LSE Annual Statement of Research Integrity, 2022-23

The LSE is committed to upholding the highest ethical standards, in accordance with our values of integrity, responsibility and accountability, collegiality, equality of respect and opportunity, intellectual freedom and sustainability in our everyday decision making.

As part of the LSE 2030 strategy[1] the School aims to 'provide a platform for world-class social science research that upholds the highest standards of rigorous enquiry'. In doing so, the School fully supports the UUK **Concordat to support research integrity**[2] (2019) and its five commitments of:

- upholding the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research
- ensuring that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards
- supporting a research environment that is underpinned by a culture of integrity and based on good governance, best practice and support for the development of researchers
- using transparent, timely, robust and fair processes to deal with allegations of research misconduct when they arise
- working together to strengthen the integrity of research and to reviewing progress regularly and openly

LSE policies and procedures

As set out in the LSE **Code of Research Conduct**[3], all LSE staff and students are expected to observe the highest standards of integrity, honesty and professionalism and to embed good practice in every aspect of their work. As well as the Code of Research Conduct, staff and students should abide by the School's **Ethics Code**[4] and **Research Ethics Policy**.[5] The procedures for the investigation of allegations of research **misconduct** are embedded within the Code of Research Conduct.

These policies and procedures are given oversight by three LSE committees:

i) Research Committee, which has overall responsibility for ensuring that research undertaken by members of the School is conducted in an ethically sound manner, in accordance with the School's Research Ethics Policy and Code of Research Conduct;

ii) Research Ethics Committee (a sub-committee of Research Committee), which has operational responsibility for research ethics. The REC oversees the research ethics review procedure at the School, offers advice to staff and students, and reviews the School's research ethics policy on a triennial basis;

iii) Ethics Committee, which is a committee of LSE Council and is responsible for considering wider ethical issues at the School. The role of the EC is to oversee and monitor the Ethics Code and to receive assurance as to how the Code and the principles contained within it are embedded across the School.

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[1] https://www.lse.ac.uk/2030/assets/pdf/LSE-2030-booklet.pdf
[2] https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Documents/2019/the-concordat-to-support-research-integrity.pdf
[3] https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/services/Policies-and-procedures/Assets/Documents/codResCon.pdf
[4] https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/services/Policies-and-procedures/Assets/Documents/ethCod.pdf
[5] https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/services/Policies-and-procedures/Assets/Documents/resEthPolPro.pdf

In addition to the above policies and procedures, the School has an **Effective Behaviours Framework**[6], which supports the principles laid out in the LSE Ethics Code, and sets out examples of the kinds of behaviours that are expected of all colleagues in the School.

The LSE Governance and Ethics Manager and Research Governance Manager work closely together to ensure that these policies and procedures are disseminated widely across the School via induction sessions, departmental meetings and internal communications. All policies are readily available on the LSE website. Further information, contact details, and previous annual integrity statements, can be found on the 'Research integrity at LSE' webpage.[7]

Visiting researchers are similarly expected to abide by the LSE Ethics Code and Code of Research Conduct.

LSE is a member of the Russell Group Research Integrity forum, a forum that helps share best practice on issues relating to research integrity, and a subscriber to the UK Research Integrity Office. The School is also represented by a Local Network Lead for the UK Reproducibility Network (UKRN), which aims to improve research culture and practice.

Training and guidance

LSE is committed to providing appropriate ethics and integrity training to all staff and students. This is provided via a number of routes and formats.

The School has developed an Ethics at LSE online training module based on the Ethics Code which is disseminated to staff and students. Discipline-specific research ethics training is provided within departments for all students carrying out empirical research. PhD students undertake research ethics training within their departments and also via workshops delivered within the LSE PhD Academy. Staff are also welcome to attend these workshops. Data security training is provided via an online training module. Weekly drop-in surgeries, open to all staff and students, are held for any issues relating to research ethics, data security, data management and copyright.

The School is currently developing authorship guidance for researchers, in accordance with the above mentioned policies and procedures, to further facilitate a culture of accountability in ethical collaborative research and encourage good practice.

LSE research relating to ethics and integrity

Kostovicova, D. & Knott, E. (2022). Harm, Change and Unpredictability: The Ethics of Interviews in Conflict Research. *Qualitative Research*, 22(1), 56 - 73.

Gleibs, I. H. & Albayrak-Aydemir, N. (2022). Ethical concerns arising from recruiting workers from Amazon's Mechanical Turk as research participants. *International Journal of Eating Disorders*, 55 (2), 276-277.

Fanelli, D., Schleicher, M., Fang, F. C., Casadevall, A. & Bik, E. M. (2022). Do individual and institutional predictors of misconduct vary by country? Results of a matched-control analysis of problematic image duplications. *PLOS ONE*, 17(3), e0255334.

Horbach, S. P. J. M., Bouter, L. M., Gaskell, G., Hiney, M., Kavouras, P., Mejlgaard, N., Allum, N., Aubert Bonn, N., Bendtsen, A. K., Charitidis, C. A., Claesen, N., Dierickx, K., Domaradzka, A.,

Elizondo, A. R., Föger, N., Kaltenbrunner, W., Konach, T., Labib, K., Marušić, A., Pizzolato, D. & 6 others, (2022). Designing and implementing a research integrity promotion plan: recommendations for research funders. *PLoS Biology*, 20(8), e3001773.

Astuti, R., Tilche, A. (2021). Collaborative research and authorship in anthropology: EASA good practice guidelines. https://www.easaonline.org/publications/guidelines

Fanelli, D. (2021, Sept 27-29). Keynote presentation: *What challenges lie ahead for research integrity officers?* ENRIO 2021 Congress on Research Integrity Practice, Finland. https://youtu.be/9iBVxODK1KE?t=1830

Allegations of research misconduct, 2022-23

In keeping with the UUK Concordat, the LSE Research Governance Manager presents an annual report on research misconduct to LSE Research Committee and LSE Council, providing (anonymised) details of complaints received and actions taken. A summary of these complaints and actions is provided below.

During the academic year 2022-23 one new complaint was received that was considered under the School's procedures for the investigation of allegations of research misconduct, and there was one ongoing preliminary investigation.

The new complaint was reviewed by the School Secretary who determined that the complaint did not fall within the definition of research misconduct as set out in the School's Code of Research Conduct and it did not consitute research misconduct or any breach of ethics/integrity.

The ongoing preliminary investigation related to an allegation of plagiarism/denial of authorship.

Lyn Grove
Research Governance Manager
November 2023

Consultation and approval process:
Research Committee, 24 January 2024
LSE Council, 20 February 2024