



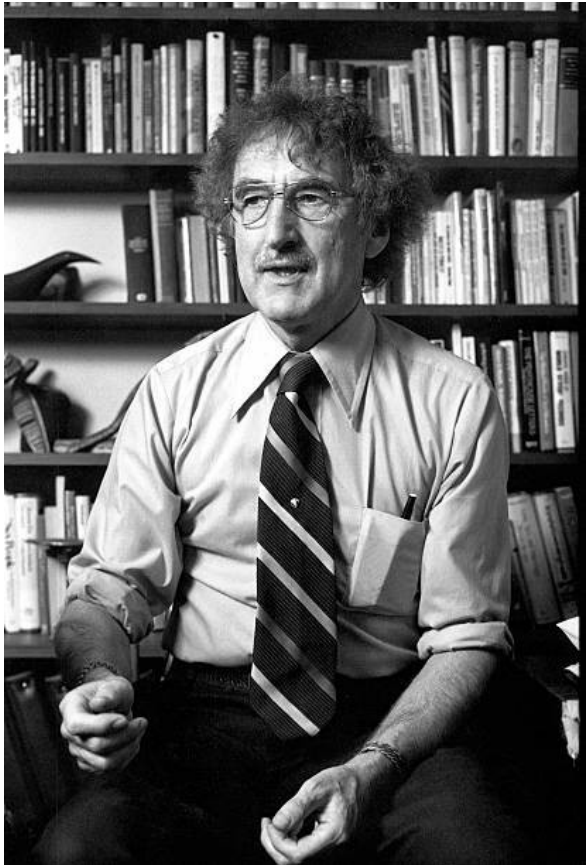
The ins and outs of ethical research and integrity

Sarah Claes & Marianne De Voecht

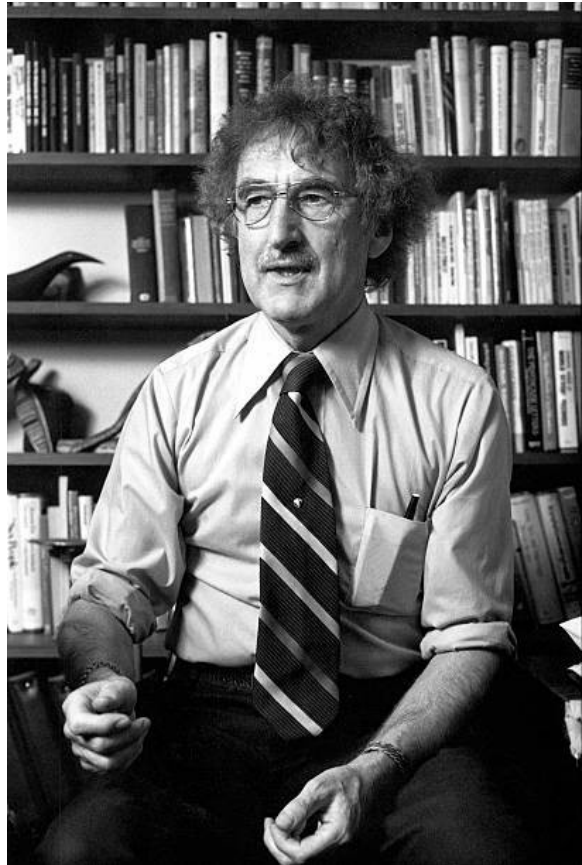
Research, Innovation & Valorisation Antwerp (RIVA)

Research ethics

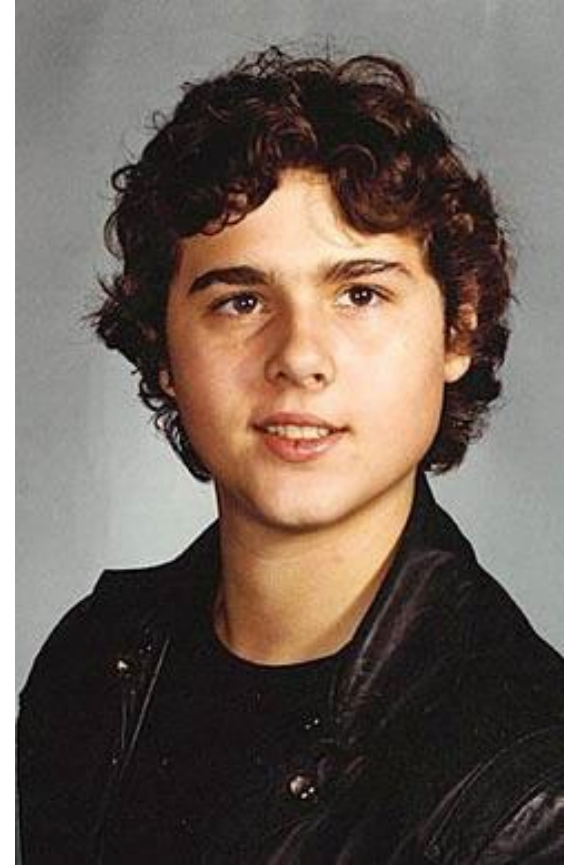
Sarah Claes



John Money



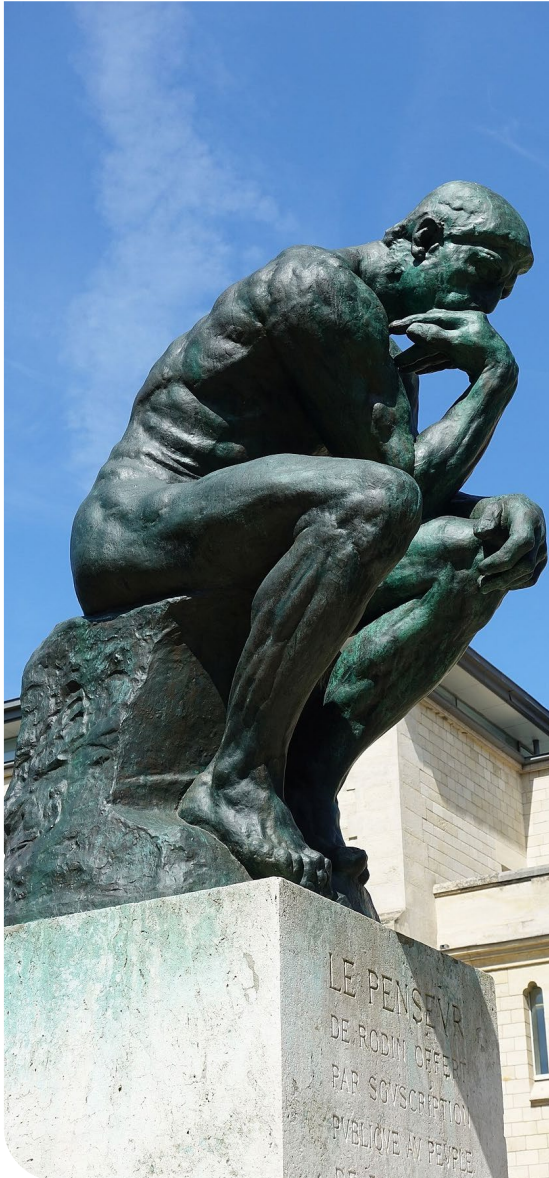
John Money



David Reimer

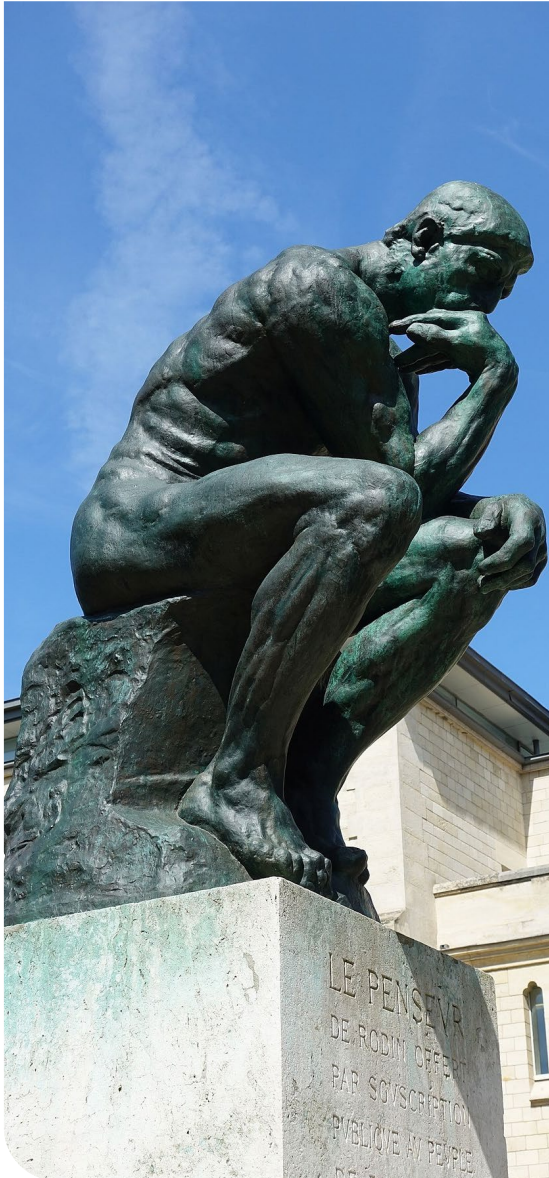
What went wrong?





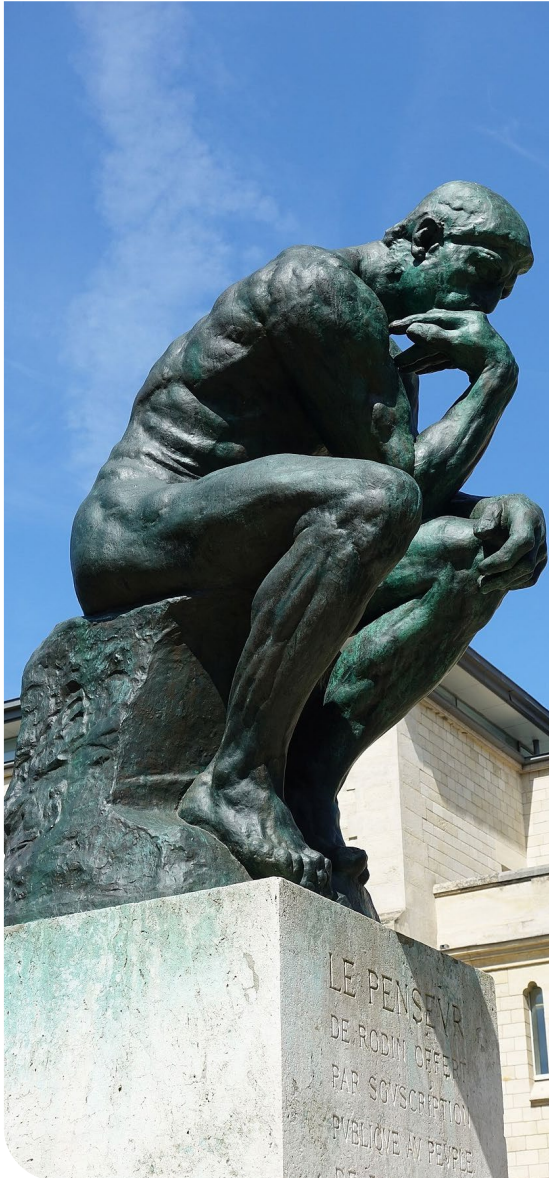
Bias

- Research question/proposal/outline
- Participants
- Confirmation bias
- Positive results bias



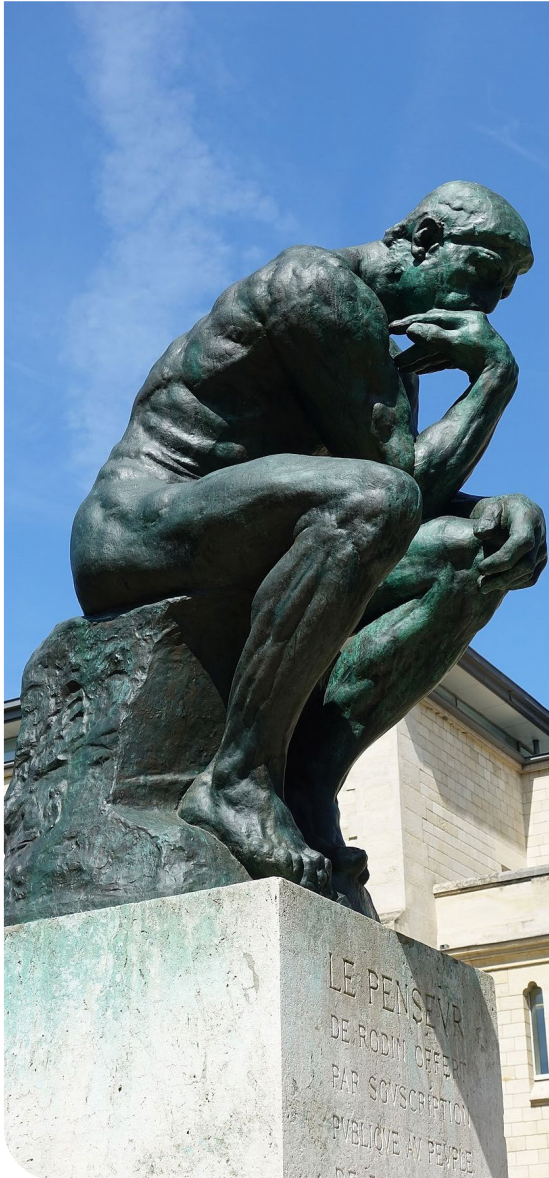
Voluntary participation

- Participants have a right to be informed
- Participants have a right to consent



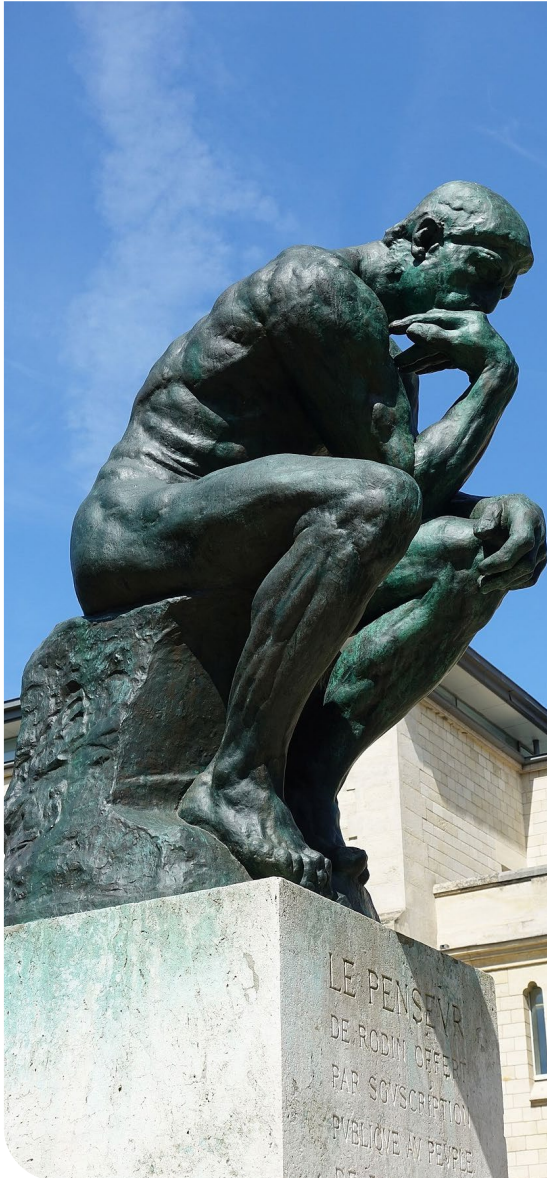
Working with vulnerable groups

- Context-specific
- What are vulnerable groups?
- Special considerations for minors



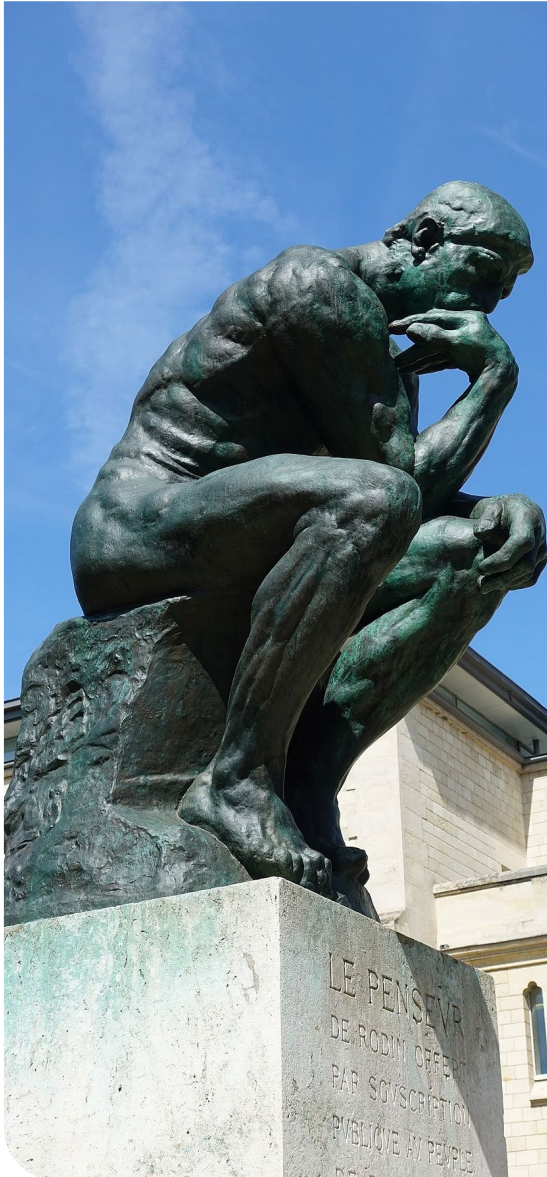
Working with animals

- Animal experiments
- Non-Alternative Methodes (NAMs)



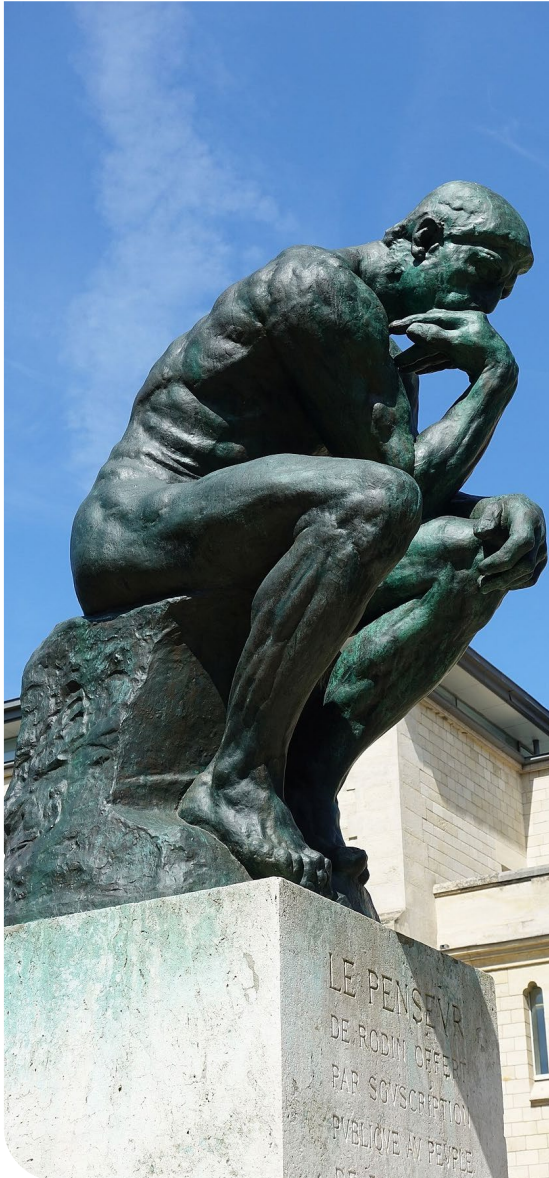
Follow-up and incidental findings

- Provide safety nets for participants
- Obligation to report?



Respect for human rights and the possibility for misuse

- Does(/might) your research activity OR a partner involved directly/indirectly violate human rights?
e.g. Technological applications, Artificial Intelligence, pathogens or toxins,...
- Can your research be potentially misused for unethical purposes in the wrong hands?
e.g. interrogation techniques, night vision equipment, facial recognition,...



Ethics dumping

- Performing research abroad to avoid strict regulations.

The basics

- The well-being of human participants and laboratory animals
- The well-being of those carrying out the research activity
- The interests of the wider society
- Respect for cultural heritage, human rights and the environment
- The safety of individuals or groups with special attention for minority or vulnerable groups
- Safeguarding the reputation of the research group, the faculty, the university and the scientific practice as a whole.

[Code of conduct](#)

Ethics Committees

Committee for Medical
Ethics UZA-UAntwerp

ethisch.comite@uza.be

Ethics Committee for
Animal Testing

ecd@uantwerpen.be

Ethics Committee for the
Social Sciences and
Humanities

eashw@uantwerpen.be

Ethics Committee for
Science & Technology
(Dual Use)

[dualuse
@uantwerpen.be](mailto:dualuse@uantwerpen.be)

Research Misconduct & Research Integrity

Marianne De Voecht

Research misconduct



Definition Research Misconduct (ORI)

- **Research misconduct is defined as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results**
 - Fabrication is making up data or results and recording or reporting them.
 - Falsification is manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.
 - Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit



Explanations (Davis, Riske-Morris and Diaz, 2007)

- Easier?
- Personal circumstances?
- Institutional environment?
- Lack of training?
- Tolerated?
- Cultural differences?
- But: better detection



Fraud Triangle (by Donald R. Cressey) adapted to Scientific Misconduct

Procedure for complaints @UAntwerp

- **Independent Contact Point for Research Integrity**

- Prof. Willem Lemmens

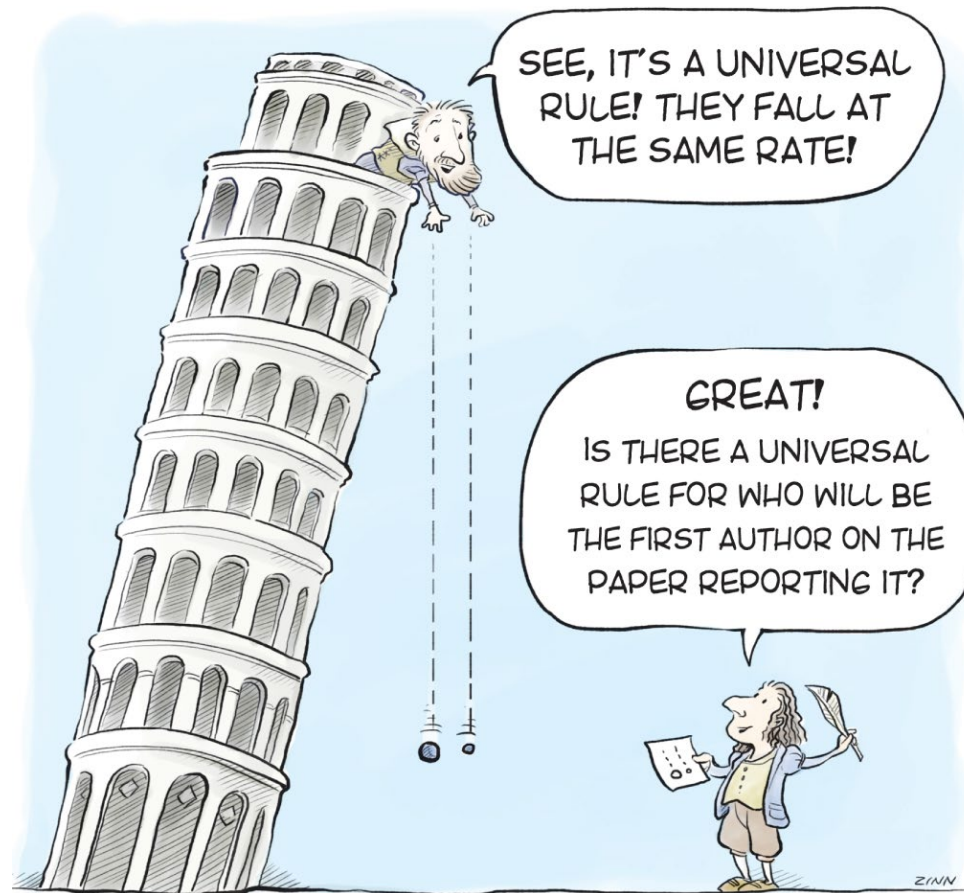
- **Committee for Research Integrity**

- Create awareness and give advice to researchers
- Investigate possible violations of scientific integrity
- Flemish Committee for Research Integrity

- **Under consideration: Confidential counsellor for RI**



Research Integrity



What is Research Integrity?

- **Research integrity describes**
 - an attitude of researchers and those involved in research whereby they conduct their research according to **appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards.**
 - an approach for organising and conducting **responsible scientific and scholarly work.** Because of this, it is inherently part of the **quality assurance of daily research practice** and its results.

<https://www.uib.no/en/rino>



Why does Research Integrity matter?

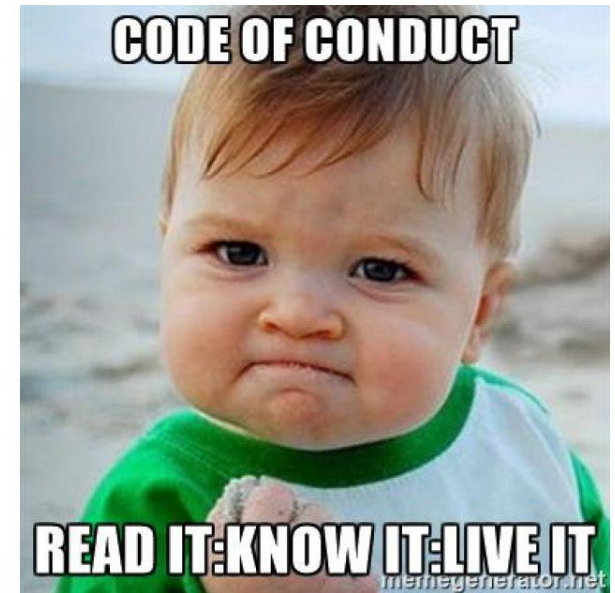
- Scientific and scholarly research
 - To understand the world we live in
 - As a basis for further research
 - To solve real-life problems

➡ Almost everybody has a potential interest in the way research is done and its outcomes.

➡ Integrity, quality and legitimacy of research are inextricably connected.

Responsible Conduct of Research

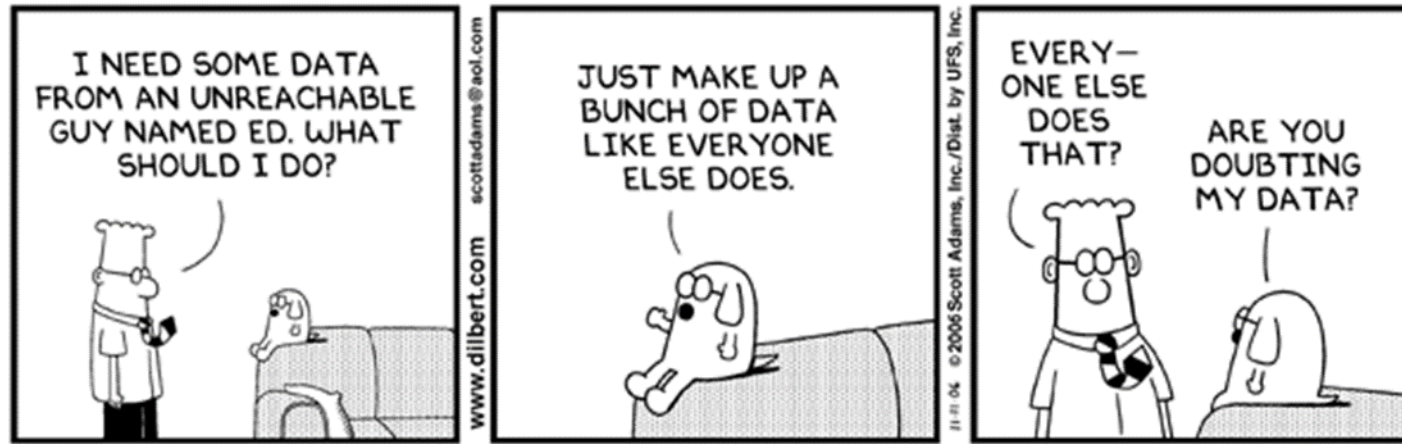
- **European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (ALLEA, 2017)**
 - *Reliability, Honesty, Respect and Accountability*
 - Research Environment
 - Training, supervision and mentoring
 - Research procedures
 - Safeguards
 - Data practices and management
 - Collaborative working
 - Publication and dissemination
 - Reviewing, evaluating and editing
- **UAntwerp:**
 - Code of Conduct
 - Authorship guidelines



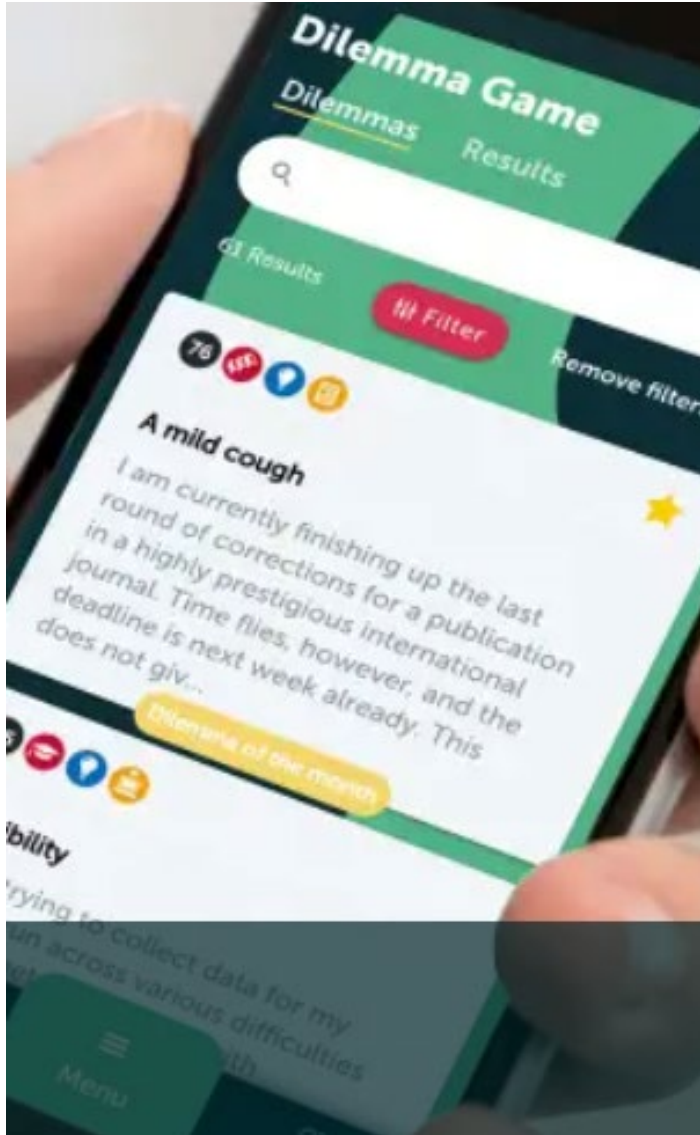
Mind the GAP

- Interuniversity online training tool on research integrity
- Available on Blackboard (after login)
- 4 Basic modules + 2 extra modules (ethics & GDPR)
- Approximately 8 hours to complete
- Final test (80% or higher to receive certificate)
- Important: compulsory for starting PhD researchers

Cases (Dilemma Game)

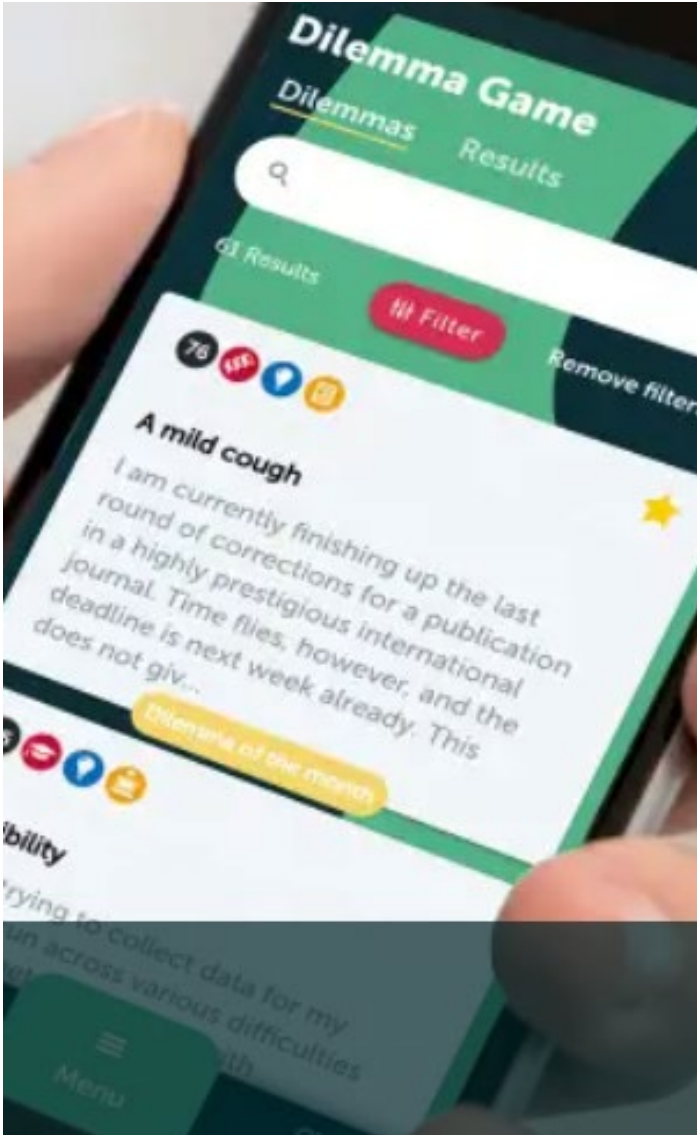


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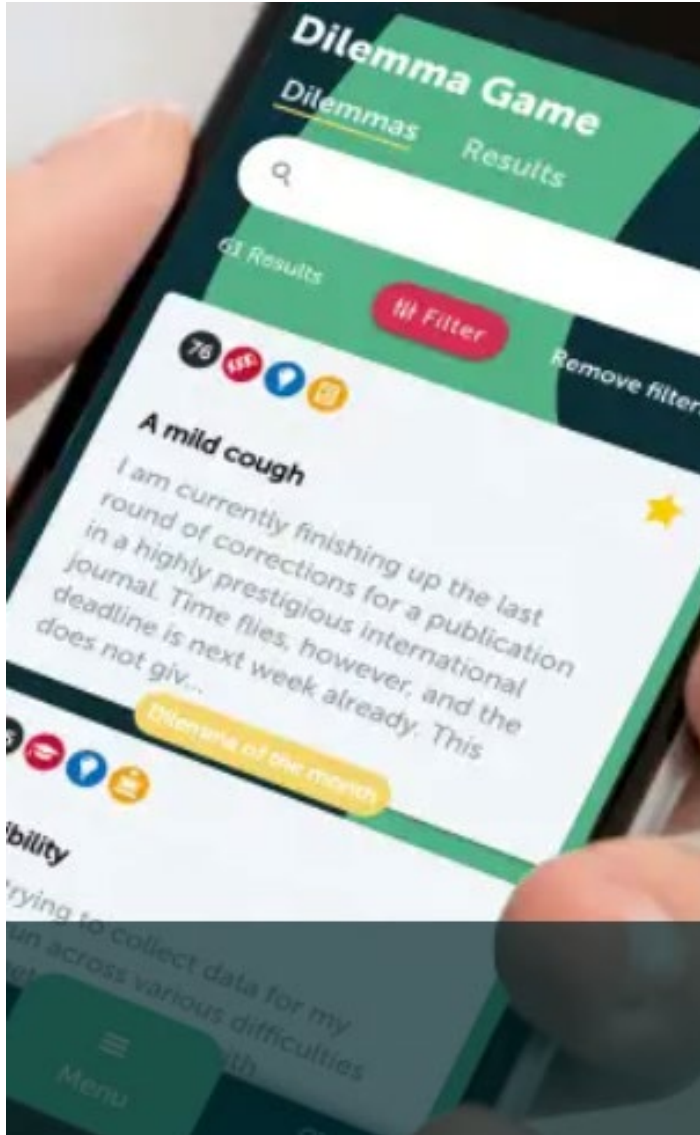
Free lunch?

- I am starting my PhD project and as a first task I am asked to rewrite a paper by a former PhD colleague who has meanwhile left academia. I notice the paper needs only small changes and the reviewers are very mild and friendly, so the paper may get accepted in the next round. My professor suggests putting me as last author, to support my academic career, despite my limited contribution to the actual research process. He will himself be the first author. The former PhD has agreed that others can use his work, but no specific agreements were made. What do I do?



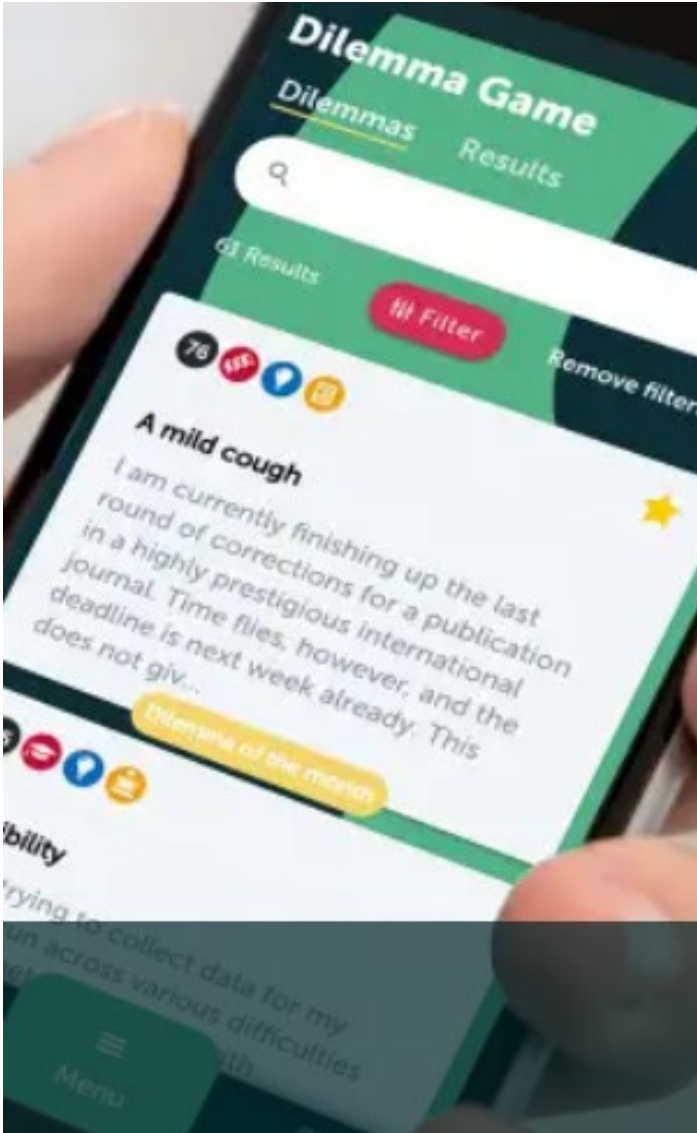
Free lunch?

- A I agree to the offer and get listed as last author.
- B I suggest that I should be mentioned in a footnote, but not listed as author.
- C I contact the former PhD and ask him whether he wants the publication in his name.
- D I decline the revising job; I do not want to be involved



Friendly reviewer

- I am working as a PhD student and have almost finished my thesis. Within a few months I will start working at another institute on the same type of research. I have just submitted the last chapter of my dissertation to a journal. Yesterday, I received an email from my future boss in which he asks me to provide him with some review suggestions for my own paper. As it happens he is one of the reviewers. In this way, I am better prepared to respond to his review report and can increase the chance of acceptance. For both of us it will be good to have the manuscript accepted in a prestigious journal, as it will boost my career and increase the chances for getting grants together with my future boss. What do I do?



Friendly reviewer

- A I tell my supervisor about the email and let it depend on him what to do.
- B It is very important for my career to get the article published, so I send an email with some suggestions to my future boss.
- C I thank my future boss for his help, but I tell him that I cannot accept the offer.
- D I contact the editor of the journal about the offer of the reviewer.

Questions?

