



## Good research practice: the do's and don'ts

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## Why research ethics?

1. Promotes the aims of research (knowledge, truth...)
2. Helps to promote the values that are essential to collaborative work (trust, accountability, mutual respect..)
3. Helps to ensure that researchers can be held accountable
4. Helps to build public support for research
5. Promotes a variety of moral and social values (social responsibility, human rights, animal welfare...)



## Ten commandments (Alf Rehn)

1. Love what you do
2. Be original
3. Be generous
4. See the world
5. Make friends
6. Don't cheat
7. Stay true
8. Don't take yourself too seriously
9. Take responsibility
10. Make a difference

Alf Rehn (2006) *The Scholar's progress. Essays on Academic Life and Survival.* New York: iUniverse, Inc.



## Simple virtues

1. To dare despite being frightened
2. To do as best as one can
3. To accept the help provided and offer the help one can
4. To accept making errors
5. To learn from mistakes
6. To not lie and not steal
7. To continuously care

Stefan Svallfors (2018) *Forskningens mörker. Om svarta känslor och konsten att vara lagom rädd.* Stockholm: Santerus Förlag.



## Deadly sins (Svallfors)

1. Being mean (e.g. in seminars)
2. Academic dishonesty/lies
3. Theft (e.g. ideas)
4. Sloth and sloppiness
5. Hubris
6. Indifference (being cynical, playing the game)



## Good research practice (Vetenskapsrådet)

1. Tell the truth about your research
2. Openly report your methods and results
3. Openly disclose any commercial interests and other ties
4. Consciously examine and present the basic assumptions underlying your studies
5. Do not steal research results from others (e.g. from younger colleagues)
6. Conduct your research in an orderly manner (e.g. by maintaining documentation and retaining data)
7. Do not conduct your research in a way that could harm other people (e.g. subjects)
8. Be fair in your assessment of other people's research

[Good research practice \(vr.se\)](http://vr.se)



### **More recommended reading:**

Alvesson, M., Gabriel, Y., & Paulsen, R. (2017). *Return to meaning: A social science with something to say*. Oxford University Press.