RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND RESEARCH ETHICS

RDM Advanced webinar
Ethical and Legal Compliance
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RESEARCH INTEGRITY OR RESEARCH ETHICS?

- Research ethics:
  - Ethical questions related to the study: minimizing risks to, e.g. research subjects, environment, society, cultural heritage etc.
  - How to protect participants from possible harms?

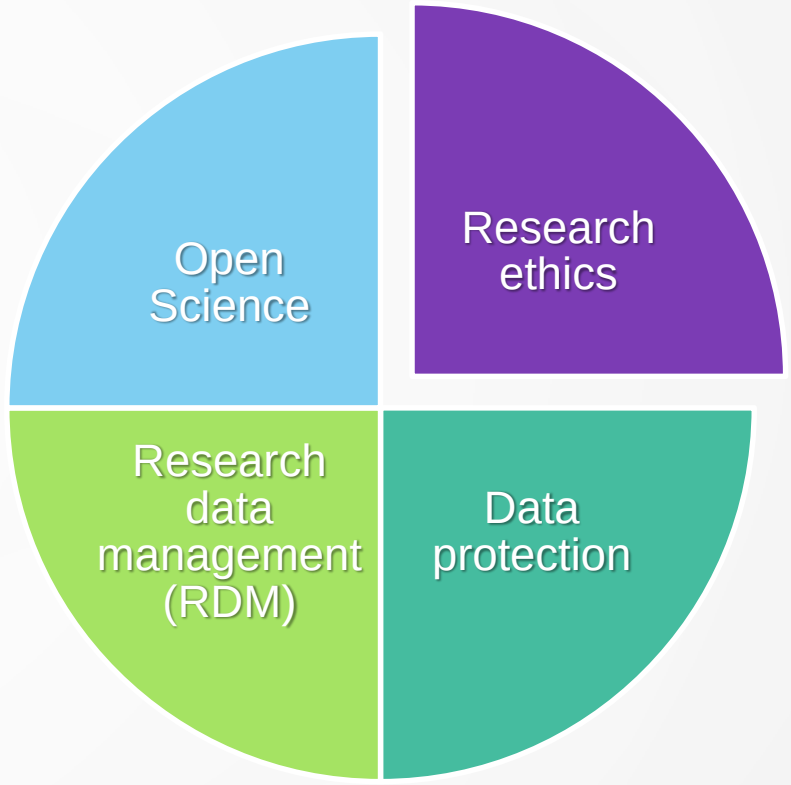
- Research integrity:
  - Good scientific practice
  - Often seen as synonymous with **responsible conduct of research** (Hyvä tieteellinen käytäntö in Finnish)

RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH (RCR)

- National Board on Research Integrity TENK: "Responsible conduct of research and procedures for handling allegations of misconduct in Finland"
- The Finnish model is an internationally recognized and respected pioneering model of a European **self-regulation framework** on research integrity.
- Responsible conduct of research is an integral part of the quality assurance of research organisations.
- **The responsibility for abiding by good scientific practice rests with the research community as a whole and with each individual researcher**. Each researcher must follow the premises for the responsible conduct of research.

RESEARCH INTEGRITY

- “Good research practices are based on fundamental principles of research integrity.” (ALLEA, The European code of conduct for Research integrity)
  - ➢Reliability, honesty, respect, accountability
- Research integrity also means that research work must be undertaken in an ethically sustainable way. Issues of data protection and information security must be taken into consideration.
- Research integrity and research ethics are part of researcher’s professional skills.



INFORMED CONSENT

- The fundamental starting point of research with human participants is the participants' trust in researchers and science. (TENK)
  - The research subject's consent is the basis of research ethics, both in the human sciences and in medicine.
- Informed consent can be given only if the research subject has received sufficient information on the research.
- The researcher often has to ask the research subject for two different consents – ethical and juridical.

RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEES, UH

- The University of Helsinki has four ethics committees:
  - Research Ethics Committee in the Humanities and Social and Behavioural Sciences
  - Research Ethics Committee on Animal Research
  - Research Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Medicine
  - Research Ethics Committee in the Natural, Biological and Environmental Sciences and Engineering

➢ **In human sciences (SSH), the review statement does not constitute a research permit, and the ethics review of a study does not shift the researcher's ethical responsibility for their work to the ethics committee.**

WHEN ETHICAL REVIEW IS NEEDED?

- Medical Research Act (986/1999): “The research plan shall be submitted for the opinion of the ethics committee (…) to the ethics committee of the hospital district in whose area the person responsible for the research operates and in whose area the major part of the research is to be carried out.“
- Human sciences:
  1. Participation in the research **deviates from the principle of informed consent**
  2. Research **involves intervening in the physical integrity** of research participants
  3. The focus of the research is on **minors under the age of 15**, without separate consent from a parent or carer or without informing a parent or carer in a way that would enable them to prevent the child’s participation in the research
  4. Research that exposes participants to **exceptionally strong stimuli**
  5. Research that involves a **risk of causing mental harm** that exceeds the limits of normal daily life to the research participants or their family members or others closest to them
  6. Conducting the research could involve **a threat to the safety of participants or researchers** or their family members or others closest to them

ETHICAL REVIEW PARTICULARLY ASSESSES:

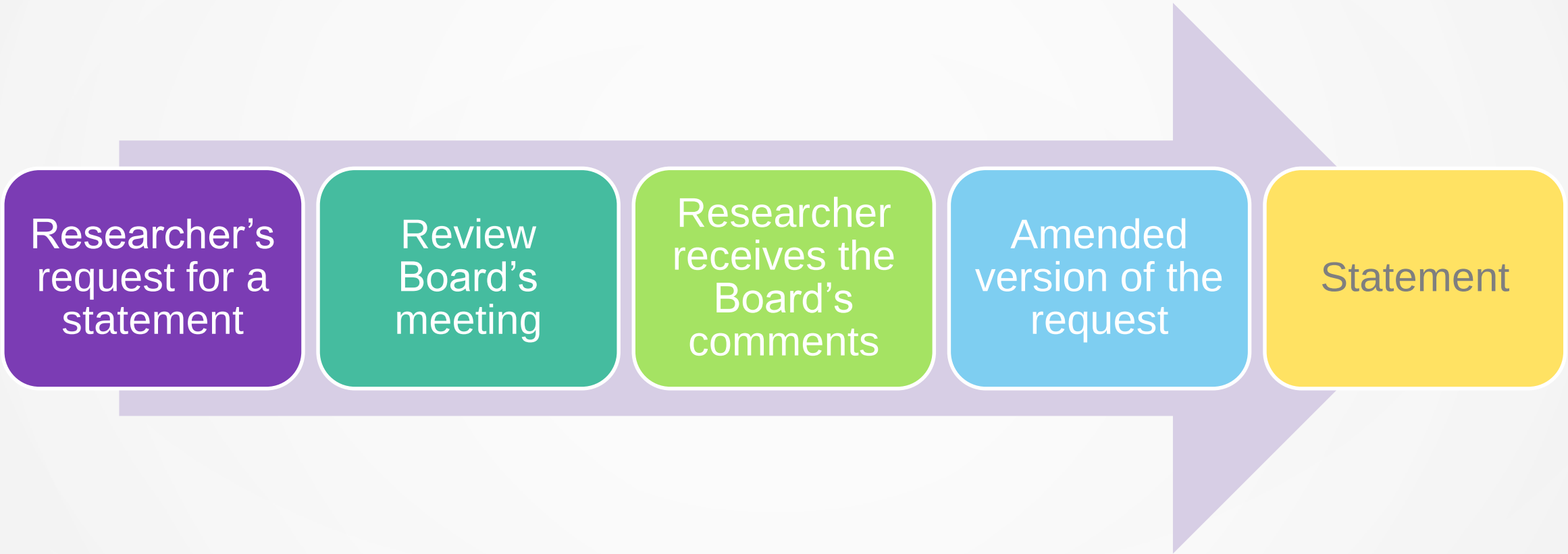
- **the potential risks** and harm to research participants, their families and potentially also the researcher themselves as well as their likelihood in relation to the plans drawn up to avoid them described in the request for a statement
- **sufficiently clear** information to research participants on the content of the research, their participation in the research and the processing of their personal data
- **the data management plan**, also containing a description of the processing of personal data throughout the lifespan of the research
- **the appropriateness** of the research participant's written or electronic consent to participate
- **the way in which** the consent of participants is requested and documented if written or electronic consent is not used
- **the significance** of the new information that the research aims to obtain in relation to potential harms and risks.

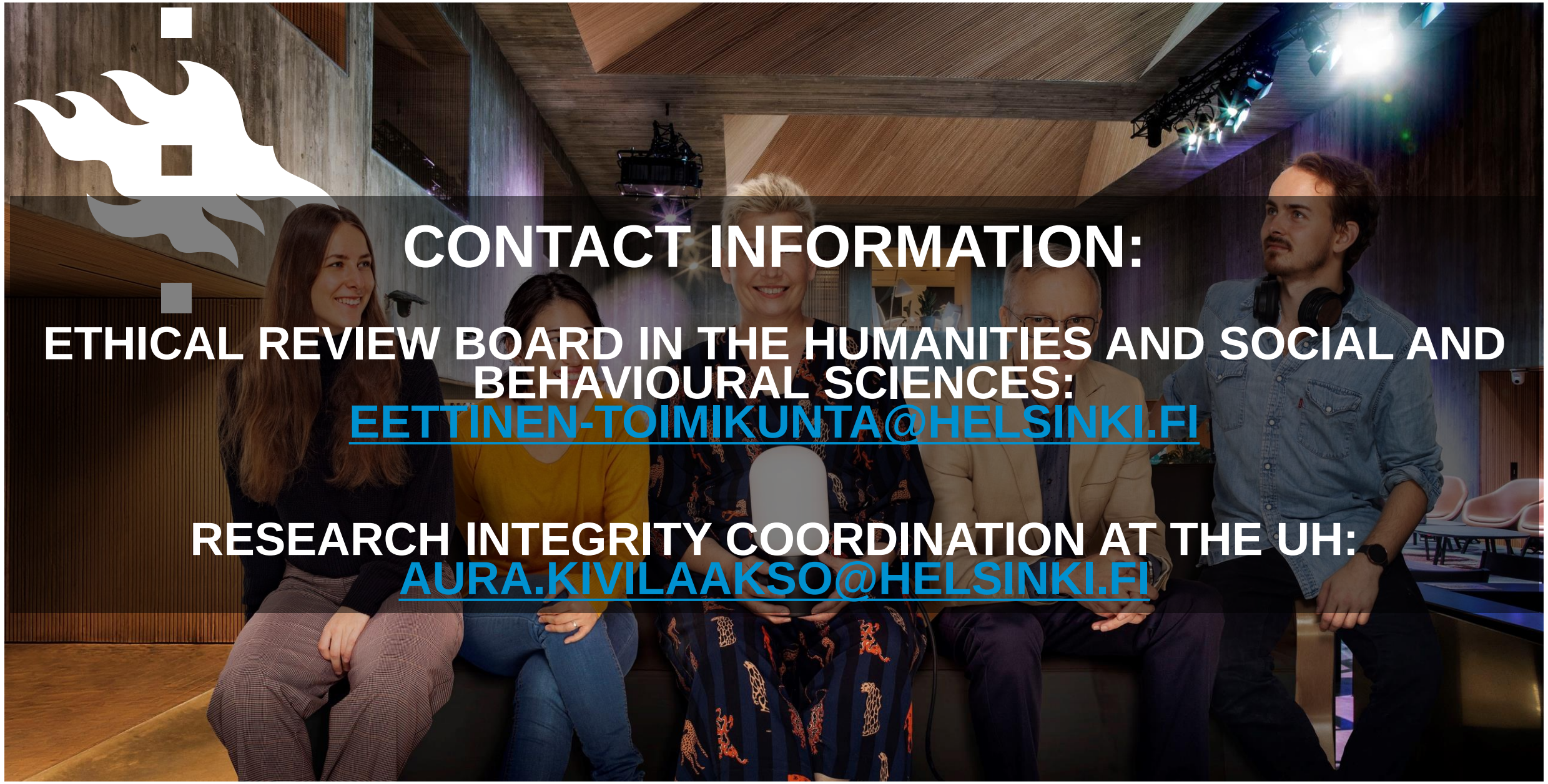
https://tenk.fi/sites/tenk.fi/files/Ihmistieteiden_eettisen_ennakkoarvioinnin_ohje_2019.pdf

DATA PROTECTION AND ETHICAL REVIEW IN HUMAN SCIENCES

- Researchers must take the data protection and information security of the study into consideration.
- Data protection preliminary evaluation and, when needed, data protection impact assessment (DPIA) must be carried out before sending the request for a statement.
- Researchers are asked to describe the results of the evaluation and the assessment in the request.

REVIEW PROCESS





CONTACT INFORMATION:

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