

ETHICAL

Ethical Codes

and

Learning Analytics

CODES

Stephen Downes

National Research Council Canada

June 22, 2020

# Standards of Conduct

# STAN DARDS OF CONDUCT

Why Ethical Codes?

Ethical Codes As Standards of Conduct

Ethical Codes as Requirements

As Opposed to Legal Requirements

Principles and Values

The Value of Professional Codes

Study of Ethical Codes

How the Codes Differ

# The Codes

- Professional ethics – broad-based ethical codes (4)
- Academic ethics – codes of conduct for professors and staff in traditional academic institutions (3)
- Teacher ethics – codes governing teachers and the teaching profession (7)
- Ethics for librarians and information workers – ethics of information management (2)
- Public service ethics – codes of conduct for government employees (2)
- Research ethics – includes international declarations and government policy (6)
- Health care ethics – including codes for doctors and nurses (6)
- Ethics in social science research – research ethics (1)
- Data ethics – government and industry declarations on the use of study and survey data (7)
- Market research ethics – codes describing the ethical use of data in advertising and market studies (2)
- Journalism ethics – codes of conduct governing the use of public information by journalists (3)
- Ethics for IT professionals – system administration and software development ethics (3)
- Data research ethics – related specifically to the use of data in research (1)
- Ethics for artificial intelligence – government, industry and academic codes (15)
- Information and privacy – principles specifically addressing individual rights (1)
- Ethics in educational research – policies governing educational researchers specifically (3)
- Ethics in learning analytics – government, academic and industry guidelines and codes (7)

# Applications of Learning Analytics

API

Descriptive Analytics

Diagnostic Analytics

Predictive analytics

Prescriptive Analytics

Generative Analytics

Deontic Analytics

EAT

OF

ARN

ANNALYTIC

# Ethical Issues in Learning Analytics

## When Analytics Works

Surveillance

Anonymity

Facial Recognition

## When it Doesn't

Unreliable Data

Unreliable Models

## Social and Cultural Issues

Transparency

Explainability

Accountability

ETHICAL

LEARN

TO

# Focus on Ethical Issues

FOOC

The Good that Can Be Done

Academic or Professional Freedom

Conflict of interest

Harm

Quality and Standards

What are the Limits?

ETH

ON

LI

# Core Values and Priorities (1)

CORI  
AND

Pursuit of Knowledge

Autonomy and Individual Value

Consent

Integrity

Confidentiality

Care

Competence and Authority

Value and Benefit

# Core Values and Priorities (2)

Non-Maleficence

Beneficence

Respect

Democracy

Justice and Fairness

Accountability and Explicability

Openness

Common Cause / Solidarity

RENEWAL

DEPRIOR



# Obligations and Duties

O B

A N

Self

Less Fortunate

Student

Parent or Guardian, Children

Client

Research Subject

Employer or Funder

Colleagues, Union or Profession

Stakeholders

Publishers and Content Producers

Society

Law and Country

Environment

A T T I C

U T T I

# Bases for Values and Principles

BASES

VALU

PRINC

Universality

Fundamental Rights

Fact

Balancing Risks and Benefits

Requirements of the Profession

Social Good or Social Order

Fairness

Epistemology

Trust

Defensibility

No Code Addresses All Issues

They Don't Resolve Issues They Address

Distinction Between Ethics and Law

No Consensus on Principles

Conflicting Principles

Consensus Would Be Insufficient

Application

No Consensus on Foundations

Compliance

## Conclusions of the Study

CLUSI  
THE ST

STEPHEN

DOWNES

Stephen Downes

<https://www.downes.ca>

