

**Call for Papers *Academy of Management Learning & Education* 2015 Special Topic Forum**

**ESSAY, DIALOGUES, & INTERVIEWS**

**ETHICS IN MANAGEMENT RESEARCH: COLLUSION, COMPETITION, OR  
COLLABORATION?**

**Guest Editors:**

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We are pleased to announce this Call for the Essays, Dialogues, & Interviews (EDI) section of a forthcoming issue of the *Academy of Management Learning & Education*. The focus of this special section will be on ethics in management research, and a complementary special issue is being developed at the *Academy of Management Perspectives* in coordination with the Ethics Education Committee of the Academy of Management.

Recent high profile cases of apparent academic misconduct by management scholars, including both authors and journal editors, are forcing academics to confront the practical side of a number of ethical dilemmas. Such cases call into question presumptions that scholars acquire “research ethics” during graduate training and also raise doubts about whether we can take for granted that research norms and values are commonly and universally applied by scholars. Global growth in management education has increased demand and competition for both students and faculty. Faced with the need to compete internationally, many schools have sought to improve reputations and rankings by increasing their expectations of the research quality of their faculty. However, limited availability of publication space in reputable “top-tier” journals combined with growing pressure to publish in these journals, may be creating an ethically challenging environment for scholars. While young academics may be familiar with the ethical principles of their professions, they struggle to put these principles into practice in a context increasingly shaped by intense competition, high journal rejection rates, and rising expectations from their institutions. As a result, scholars must deal with numerous ethical dilemmas that arise during research collaboration, data gathering, analysis, manuscript construction, and the review and publication process. In fields that prize novelty, they must also contend with ethical dilemmas that emerge as they strive to establish novelty, differentiate their work from previous research, and make their results as ‘interesting’ as possible.

These dilemmas may be most acute for young scholars striving to complete their doctorates, obtain an academic position, and subsequently, secure promotion and tenure. However, they are also important for established scholars in their institutional roles as dissertation supervisors, reviewers, editors, department chairs, deans, and executives in professional associations. In these roles, established scholars must not only confront ethical issues when making decisions about the lives of others, but also when it comes to judging the ethical behavior of others. Furthermore, when individual research scholars amass authority as institutional actors they are often in positions that require the formulation of ethical codes, and the implementation of systems and programs that may have far-reaching ethical implications.

This special section of Essays, Dialogues, and Interviews will consider these pressures that may subvert ethical conduct in management research today, and also invite submissions on research

designs, measures, methods, and policies that could be introduced to improve ethical behavior and practice in management education and research. The special section will welcome submissions that examine practices that have led to recent scandals in our field that need to be addressed. These include self-plagiarism, misleading data reporting, unethical data manipulation and/or the outright fabrication of data and results; and beyond these more subtle violations of conduct such as selective sampling and other dubious trade-offs. In addition, the special section seeks submissions on journal practices such as coercive citation practices, and overt collusion among related journals to inflate impact factors.

**Potential topics and ideas for contributors:**

- How do scholars learn and transmit ethical principles? How do doctoral students and early career scholars learn about ethics? How can we do it better?
- How do career pressures influence ethical conduct of management faculty? What roles do the tenure and promotion system play in undermining and/or promoting ethics? Would a different approach to tenure and promotion improve research ethics?
- How do business schools, universities, accreditation boards, journals, and professional societies such as the Academy of Management, advance or hinder ethical behavior in management research?
- What ethical lapses have occurred in our discipline that have (or should have) influenced practices that advance research ethics?
- Analyses of the ethical standards of management scholarship over time, or as compared to other academic fields.
- Discussion of methodological practices that can further the field's ability to ensure research integrity.
- Discussion of reviewing and editing practices that can further the field's ability to ensure research integrity.

**Submissions Instructions**

Submissions are due by December 1, 2015, and should adhere to the "Information for Contributors" pages available in the journal and on the website (<http://aom.org/amle>). Manuscripts should be submitted online to <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/amle>, and designated under Manuscript Type as "Special EDI Section-Ethics." Pre-submission discussion of and consultation on potential submission ideas and topics is also welcome. All submissions will be subject to a rigorous double-blind peer-review process, with one or all guest editors acting as action editor, and final approval coming from the journal editor. Invitations to revise and resubmit will follow initial submissions in approximately 3 months.

A related Preconference Development Workshop (PDW) on Ethics in Management Research will also take place at the 2015 Academy of Management meeting in Vancouver on Friday August 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM in Room 002 Vancouver Convention Center. All prospective authors and scholars interested in the topics are welcome to attend.