofit (public benefit) and company law regulations;
- b) determining whether the research plan aligns with, or is in conflict with, the research and research-support strategy of ELTE BGGYK; or
- c) assessing whether the research plan complies with the current research and research-support policies of ELTE BGGYK (such as preferred professional directions, current budgetary or other funding opportunities, credit policies, human resources policies, cooperation priorities, etc.).

3. Ethical Principles Relating to Publication

3.1. The presentation, summary, explanation and interpretation of the results of research, and the public disclosure of such results in any oral form (for example, lectures) or written form (publications of any genre, on any platform, using any technology or medium), constitute a publication.

3.2. A publication must indicate the names of the authors and their authorship status. Only those may be listed as authors who have made a substantial scientific contribution to the preparation of the publication based on the research. Technical, administrative, organisational or financial contributions, that is, contributions that are not scientific in nature, do not establish authorship.

All researchers who have contributed scientifically to the results of the research and to the preparation of the publication must be listed as authors in scientific communications arising from the research. The scientific contribution associated with the direct drafting of the publication text (summarising, synthesising, phrasing or editing) may be highlighted within the authorship list or indicated in another appropriate manner.

In the absence of such specification, the conventional practice for determining authorship order is as follows:

- the first author is typically the researcher who has contributed the most to the research and the preparation of the publication,
- while the last author conventionally denotes the leader of the research or the head of the research group.

3.3. No scientific research may be published if the researchers involved at any level of the work (data collection, data processing, the original idea regarding the topic, conclusions, etc.) have not previously consulted with one another. Full agreement on every issue is not required, but consultation, and thereby the articulation of any potential differences in scientific viewpoints, is essential.

3.4. All full-time and part-time employees of ELTE BGGYK and doctoral students affiliated with the doctoral school, as well as contracted instructors and researchers performing teaching or research duties, are required to indicate the Faculty as their affiliation in all their publications (scientific communications) that fall within the academic fields represented by the Faculty. When indicating the affiliation, the use of “Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem Bárczi Gusztáv Gyógypedagógiai Kar” in Hungarian, and “Eötvös Loránd University Bárczi Gusztáv Faculty of Special Needs Education” in English-language publications, is mandatory.

Omission of the primary or secondary affiliation is permitted only in exceptional cases: specifically, when the research preceding the publication (scientific communication) is in no way connected to ELTE BGGYK.

The Research Ethics Principles document of the Eötvös Loránd University Bárczi Gusztáv Faculty of Special Needs Education, edited together with amendments, enters into force on 13th February 2020 with approval of the Faculty Council.