

Ethics Statements for Human Participant Research (HPR): Guidance on Requirements and Writing

If your paper involves research with human participants, you may be required to include an ethics statement attesting to the fact that your study received all necessary ethical approvals prior to starting the study. Please start by reviewing [T&F's guidelines on this subject](#)

Human participant research includes papers with:

- Survey data, anonymized or not
- Interview data, anonymized or not, and including mass data from banks such as e.g. MTurk
- Papers using social media data
- Ethnographic research

If ethical approval is required

If your study design required ethics committee approval, then this should have been obtained from a recognized institutional review board (IRB) or other appropriate institutional authority prior to starting the study.

Please include this information in **two** places: 1) a brief statement within either the Methods section of the paper (if included), or alternatively, an appropriate location in the body of the manuscript and 2) a brief, separate statement at the end of the manuscript

This information should include the following:

- the name of the institution, name(s) of the ethics committee(s)/IRB(s), plus the approval number(s)/ID(s), *if an approval number was given*

Examples:

- Ethical approval was obtained from the ethics committee at University of Oxford and Université Catholique de Bukavu (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21681392.2021.1902831>)
- This study has Griffith University Human Research Ethics Committee approval (GU Ref No: 2020/408) (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/07359683.2022.2160854>)

If your study is exempt from requiring ethical approval

As explained in our Editorial Policies, there are recognized exceptions where a study may not require ethics approval. These include:

- When national laws exempt a particular type of study from requiring ethical approval (e.g. US law exempts oral history interviews from ethics approval).
- When a study has been granted an exemption by an ethics or institution committee.
- When there was no ethics or institutional committee in place at a researcher's institution at the time the study was conducted.

If your study does not require ethical approval, place a statement at the end of the manuscript specifying why it was not required and cite the relevant guidelines or legislation, where applicable.

Optional: for non-anonymous survey or interview data, direct quotations from interviews:

- Statements should be included to indicate informed consent, to the interview or survey and the purposes of the data obtained

Informed Consent

Studies involving human participants should include a statement **within the manuscript** confirming that informed consent was provided by the research subjects (or their parents/ guardians). This statement should explain how consent was given – ideally, written informed consent – and what the agreement covered. There are cases where written consent is not feasible, and verbal consent is appropriate, but this should be explained **within the manuscript**. For more on this, please see our [Editorial Policies](#).

Participant Consent to Publish & Consent to Publish Identifiable Information

- Authors should include **within the manuscript** a statement confirming that Consent to Publish was obtained from research participants. Consent to Publish is a journal requirement and cannot be exempted by an ethics committee.
- For submissions that include information that could be used to potentially identify an individual (e.g., by their online alias or social media handles), authors must confirm that they have obtained written informed consent to publish the details from the affected individual (or their parents/guardians if the participant is not an adult or unable to give informed consent).
- Consent to Publish statements must confirm that the identifiable details and any images, videos, or recordings can be published, and that the person(s) providing consent have been shown the article contents to be published. Authors may use this [Consent to Publish Form](#), which should be completed, signed, and saved securely.
- Authors must be prepared to provide copies of signed consent forms to the journal editorial office if requested.
- Journal editors and the publisher reserve the right to reject articles without adequate evidence of consent from human participants.

Examples

- Permission to conduct the interviews for the purposes of this research was obtained by all respondents, who were fully informed about the purposes of this research and how their responses would be used and stored. All interviewees have been anonymised. (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21681392.2021.1902831>)
- Participants consented to be identified