Human Participants Research Ethics Decision Process

START

Are you guided by an overarching research question which you are systematically pursuing by gathering data from people and then planning to share that data in a public way?

Yes

You probably don’t need to apply for ethics unless:

A - Specific Populations
Are you engaging directly with people? (Conversation or interview or survey, etc.)

Yes

Are they Indigenous, vulnerable, or children?

Yes

Are they disabled?

No

Do they work in a health or school setting?

Yes

Do you have to engage with them directly, or are there other ways to get this information via proxies? You are unlikely to be approved to talk with these populations in a timely way.

Yes

Can you access them through a professional (voluntary) association instead, to avoid complicated institutional permissions processes? You are unlikely to be approved to talk with people within these settings in a timely way.

No

B - Sensitive Topics
Are you asking participants about sensitive topics?

Yes

Are they Indigenous, vulnerable, or children?

Yes

Are they disabled?

No

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Can you access them through a professional (voluntary) association instead, to avoid complicated institutional permissions processes? You are unlikely to be approved to talk with people within these settings in a timely way.

No

C - Sharing Raw Data
How are you going to share the raw data you gather?

Yes

Are you talking about sensitive topics, such as health or sexuality?

Yes

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You don’t need to apply for ethics!

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