Guidelines and recommendations from the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity TENK
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- The Finnish National Board on Research Integrity TENK
- Integrity & Ethics – the Finnish system on self regulation
- TENK’s Guidelines
- Risks for research integrity?
- Authorship issues
- RI Barometer
- The ENRIO2021 Congress on Research Integrity
- RI Advisers
Agreeing on authorship: Recommendation for research publications

God vetenskaplig praxis och handläggning av misstankar om avvikelse från den i Finland

Responsible conduct of research and procedures for handling allegations of misconduct in Finland
Finnish National Board on Research Integrity TENK

- Founded 1991 ([Decree 1347 of 15 November 1991](#)).
- 10 board members, appointed by the Ministry of Education and Culture in Finland for three year terms
- Independent, unpolitical organization
- Office situated at the Federation of the Finnish Learned Societies (TSV), Helsinki
- Oversees the investigation processes of research misconduct and serves as a body that handles appeals
Members 1.2.2019 - 31.1.2022

Puheenjohtaja
Professori, dekaani Riitta Keiski, Oulun yliopisto

Varapuheenjohtaja
Professori Erika Löfström, Helsingin yliopisto

Jäsenet
- Kari Hämäläinen, VATT
- Matti Karhunen, VTT
- Leena Liimatainen, Jamk
- Susanna Näreaho, Metropolia
- Riitta Salmelin, Aalto yliopisto
- Sirpa Thessler, Luke
- Aleksi Tornio, Helsingin yliopisto
- Risto Turunen, Itä-Suomen yliopisto
TENK guarantees ethics and quality in research

• by preventing research misconduct in all scientific disciplines
• by drawing up national guidelines
• by organising seminars and promoting education
• by coordinating ethical reviewing of the human sciences
• by networking and being influential both nationally and internationally (ENRIO)
Good scientific practice in Finland: integrity and ethics (*tutkimusetiikka*)

The ethical principles of research with human participants and ethical review in the human sciences in Finland
Good scientific practice in Finland: integrity and ethics (*tutkimusetiikka*)
Code of Conduct for Research Integrity in Finland 1/3

Responsible conduct of research and procedures for handling allegations of misconduct in Finland. Guidelines of the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity 2012 (PDF)

- First published in 1994; in Finnish, Swedish and English; edited versions also in Chinese, Russian and Spanish
Code of Conduct for Research Integrity in Finland 2/3

- **Self regulation system**: voluntary commitment by the research organizations to adhere to the code and to increase awareness of the principles of research integrity
- apply to all academic disciplines and research in Finland

List of the committed organizations (amount 100; for example, all universities), see: [www.tenk.fi](http://www.tenk.fi)
Code of Conduct for Research Integrity in Finland 3/3

- The Finnish guidelines consist of the following parts:

1. Definition of the responsible conduct of research/good research practice
2. Classification of violation against the responsible conduct of research
3. Procedure for handling the allegations of research misconduct
Responsible conduct of research 1/2

- Reliability (*luotettavuus*)
- Honesty (*rehellisyys*)
- Respect (*arvostus*)
- Accountability (*vastuunkanto*)
3. The researcher takes due account of the work and achievements of other researchers by respecting their work, citing their publications appropriately, and by giving their achievements the credit and weight they deserve in carrying out the researcher’s own research and publishing its results.

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*Responsible conduct of research and procedures for handling allegations of misconduct in Finland. 2012, pp. 30.*

Poll!
• Discussion: *What do you think are the biggest risks for the responsible conduct of research?*

• *15 min in groups!*

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ziamkEkOcCioN3EA9RtSZM6AvRD4TKaA-9s0hANQ8L4/edit
Violations of the responsible conduct of research

1. Research misconduct (*vilppi*)
   - Fabrication (*sepittäminen*)
   - Falsification/misrepresentation (*vääristely*)
   - Plagiarism (*plagiointi*)
   - Misappropriation (*anastus*)

2. Disregard for the responsible conduct of research (*piittaamattomuus hyvästä tieteellisestä käytännöstä*)
Investigation of research misconduct

Template for reporting allegations of violation of the RCR:

https://tenk.fi/sites/tenk.fi/files/RCR_notification_form.docx

Organizations must notify TENK of all started investigations.
Other national guidelines by TENK

- The ethical principles of research with human participants and ethical review in the human sciences.
- Template for researcher’s curriculum vitae.
- Supervision of doctoral dissertations and their review process in Finland with a special emphasis on research integrity.
- Agreeing on authorship. Recommendation for research publications.
The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity

by All European Academies ALLEA 2017.
- Supported by European Commission.
A recommendation for authorship in scientific publishing
Authorship – why is it important?

Authorship

• allows for the attribution of credit for an idea or a discovery
• allocates moral rights and provides a basis for peer recognition
• is a unit of measuring academic productivity
• assigns responsibility:
  – All authors are fully responsible for the content of a publication, unless otherwise specified.
Who is an Author?

From the point of view of research integrity:

Author is a person who has “made such a substantial contribution to the creation of a scientific article or similar publication that they should be included in the list of authors and contributors” (Agreeing on authorship: Recommendation for research publications Finnish National Board on Research Integrity TENK 2018).
Substantial contribution?

Conception or design of the work
Data collection
Data analysis and interpretation
Drafting the article
Critical revision of the article
Final approval of the version to be published
Supervision
Funding
Illustration, design......
Vähän isompi ryhmätyö – 450 tutkijaa sai nimensä lehteen

SUNNUNTAI 28.2.2016 2:00

Katja Kuokkanen HELSINGIN SANOMAT

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Agreeing on Authorship. Recommendation for research publications (2018)

- A general guideline that does not specify in detail the principles of authorship
- The idea is to guide research projects on agreeing on principles of authorship as early as possible in order to prevent future authorship disputes
- Available also in English & Swedish

https://vastuullinentiede.fi/en/publishing/who-qualifies-author-research-publication
Good scientific practice in Finland: integrity and ethics (*tutkimusetiikka*)
Good scientific practice in Finland: integrity and ethics (tutkimusetiikka)
Ethical review in human sciences 1/2

The ethical principles of research with human participants and ethical review in the human sciences in Finland 2019 (Finnish, Swedish & English)


1. Respecting the dignity and autonomy of research subjects
2. Avoiding harm
3. Privacy and data protection
• The guidelines are intended for research designs where ethical review is not regulated separately in the Medical Research Act (488/1999).

• Besides humanities and social sciences, these research designs may include e.g. natural sciences and technology, artistic research, and in some cases also in non-invasive health or medical research.

• Where can I find advice? Contact your local human sciences ethics committee secretary
Finnish Research Integrity Barometer 2018

- TENK gets information of all the official investigations: what about the cases that go uninvestigated?
- First Finnish RI barometer carried out by University of Vaasa, TENK and the Responsible Research project
- e-survey sent out in January 2019 (Finnish, Swedish and English)
- Report by Ari Salminen and Lotta Pitkänen published 5/2019
  - Available in at www.tenk.fi

What are perceived as biggest threats to RI? and What types of research misconduct have been observed the most in the past three years?
What the respondents considered to be the biggest threats to research integrity in Finland:

1. Pressures to publish, to acquire funding and move forward in one’s career
2. Unclear ownership of research data and the right to use it
3. Lack of information about researchers’ own rights
And the main observed problem areas?

Cases of disregard for the responsible conduct of research and irresponsible practices, especially

- **exaggerating** one’s merits in a CV or list of publications
- **denigrating** the work of others in publications (e.g. **neglecting** to cite, referring to earlier results inadequately or inappropriately)
- **manipulating** authorship, e.g. gift authorship and ghost authorship

Definitions:
1. Research misconduct
2. Disregard for responsible conduct of research
3. Other irresponsible practices
Overall, the situation in Finland is good

- Very few to no observations of very serious research misconduct
- This supports TENK’s view that research in Finland is carried out responsibly
- However, it’s important that the problems raised by the survey are recognised and solutions are developed

The second RI barometer survey will be carried out in 2022
The ENRIO2021 Congress on Research Integrity Practice, 26-27 September 2021

- First European congress on research integrity practice
- Organised by TENK and ENRIO in collaboration with Aalto University
- Follow @BoardEnrio on Twitter for latest news
The Responsible Research resources

• **Articles:** [https://vastuullinentiede.fi/en/articles](https://vastuullinentiede.fi/en/articles)
• Short informative articles on the responsible production, publication and evaluation of research, including RI + RE topics
• **The Responsible Research website:** one-stop source for information on responsible research in Finland. [https://vastuullinentiede.fi/en](https://vastuullinentiede.fi/en)

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Research Integrity Advisers
Since the start of 2017, TENK has trained more than 140 advisers in more than 70 research organisations

- to offer ethical counselling and confidential discussion in RI matters or ethical issues more broadly
RI Advisers 2/2

Can’t find your own adviser? Contact us:

https://tenk.fi/en/tenk/contact

More info: https://tenk.fi/en/research-misconduct/research-integrity-advisers
For more advice and videos, see www.tenk.fi/en!

https://tenk.fi/en
Who to contact if you have questions?

The RI Adviser at your organisation
https://tenk.fi/fi/tiedevilppi/tutkimusettiikan-tukihenkilot

TENK’s office:
https://tenk.fi/en/tenk/contact