

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN DESIGN AND CONDUCT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH

The **British Psychological Society** code of ethics (*Ethical Principles for Conducting Research with Human Participants*) covers 9 different aspects of ethics that relate to research with human participants. These have been extensively dealt with elsewhere on the course (see, for example, Social Psychology) and are summarised below:

- **Informed consent** (Participants should be told of everything that might influence their willingness to participate)
- **Avoidance of deception** (Participants should not be intentionally deceived unless there are very sound medical or scientific reasons for using deception)
- **Protection of participants from physical and psychological harm** (Participants should not be physically or psychologically harmed during the course of an investigation)
- **Right to withdraw** (Participants should be informed of their right to withdraw from the investigation at any time)
- **Confidentiality** (Participants have the right to expect that information about them will be kept confidential)
- **Debriefing participants** (Following an investigation, participants should be fully debriefed as to the purpose of the investigation)
- **Observational research** (Participants' *right to privacy* should be respected)
- **Giving advice** (Psychologists should only give advice for which they are qualified)
- **Colleagues** (Psychologists have a duty to ensure that *all* research is ethical, and this includes research using colleagues)