

FNWI Ethics Committee (FEC)

Cees de Laat



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- prof. dr. ir. Cees de Laat (chair)
- prof. dr. Yde Venema
- prof. dr. Ronald Koes
- Secr: drs. Eric Sennema MPA
- More members tba



Charter

The committee has been commissioned to carry out, at the request of researchers and lecturers, assessments of research that could be susceptible to vulnerabilities of an ethical nature.

The FEC advises authorities - institute and education directors, dean - who ultimately decide on admissibility or any measures to be taken.

Why obtain advice?

The three main research risks are the same for many disciplines and are all best assessed in advance:

- Risks tied to social attitudes: are there any issues connected to the research that run counter to prevalent ethical viewpoints in the community or society?
- Risks tied to the protection of the researcher's own legal interests: could the research lead to criminal prosecution, and, if so, how can this risk be minimized?
- Risks arising from dual use or unintended use of research results.

Scope

- The FEC does not perform reviews of theoretical, experimental and applied research proposals with, in the opinion of the investigator, have no impact for the integrity of subjects and objects of research (such as humans and animals), and have no social consequences for public safety, the environment and public health.
- The FEC does not examine aspects of research that are already examined under ethical legislation, such as the Medical Scientific Research Act (WMO) by a Medical Ethics Review Committee (METC), or the Animal Testing Act (WoD) by an Animal Experiments Commission (DEC) .
- The FEC does not examine research proposals that fall under a sectoral ethics committee (SEC), which may be set up by one or more institutes of the faculty (e.g. the ECIS).

GDPR

- Most ethical cases also involve personal data
- GDPR == LAW --> go to UvA legal service
- FG = Functionaris Gegevensbescherming
 - mr. Menno Jehee
- Encrypt, Anonymize, Proportional
- Responsible Disclosure
- The FEC does not advice on solely GDPR related issues.

Portal

- University board request all R&E checked
- EU/NWO sometimes request statements.
- Need for scalable approach
- Portal developed by FMG generalized by ICTS

Related committees

- **Ethics Committee**

- Algemene Instellingsgebonden Ethische Commissie (AIEC)
- The Ethics Committee of the University of Amsterdam was established in 2002. The AIEC advises the Executive Board on guidelines with respect to ethical issues pertaining to the University's activities.
- Yde Venema is member.

- **Chairs of the various UvA Ethical Committees**

- Cees de Laat is member.

- **Ethical Committee for the Information Sciences (ECIS)**

- UvA – VU – CWI
- Has a delegated committee for one of the masters
- Cees de Laat is chair.



ECIS - Ethics Committee for Information Sciences

Purpose

This page is to explain the ECIS committee process and required documentations.

Until very recently, ethical discussions were only relevant to fields of research in which research is conducted on humans, such as medicine and some social sciences. However, due to the increased involvement of humans as in (in)direct research objects in the Information Sciences (IS), these ethical discussions are also becoming important in this field. To guarantee the integrity of the researches and their research, a framework within to work is necessary to guarantee the quality and social relevance of research conducted under the umbrella of the Informatics Institute. A framework where the legal and ethical aspects of research need to be examined before, during and after the project. This will be done by the Ethical Committee for Information Sciences (ECIS), which is part of the Institute for Information Sciences of the University of Amsterdam.

Charter

The ECIS - Ethics Committee for Information Sciences advises the directors of the informatics/computer science institutes at UvA, VU and CWI regarding cases in research and education that require ethical evaluation and oversight. Additional info about these functions and requirements can be found here:

- <http://ivi.uva.nl/research/ethical-code/ethical-code.html>

Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity:

- [In Dutch](#)
- [English version](#)

Additionally contextual information can be found in the KNAW publication:

- <http://www.knaw.nl/nl/actueel/nieuws/knaw-pleit-voor-ethische-beoordelingscommissies-informaticaonderzoek>
- http://www.knaw.nl/en/news/news/academy-advocates-ethical-review-boards-for-informatics-research?set_language=en

And Scientific Advisory to the government report on Big Data in a Free and Secure Society:

- [rapport_95_Big_Data_in_een_vrije_en_veilige_samenleving.pdf](#)

A (Dutch) Leidraad om te komen tot een praktijk van Responsible Disclosure:

- [Responsible+Disclosure.pdf](#)

Committee

The IvI ECIS core committee consists of:

- prof.dr.ir. C.T.A.M. de Laat (UvA) (chair)
- J. van Ginkel MSc (UvA) (Secretary)
- drs. Arjan Vreeken (UvA)
- dr. P.S. Cesar (CWI)
- dr. J.R. van Ossenbruggen (CWI)

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Purpose

This page explains the FEC committee process and required documentations.

Assessment framework for ethical issues.

Researchers who have been appointed at the Faculty of Science are expected

- to be aware of principles that the VSNU has established for research integrity; [1]
- to be well- informed about ethical issues that may arise within their field ;
- behave like a scientific professional, in accordance with the guidelines of the VSNU.

This charter allocates the primary responsibility for integrity in scientific practice and identifying ethical issues in research proposals at the researcher. To recognize and overcome ethical issues, researchers can seek advice and support from ethics committees. This guiding principle forms the basis for the assignment of duties and responsibilities to the FNWI ethics committee (FEC). The FEC thus only advises in cases in which the researcher is in doubt whether his/her research project complies with the ethical standards applicable for the field he/she is working in.

The workflow of the committee for notification, assessment and advise on research projects of staff and students will be based on peer review and will respect the following principles:

1. The FEC does not perform reviews of theoretical, experimental and applied research proposals with, in the opinion of the investigator, have no impact for the integrity of subjects and objects of research (such as humans and animals), and have no social consequences for public safety, the environment and public health.
2. The FEC does not examine aspects of research that are already examined under ethical legislation, such as the Medical Scientific Research Act (WMO) by a Medical Ethics Review Committee (METC), or the Animal Testing Act (WoD) by an Animal Experiments Commission (DEC) .
3. The FEC does not examine research proposals that fall under a sectoral ethics committee (SEC), which may be set up by one or more institutes of the faculty. [2]

The following applies to all other cases.

1. If a proposed research project may adversely affect personal or social integrity of persons or animals subject or object of the investigation, or if there can be far-reaching social consequences, the researcher or PI assesses the research proposal with the help of a checklist that can identify ethical issues.
2. If after this test reasonable doubts remain as to whether the research proposal is acceptable from an ethical perspective, the FEC is informed. The FEC performs a review of the proposal, following the workflow set up by the commission.

Charter

Among other things, the committee has been commissioned to carry out, at the request of researchers and lecturers, assessments of research that could be susceptible to vulnerabilities of an ethical nature. The FEC advises authorities - institute and education directors, dean - who ultimately decide on admissibility or any measures to be taken.

Committee

The FEC consists of:

- prof.dr.ir. C.T.A.M. de Laet (IvI) (chair)
- Prof.dr. Y. Venema (ILLC)
- prof.dr. R.E. Koes (SILS)
- drs. Eric Sennema MPA (secr)

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Questions?

- <https://medewerker.uva.nl/en/science/content-secured/az/faculty-of-science-ethics-committee-fec/faculty-of-science-ethics-committee-fec.html>
- <http://delaat.net/fec>
- <http://delaat.net/ecis>
- **To get in touch with the Faculty Ethics Committee, please contact the committee secretary, Eric Sennema.**

