



# RELATIONAL AND EVERYDAY ETHICS IN RESEARCH

Researchers often understand research ethics to mean rules and regulations, but it is also about relationships and everyday experiences. In order to help researchers think about these other parts of research ethics, we developed an approach we call “person-oriented research ethics.”

**Reference:** Cascio, M.A. and E. Racine. 2018. Person-Oriented Research Ethics: Integrating Relational and Everyday Ethics in Research. *Accountability in Research*. 25(3):170-197.

## WHO SHOULD READ THIS?

We mostly developed this framework for researchers to use, both social and biomedical scientists who work with humans. We also think that people who think about taking part in research or who read about or use the research results should read it.



## WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

It is about how researchers can do research. We talk about everyday steps in research such as design, choosing people to ask to take part, making a good experience for people who take part, helping people decide to take part or not, and sharing results.

## WHAT DID WE DO?

We read about ideas and practices in clinical ethics (like patient-centered care) and how they can be used in research (like patient-oriented research). We looked for common themes that might be useful to researchers in any field doing any type of study.



5

- RESPECT FOR HOLISTIC PERSONHOOD
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LIVED WORLD
- INDIVIDUALIZATION
- FOCUS ON RESEARCHER-PARTICIPANT RELATIONSHIPS
- EMPOWERMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

## WHAT DID WE FIND?

We came up with five guideposts for person-oriented research (see list on the left). We also found specific concrete examples and ideas researchers can use.

## WHAT NOW?

Many things researchers can do to be person-oriented might change based on who is taking part in research. We are now working on writing guides for research involving specific groups, like people with autism. We are involving autistic people and communities in this writing.

