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Research skills

Research Ethics

Coordinator
Professor Anthony SO
Dean of Graduate School

Designed for

All postgraduate students.

Objective

- to develop a higher level of sensitivity about ethical issues in research, especially since postgraduate studies are the first stage that leads to independent academic research.

Structure Seminar & group discussion with speaker from respective discipline

Medium of Instruction English

Brief Description

Honesty in research, proper records, sharing of credit, originality and plagiarism, research ethics, CUHK policy.

Group 1 Non-clinical research

Speaker
Professor Tong Yuying
Professor, Department of Sociology

Details

University research is a professional practice that has evolved over time, like law, medicine and accounting. All such practices are underpinned by values and codes of ethics, which define what is “good” and what is “unacceptable” within the practice. New practitioners need to learn what the key values and codes of ethics are. The aim of the workshop is to introduce the key values and codes of ethics involved in doing research in the humanities and social sciences at CUHK. Some of the key values discussed will include intellectual honesty, integrity and professionalism, fairness and equity, openness regarding conflicts of interest and care for the well-being of all concerned in the research. Key concerns discussed will include plagiarism, academic fraud, careless note-taking or data-gathering, abuse of other people’s research work or academic property, conflict of interest and unethical practices regarding interviewees.

Group 2 Clinical research

Speaker

Professor Szeto Cheuk Chun

Department of Medicine & Therapeutics

Details

Clinical research projects and clinical trials require active participation by patients and/or subjects in the community. The role of Independent Ethics Committee (IEC) or Institution Review Board (IRB) for protecting and safeguarding the research participants is becoming an important issue in clinical research. The development of policy together with practical and efficient processes for the ethics review is critical. In this talk, we would introduce the historical perspective of the role of IEC/IRB, and summarize the key spirit of Belmont Report, the Declaration of Helsinki, and the purpose of ICH GCP Guidelines using recent incidences as examples. We would discuss how clinical researchers, hospitals administrators and the public work together to accomplish our current Clinical Research Ethics Committee (CREC) infrastructure.

Qualitative Research Methods - Ethnographic Approaches

Speaker

Prof. Leilah Sohrab VEVAINA

Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology

Designed for

Postgraduate students in the faculties of Arts, Business Administration, Education, Medicine, Social Science and Law who need to understand peoples' cultural points of view for their research.

Objective

- to introduce ethnographic research methods.

Structure

2.5-hour lecture and discussion

Medium of Instruction

English

Brief Description

Ethnographic research involves collecting data that describe a culture or part of a culture. Especially important is understanding culture from the informants' points of view. Ethnographic description and understanding can be a goal in and of itself, or can be the first step before quantitative and comparative studies. Methods include participant observation, person-centered interviewing and direct systematic observation of behavior.

Quantitative Research Methods - Survey Research

Dr. Ho Ching Wai Chris
Lecturer, Department of Sociology

Designed for

All postgraduate students.

Objective

- to introduce the practice of survey research.

Structure 2.5-hour lecture

Medium of Instruction English

Brief Description

This seminar is a brief introduction on the practical issues of survey research. Discussion will focus on the basic features of survey research. The presentation emphasizes the importance of preparation work before conducting the survey, particularly on the design and planning stages. Measurement, sampling strategies and sample size issues will also be discussed. Finally, the talk will cover selected issues on questionnaire design. Discussions will be supplemented with examples.

Research Skills

Basics of Research Data Management

Coordinator

Ms. Qinqin Zhang

Research Data Librarian

The Chinese University of Hong Kong Library

Designed for

ALL research postgraduate and taught doctoral students (admitted in 2022/23 or after).

Students are required to complete this online course and its accompanying examination within their first year of studies, as part of the requirements for candidacy and graduation.

Objective & Brief Description

Research Data Management (RDM) plays an increasingly vital role across all stages of the research life cycle. This self-paced online course offers a comprehensive introduction to key RDM topics, including data management planning, data deposit, and data ethics. Upon completion, students will gain a solid understanding of the purpose and guiding principles of effective research data management.

Structure

Self-learning online course and examination

Medium of Instruction: English

Completion requirements

To complete this compulsory course, students must:

- 1) go through **ALL** the materials online, **AND**
- 2) pass the online examination.

Remark:

- An email with login information will be sent to individual registrant one week before the start day of each group.
- The Chinese University of Hong Kong Library organizes various types of workshops and seminars to address your research needs throughout the academic year. The workshop schedules are available on the CUHK Library home page (<http://www.lib.cuhk.edu.hk/en/learning/workshops>) and on the Library's notice boards.

Exemption:

Students who have attended this compulsory course in their previous study may apply for exemption by submitting a [declaration form](#) to CLEAR.

Introduction to Research Data Management

3 identical sessions in Term 1 (September – October 2025)

Group 1 - 3 – Introduction to Research Data Management

Speaker

Ms. Qinqin Zhang
Research Data Librarian
The Chinese University of Hong Kong Library

Designed for

ALL postgraduate students engaged in research involving data management. These sessions are optional, but they are **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** to help enhance your skills in effective research data management.

Objective

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- understand the purpose, principles, and benefits of research data management
- demonstrate the skills in managing and depositing research data

Structure 1.5-hour workshop

Medium of Instruction English

Delivery Mode Online (Zoom)

Brief Description

The workshops will cover:

- fundamental concepts of RDM
- key benefits of effective RDM
- core components in RDM
- RDM practices in the CUHK context
- data depositing and sharing in the CUHK Research Data Repository

Getting Started with Data Management Plans

3 identical sessions in Term 2 (January – February 2026)

Group 1 - 3 – Getting Started with Data Management Plans

Speaker

Ms. Qinqin Zhang
Research Data Librarian
The Chinese University of Hong Kong Library

Designed for

ALL postgraduate students engaged in research involving data management. These sessions are optional, but they are **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** to support your fulfillment of the DMP development requirement under the new Research Data Management (RDM) mandate issued by the Graduate School.

Objective

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- understand the purpose and benefits of data management planning
- create an effective data management plan using the CUHK DMP Template in DMPTool
- fulfill the DMP development requirement under the new RDM mandate issued by the Graduate School

Structure 1.5-hour workshop

Medium of Instruction English

Delivery Mode Online (Zoom)

Brief Description

The workshops will cover:

- fundamental concepts of DMP
- benefits of creating a DMP
- core components in a DMP
- detailed steps on how to create a DMP using the CUHK DMP Template in DMPTool