

#### 4- Delegating

1. **Autoethnography and Use of Online Material:** You're exploring personal experiences using creative writing and online content, possibly from social media. Before 2018, there was a misconception that publicly available online data could be used without ethical considerations. However, since 2018, the National Statement requires considering consent even for publicly available data.
2. **Ethics Approval for Using Social Media Data:** If you're using data from social media for research, even though it's publicly available, you likely need ethics approval. This involves applying for a waiver of consent if contacting individuals for permission isn't practical. Privacy policies and terms of use of the platforms are crucial to understand.
3. **De-identification and Re-identifiable Information:** Simply redacting or de-identifying data may not suffice ethically if the context can still lead to re-identification, especially with usernames or other identifiers.
4. **Institutional Policies:** Monash University has updated its policies to allow certain uses of student data and assignments for research purposes with ethics approval. Understanding and complying with institutional policies is essential.
5. **Use of AI Models and Privacy Policies:** There's concern about platforms like Meta (formerly Facebook) updating privacy policies to allow scraping of data for AI models. Institutions like Monash may have evolving positions on how to protect data used in research and public dissemination.
6. **Ethics vs. Data Management:** While ethics committees handle ethical considerations, data management, security, and AI data protection are typically managed by other university teams focused on e-solutions and data management.

#### Questions to Clarify:

- How does Monash University navigate evolving privacy policies of platforms like Meta regarding data scraping for AI models?
- Can you clarify the distinction between ethics committee responsibilities and those of e-solutions teams regarding data security and management?

These questions aim to ensure clarity on ethical compliance, institutional policies, and the evolving landscape of data use in research, particularly concerning online and social media data.

#### Full Transcript

*So, delegating data collection, we have a lot of projects that use mTurk or other research platforms. mTurk is one of them. There are a whole bunch of others whose names I've forgotten. They have people register on these platforms to do surveys or activities and then get some sort of payment, either in vouchers or money.*

*The scenario here is that you're asking people to submit their videos or screenshots so that you can use them for your research purposes. Any guesses on whether ethics is required in this instance? Yes, no, from what we have talked about. It's complex because it's about the basis of the people that are recorded in the videos. The same folks are doing the interviews. But they're doing it because they're the ones giving the videos.*

*Yeah, but the video contains the faces of other people who haven't necessarily consented to being a part of the research project. Possibly, yes. So that is an issue. But the question is, do you think that needs ethics approval if it is being collected as part of someone's thesis and research?*

*The answer is yes. I think the situation was that this came to us a few years ago. Yes, they need ethics approval because they are collecting information or images that have people's identifying information in them. How you process these images and videos and present them in your final product is something that you also need to consider. Depending on what you told participants, if you told them that they're going to be anonymized, clearly if you're collecting videos, you have to work out how to anonymize the videos. If you can't anonymize them, then don't say they're going to be anonymous because it's really hard to do that.*

*I have a question. In my PhD, I had a similar experience where I was going to a specific factory to speak to people on the factory floor. I had to collect consent from the workers and also permission from the company. Is that what needs to happen in this case, or because it's through a crowdsourcing platform, you don't need permission from Amazon? Do you write to Amazon in this case, or what?*

*No, not necessarily. You have to write to Amazon to publish your task on their platform. If they have an issue with the task, they would let you know. But given that it's up on Amazon and the workers are logging in and doing this task, your situation is different. You're walking into that building to collect data from workers in that building. You don't expect people to walk in off the street and start talking to employees without someone knowing what you want to do.*

*Another question? Nick and I both know this project very well. The other situation is, if you put up a task on the platform, you're effectively an employer via the platform because you nominate the price that they pay, etc. Even with or without faces, you need ethics approval because you're involving other people in producing work for you.*

*Sometimes that involves de-identifying, and the researcher did have modes in place to do that, and that was all detailed. But, yeah, it was complex in terms of layers of responsibility and an ethical approach. Even if the videos only included the images of the worker submitting the video of themselves, that's still human data. Therefore, the question of whether you need ethics approval is yes. Part of it will be providing those workers with the information about the project, what you're going to do with the data, how you're going to process the data, etc.*