Review of the Volume “Ethics in Research Practice and Innovation”, Coordinated by Antonio Sandu, Ana Frunză and Elena Unguru, Published by Igi Global Publishing House

Simona Irina DAMIAN¹

¹Chief of Scientific Works, PhD,
University of Medicine and Pharmacy
“Gr. T. Popa "Iași, Teacher of
Forensic Medicine, e-mail:
si_damian@yahoo.com

Abstract: The book "Ethics in Research Practice and Innovation", coordinated by Antonio Sandu, Ana Frunză and Elena Unguru, and published in 2019 in the United States of America by IGI Global Publishing House is a collective volume that brings together papers of international relevance, that target many of the relevant areas of ethics in research and scientific innovation, that brought together researchers from 8 countries on 4 continents and 16 universities and research centers, all specialists with a diverse scientific background, leading to a valuable interdisciplinary presentation of the topics addressed in the volume. Among the areas of ethics of research presented in the book we mention: ethical value and limits of knowledge, research on human subjects, ethics of designing and conducting research, publication and communication of science, ethics of technologies with a major impact on lifestyle, artificial intelligence, biotechnologies, natural and life sciences, like the use of genetically modified organisms.

Keywords: *ethics in research; research practice; ethics in innovation; book review.*

How to cite: Damian, S.I. (2018). Review of the Volume “Ethics in Research Practice and Innovation”, Coordinated by Antonio Sandu, Ana Frunză and Elena Unguru, Published by Igi Global Publishing House. *Logos Universality Mentality Education Novelty: Social Sciences*, 7(2), 105-110.
<https://doi.org/10.18662/lumenss/12>

Introduction

The volume "Ethics in Research Practice and Innovation" is an interdisciplinary work of value that addresses researchers at all levels, from debutantes to experienced researchers who coordinate research teams, but at the same time, it can be of interest for any person who wishes to be informed about how the academic community sees the way in which science innovations will be pursued through research and subsequently applied to the everyday life of each individual.

The book is not about restrictions or prohibitions, about "do not" or "make it so", but about how the researcher's personality can feel free during the research process, without breaking their creativity, but while respecting their own ethical principles, which are common to those of the entire academic and scientific community. The book is about identifying these common principles and how science, by applying them, can be free and liberating, as the volume coordinators say in the preface to the book: "abusing ethics and turning it into a coercive system turns ethics into its opposite, and witch hunt, ineffective in promoting good practice in research".

A book about research on how to... do research

Ethics in research is a subject widely debated in the field of humanities, predominantly those that involve, during research activities, the contact with human subjects, or that are about the innovative fields of technology and engineering, where the potentially destructive risks of technologies obtained in breach of the principles ethics are major. All these debates have a common starting point, traditionally identified as belonging to the field of philosophy, but over time the ethics concept has been customized and recontextualized through applied ethics to highlight the specific aspects of each major branch of research, but we are currently dealing with areas of ethics that tend towards a return to a common point, but not necessarily in the field of philosophy, but by the creation of integrative disciplines such as bioethics (the ethics of everything in science that is about life), the ethics of technology (the part of ethics that deals with the opportunity to enable humanity or not to develop certain technologies, such as, for example, artificial intelligence), the ethics of scientific publication (which refers to the responsible way of disseminating knowledge by publishers and editors, in the age of the Internet and communication of

information in real time, without delay from the moment it is launched to the moment it reaches the potential receptors).

This trend of reunification of ethics is also a goal of this volume, which gathers analyzes, views, opinions that take into account global trends which may be of interest to ethics in research. Some topics are treated more extensively, and discussions are repeated over several chapters, but from different perspectives, and other themes are just announced, prefigured, just as research is only prefigured in some areas of science, which makes us look forward to a possible second edition of this volume, to see what the coordinators and authors will choose to add to the range of themes that they are discussing now.

Contents, interesting debates and trends

The volume "Ethics in Research Practice and Innovation" (Sandu, Frunză, & Unguru, 2019) is an initiative of the LUMEN Research Center in Social and Humanistic Sciences in Iași, Romania, which through the three coordinators of the volume has consolidated the interest and support of peers from some of the most important universities in Romania and abroad, which over the years have published numerous works in the area of interest of the book, joining together from the United States of America, Australia, France, Ukraine, South Africa, Nigeria, Egypt, and Turkey, because they felt, like their Romanian colleagues, the need to present in the international scientific literature a work that would synthesize the basic but also nuanced aspects of ethics in research.

The book is structured in three parts, each of which incorporates major principles generally applicable to all sciences. A first part deals with the degree of confidence that research will engender in society, and the guarantor of this trust is the observance of ethics in the way research is conceived and disseminated. In fact, this is also the subject addressed in the first chapter of the paper (Sandu, 2019), then the theme is to be customized on case studies in Ukraine (Artyukhov & Vasilyeva, 2019), South Africa (Naidoo, 2019), Romania (Ciulei, 2019) and Nigeria (Endong, 2019).

A second part is devoted to ethics in research on human subjects, whether it refers to vulnerable population (Loue & Loff, 2019), clinical trials (Macarie & Tebeanu, 2019), risk-benefit evaluation of clinical research (Rizk, 2019), informed consent (Sandu & Frunză, 2019), cultural ethics in research on human subjects (Iyioke, 2019), ethics of risk in psychiatry (Clero, 2019) or family research (Turluc & Candel, 2019).

One of the most dynamic parts of the volume is the third part, which deals with aspects that may seem futuristic to a non-specialist reader, but which are already realities of the present: embryonic stem cells research (Huidu, 2019), genetic engineering (Huidu, 2019), artificial intelligent robots (Popoveniuc, 2019), organizational criminology (Taştan, 2019).

The authors of the volume base their analyzes on interdisciplinary approaches that concern multiple fields of social and humanistic sciences, which is evident from the fact that the authors belong to various professional categories, with various expertise: philosophy, sociology, editorial ethics, ethics of research (Prof. PhD Antonio Sandu), higher education, educational management and educational leadership (Assoc. Prof. PhD Tetyana Vasilyeva), engineering in the field of research of the vortex granulation, mass-transfer and heat-transfer devices (Assoc. Prof. PhD Artem Artyukhov), corporate strategy, project management, entrepreneurship (Senior Lecturer PhD Vannie Naidoo), philosophy, logic, theory of argumentation (Assoc. Prof. PhD Tomița Ciulei), international communication, gender studies, digital media, media laws, international relations, culture and religious communication (Research Consultant PhD Endong Floribert Patrick Calvin), bioethics, epidemiology and biostatistics, psychiatry, and global health (Prof. PhD Sana Loue), epidemiology and preventive medicine (Assoc. Prof. PhD Bebe Loff), data analysis, statistical analysis, health promotion, quantitative data analysis, health education, psychology (Assoc. Lecturer PhD George Florian Macarie), psychopathology, clinical assessment, personality assessment, clinical health psychology (Assoc. Lecturer PhD Ana Voichița Tebeanu), clinical pathology (MD PhD Samia Hassan Rizk), social work, social work ethics, bioethics, supervision of ethics (Researcher PhD Ana Frunză), bioethics, public health ethics, environmental ethics (Researcher PhD Ike Valentine Iyioke), philosophy, ethics (Prof. Emeritus PhD Jean Pierre Clero), applied psychology and social psychology (Prof. PhD Nicoleta Maria Turliuc), psychology and educational sciences (PhD Student Octav Sorin Candel), law, bioethics, biolaw, human rights, sociology (lawyer, Researcher PhD Student Alexandra Huidu), philosophy of singularity, psychology, ethics of research (Assoc. Prof. PhD Bogdan Popoveniuc), social psychology, positive psychology and personality psychology (Assoc. Prof. PhD Seçil Taştan).

In conclusion, we can say that the volume "Ethics in Research Practice and Innovation" brings a broad view of what ethics is in research, with emphasis on researchers' responsibility not only to contribute to the sustainable scientific and technological evolution of humanity, but also to constructively inspire, by the way they conduct their research, the manner in

which humanity will choose to apply technology to themselves, in the spirit of responsibility, to which the desire for knowledge is subsumed.

References

- Artyukhov, A., & Vasilyeva, T. (2019). Research integrity dissemination system: “Science rids of misconduct”. In A. Sandu, A. Frunză & E. Unguru, *Ethics in research practice and innovation* (pp. 43-74). Hershey, USA: IGI Global.
- Ciulei, T. (2019). Comparative analysis of the codes of ethics in top universities in Romania. In A. Sandu, A. Frunză & E. Unguru, *Ethics in research practice and innovation* (pp. 88-92). Hershey, USA: IGI Global.
- Clero, J. P. (2019). The ethics of risk in psychiatry: The interplay between risk and probability. In A. Sandu, A. Frunză & E. Unguru, *Ethics in research practice and innovation* (pp. 209-225). Hershey, USA: IGI Global.
- Endong, F. P. C. (2019). The effects of the “publish or perish syndrome” on research and innovation in Nigerian universities: Insights from recent research and case studies. In A. Sandu, A. Frunză & E. Unguru, *Ethics in research practice and innovation* (pp. 93-109). Hershey, USA: IGI Global.
- Huidu, A. (2019). Tailoring humans: The ethics of genetic engineering. In A. Sandu, A. Frunză & E. Unguru, *Ethics in research practice and innovation* (pp. 264-282). Hershey, USA: IGI Global.
- Huidu, A. (2019). The ethics of embrionic stem cells research: the human being in the early stages of development – A “medicine” or an end in itself? In A. Sandu, A. Frunză & E. Unguru, *Ethics in research practice and innovation* (pp. 244-263). Hershey, USA: IGI Global.
- Iyioke, I. V. (2019). Personhood, cultural ethics, and biomedical research: african vs. euro-american perspectives. In A. Sandu, A. Frunză & E. Unguru, *Ethics in research practice and innovation* (pp. 192-208). Hershey, USA: IGI Global.
- Loue, S., & Loff, B. (2019). Vulnerability in research: Defining, applying, and teaching the concept. In A. Sandu, A. Frunză & E. Unguru, *Ethics in research practice and innovation* (pp. 110-126). Hershey, USA: IGI Global.
- Macarie, G. F., & Tebeanu, A. V. (2019). Addressing research ethics in clinical trials in four of the former communist european countries: A shared responsibility. In A. Sandu, A. Frunză & E. Unguru, *Ethics in research practice and innovation* (pp. 127-147). Hershey, USA: IGI Global.
- Naidoo, V. (2019). Relevance and importance of ethics in post-grad research at South African universities. In A. Sandu, A. Frunză & E. Unguru, *Ethics in research practice and innovation* (pp. 75-87). Hershey, USA: IGI Global.

- Popoveniuc, B. (2019). AIRSE: The ethics of artificially intelligent robots and systems. In A. Sandu, A. Frunză & E. Unguru, *Ethics in research practice and innovation* (pp. 283-294). Hershey, USA: IGI Global.
- Rizk, S. H. (2019). Risk-benefit evaluation in clinical research practice. In A. Sandu, A. Frunză & E. Unguru, *Ethics in research practice and innovation* (pp. 148-170). Hershey, USA: IGI Global.
- Sandu, A. (2019). From the ethics of the research project to the ethical communication of science: Particularities in the social and humanistic fields. In A. Sandu, A. Frunză & E. Unguru, *Ethics in research practice and innovation* (pp. 1-42). Hershey, USA: IGI Global.
- Sandu, A., & Frunză, A. (2019). Informed consent in research involving human subjects. In A. Sandu, A. Frunză & E. Unguru, *Ethics in research practice and innovation* (pp. 171-191). Hershey, USA: IGI Global.
- Sandu, A., Frunză, A., & Unguru, E. (Coords.). (2019). *Ethics in research practice and innovation*. Hershey, USA: IGI Global.
- Taştan, S. (2019). White-Collar criminals and organizational criminology: Theoretical perspectives. In A. Sandu, A. Frunză & E. Unguru, *Ethics in research practice and innovation* (pp. 294-322). Hershey, USA: IGI Global.
- Turliuc, M. N., & Candel, O. S. (2019). Ethical issues in couple and family research and therapy. In A. Sandu, A. Frunză & E. Unguru, *Ethics in research practice and innovation* (pp. 226-243). Hershey, USA: IGI Global.