

# HOW CAN RESEARCHERS EMPOWER AUTISTIC PEOPLE'S DECISION-MAKING?

This article is about research ethics when people with autism take part in research studies. It is one of the articles related to the Autism Research Ethics Task Force Project (to read more about this, click [here](#) or [here](#)). This article asks: how can researchers design studies that give people with autism the power to make choices about research?

**Reference:** Cascio, M.A., Weiss, J.A., & Racine, E. (2020). Empowerment in decision-making for autistic people in research, *Disability & Society*, DOI: [10.1080/09687599.2020.1712189](https://doi.org/10.1080/09687599.2020.1712189).

## WHO SHOULD READ THIS?

People who want to do research with people with autism should read this article to learn about strategies to give autistic people power in research. Autistic people who might take part in research should read this article to learn what researchers think about.



## WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

It talks about making choices in research. A big choice is to take part in research or not. There are also many small choices during research. People with autism can also make choices about research as partners, researchers, and research-users.

## WHAT DID THE RESEARCHERS DO?

They read what other published articles said about this issue (literature review) and talked with autistic people, parents, advocates, and professionals (task force deliberation). Then, they created a list of ideas that researchers can use to give more power to people with autism in research.



## WHAT DID THE RESEARCHERS FIND?

They found tips for autism-friendly choice-making about taking part in research, collecting data, research design, sharing results of research, and working with autistic communities. They found overall themes of empowerment as consent, as a process, as a form of engagement, and empowerment in context.

## WHAT NOW?

Future work will use these ideas and test how well they work. Keep up to date on this project through the website: <https://www.autismresearchethics.net/>.

