

WERA TASK FORCE CHARGE
International Issues in Education Research Ethics and Conduct
World Education Research Association
March 2012

Charge

The WERA Task Force on International Issues in Education Research Ethics and Conduct is charged with examining ethics codes and related guidance that have developed worldwide to inform the professional conduct of education research scientists, scholars, and students. The purpose of the Task Force is to identify the guidance that exists and make it known and accessible to the education research community around the world, specify the areas of convergence (or divergence) in such guidance, and prepare a report and recommendations that will help inform the global community of education researchers whether engaged in research that is national or international in scope.

There is considerable guidance available for synthesis and analysis by the Task Force and for preparation of an overview report and recommendations. Within the WERA associations, such documents include the Revised Ethical Guidelines for Educational Research of the British Educational Research Association, Ethical Guidelines for Educational Research of the Scottish Educational Research Association, the Ethikcodex der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft of the German Educational Research Association, the Code of Ethics of the American Educational Research Association, and the Code of Ethics for Research in Education of the Australian Association for Research in Education, among others. In addition to these documents, the Task Force will also consider guidance that has developed in international contexts to inform the responsible conduct of research. In particular, the Task Force will consider documents like the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki, most recently revised in 2008, and the Singapore Statement on Research Integrity developed as a global guide to responsible conduct as part of the 2nd World Conference on Research Integrity in 2010.

The Task Force will bring its expertise to bear in assembling materials; synthesizing ethical codes and guidance; and offering a report, recommendations, and an overarching statement that sets a standard for ethical practices in education research worldwide. In addition, the products from this Task Force will serve to inform diverse peoples, communities, and policy leaders of the high standards of professional ethics and responsible conduct that guide education research professionals in their work.

Timetable

The Task Force is expected to have a draft report completed in time for consideration at the WERA Council meeting in Sydney in December 2012. The Task Force will work collaboratively using e-mail, shared space on the WERA website, and (video) conference call capacity to move these projects forward and to completion.

About Task Forces

Task forces aim to produce major research reports that can help guide or shape education research and relevant education policy on significant worldwide issues for years to come. Task force reports will be distributed widely to relevant research and policy audiences and made freely accessible on the WERA website. The reports will also form the basis of high profile, major events at WERA Focal Meetings, video broadcasts on the WERA website, and meetings with relevant organizations and agencies whose programs and policies should be shaped by these reports.