Participatory Action Research in support of research integrity: engaging the parties concerned

A different way to support scientific integrity

How to overcome some limitations to conventional training?

Current mixed results: conventional training and educational strategies do not fully address issues of research integrity

Our belief: achieving greater rigor and effectiveness by requiring the authentic engagement of all parties concerned

Our approach: testing Participatory Action Research to support collaborative thinking and action in the field of research integrity

Participatory Action Research (PAR): to support collaborative thinking and action

Developed: in partnership between GDR PARCS and SAS² Dialogue

First experiment: with 50 PhD students in the course of Agreenium's International School (2015, Nancy; 2016, Montpellier)

Design: 4 participatory steps
  - Identifying key moral principles
  - Identifying actual misconducts
  - Developing recommendations
  - Implementing key actions

Conclusions: Further testing and improvement

First experiment: Authentic engagement achieved through PAR shows promising results in the identification of actual issues of research integrity.

Next step: the full methodology, under development, allows participants to identify the main drivers of research integrity and to develop recommendations suited to the context.

Safe space approach: allows to create safe space for all those involved in group-based ethical discussions.

Key moral principles addressing research integrity issues generated in less than 2 hours
  - Including honesty, neutrality, transparency, courtesy and fairness, responsibility, accountability...

Misconducts identified
  - Fabrication, Falsification, Plagiarism (FFP)
  - Questionable Research Practices (QRP), poor methodology
  - Conflict of interests and pressure (with funders)
  - Elitism

One major concern linked with data management
  - Poor quality: data falsification or fabrication
  - Difficulty or lack of access
  - “Stolen” data

Some request
  - Involving senior researchers to further explore issues of research integrity in their own work

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