Carleton Research Ethics Board Update

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with periodic updates on REB activities, new policies and forms, and other pertinent information. This is a valuable way to enhance your awareness of the ethical principles and best practices for conducting human participants' research. You will also receive guidance and support on how to prepare and submit your ethics applications, as well as how to manage your ongoing protocols.

Visit Office of Research Ethics Website

Welcoming our Newest Ethics Coordinator

We are delighted to announce that, in December, Jess Tingley joined the Office of Research Ethics as our newest Ethics Coordinator. Jess is a recent graduate from Carleton's Psychology Graduate Program.

Policy Response to Emerging AI Research

The Carleton REB has undertaken some preliminary discussions about reviewing studies that involve AI, including the development of AI technologies and the use of AI tools in research. We hope to publish more comprehensive guidance later, upon further consultation, but offer this as preliminary guidance. If you have any thoughts or recommendations about these or other appropriate standards, or policy approaches for the REB review of AI research, please let us know at ethics@carleton.ca, or directly to Gordon DuVal at gordon.duval@carleton.ca.

1.   In study submissions, researchers must disclose their use, development, or creation of AI at any stage of the research, including in data analysis. The proposed use of AI should be described in the Submission Form and the Consent Form(s).

2.   Researchers must disclose any risks to participants associated with the use of AI, including those related to any possible breach of privacy.

3.   So that participants are aware of all the uses of their data, researchers must disclose if the AI uses participants' data for any other purpose, or benefits the AI owners, including using participant data to train the AI.

Course Clearance Form Revisions

A newly revised Course Clearance form has been posted on our Forms page. The changes are fairly minor and intended to clear up some possible misunderstandings about the use of this Form.

In an opening paragraph, the use of the form has been clarified:

"Use this form if you are a course instructor who requires students to conduct minimal risk projects involving people, intended primarily to teach students research skills and practices, but not to carry out research as defined in the TCPS."

In addition, the Form now says:

"Student projects that involve interviews intended to create an electronic or printed presentation or publication, such as a media article, or podcast or other social media posting, and which is neither research nor training to do research, as defined in the TCPS, does not need Course Clearance or any other REB review."

[The Revised Form may be found here](#)

Use of Personal Phone Numbers and Email Addresses

We often see, usually in consent and recruitment forms and materials, researchers giving contact information, including their personal (non-Carleton) phone number or email address (for example, a personal gmail or hotmail address).

Our experience has been that giving participants or prospective participants this contact information can lead to serious problems, including harassment or other threats.

Accordingly, we strongly urge that researchers not use such contact information, but use only your Carleton email address. If it is necessary to communicate with participants using phone or text, researchers should consider giving their personal number only to trusted individuals privately, but not make it available broadly by including it in consent or recruitment forms.