

## **RESEARCH INTEGRITY ANNUAL STATEMENT 2016/17**

Goldsmiths is a signatory to *The Concordat to Support Research Integrity* and this third annual statement reports on the progress being made in creating a research culture with ethics and integrity at its heart.

This public statement is designed to provide assurance that as a university we are responsible for:

- supporting and strengthening understanding and application of research integrity issues in researchers at all levels.
- having processes to manage and investigate allegations of misconduct that are transparent, robust and fair, and fit for purpose
- reporting on any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken during this year.

**Professor Simon McVeigh**  
**Academic Director of Research Policy**  
**Chair, Research Ethics & Integrity Sub-Committee [REISC]**  
May 2017

### **1 Governance arrangements: how research ethics and integrity is managed**

#### **Research Ethics & Integrity Sub-Committee [REISC]**

REISC manages research ethics and integrity policy and procedures for Goldsmiths and reports termly to its parent committee, Research and Enterprise Committee, which, in turn, reports to the Academic Board (<http://www.gold.ac.uk/governance/committees/>).

The Chair of the REISC, as of 1 October 2016, is Professor Simon McVeigh, Professor of Music and Goldsmiths' Academic Director of Research Policy. The term of service for REISC members is 3 academic years (renewable once). For session 2016/17, REISC has 16 members, across 3 academic schools, Director of the Research Office, 2 members of Goldsmiths' Students' Union and 1 external member. We are seeking a second external/lay person for the committee (see actions below).

All staff research ethics applications are reviewed within departments before being submitted to the REISC for review; in terms of a guide to workload, Goldsmiths employs about 1,200 academic staff. Full committee review is given where possible and a quorate virtual committee is appointed each term so that applications can be reviewed throughout the year with a turnaround time of approximately 15 working days. Successfully reviewed

applications receive a letter of confirmation with a unique reference number. The process, including dates of meetings and annual statements, is posted on Goldsmiths' website at <http://www.gold.ac.uk/research/ethics/>.

58 applications were submitted for committee review in 2016; additionally guidance was given to a number of PGR students where advice on management of specific risks was required.

### **Graduate School**

The Graduate School publishes an annual handbook for research students (<http://www.gold.ac.uk/graduate-school/>) which sets out Goldsmiths' arrangements for managing ethics at PGR level; a specific session on research ethics forms part of the Graduate Induction week. Supervisors are key in communicating the ethics framework to PGRs and the School have held/are holding over 20 supervisory training sessions, including refresher sessions, in academic session 2016/17.

The School are purchasing an online PhD Management system to manage administrative processes (including supervisor training) which should lead to better monitoring of PGRs' progress in their studies. Progress in this area will be reported via Graduate School Board, a sub-committee of the Research & Enterprise Committee.

## **2 Departmental Ethics Review 2016/17**

On behalf of REISC, the Chair and Secretary held interviews with the nominated research ethics and integrity contacts in all 18 departments and research centres to establish how ethics is managed for staff, PGR, PGT and UG students at departmental level; how and for whom training is conducted; and what kind of topics could usefully be addressed in a seminar series in 2017.

The intention of the Review was to establish the extent and sophistication of ethics management processes in departments and to create a base-line set of guidelines with templates for application forms and FAQs, using examples of good practice already in evidence at Goldsmiths.

Departmental processes demonstrated varying levels of maturity (to some extent dependent upon disciplinary precedents and existing frameworks) and there were some excellent examples of practice to be shared. All departmental meetings demonstrated an enthusiasm to develop procedures and understanding of ethical issues, and a list of seminar topics emerged to meet the needs of all disciplines, such as internet-mediated research and the different perspectives of academic and professional sectors.

Preliminary findings have been presented to the REISC and to the Research and Enterprise Committee. Guidelines and documentation will now be reviewed by the REISC and, following consultation with departments, made available online.

### 3 Communicating research ethics and integrity

The main means for staff and students to access information about Goldsmiths' research ethics management processes is via the website at: <http://www.gold.ac.uk/research/ethics/>. There is currently no dedicated information page on the staff intranet, *Goldmine*, which we plan to add in 2017. We have also reviewed the website itself, and plan to make a number of changes to information on ethical conduct, to make the principles and processes clearer to researchers at all levels (including the guidelines and documentation mentioned in Section 2). We will incorporate links to other policy statements on ethics and integrity that appear in a variety of places on the website, for example, Equality and Diversity at <http://www.gold.ac.uk/equality-diversity/>; ethical investment policy at <http://www.gold.ac.uk/governance/policies/ethical-investment/>; and a variety of ordinances, regulations and governance information at <http://www.gold.ac.uk/governance/>.

### 4 Special area of interest: practice research, creativity and ethics

The disciplinary mix at Goldsmiths is such that almost every department is engaged in practice research in some form. Institutionally we have a strong interest and developing expertise in the challenging ethical considerations that can arise in such research. To address the concerns of practice researchers, including PGRs and professional practitioners on the staff, we have instituted a number of events. In our Annual Researchers' Day 2016, we held a panel on 'Practice research and ethics', and have recently promoted a lunchtime seminar on 'Creativity and ethics' and a session entitled 'The ethics of creativity in an ugly world' through the Centre for Invention and Social Policy. The moral and legal implications of life-writing continue to be a focus of practical and academic inquiry in English and Comparative Literature. REISC's challenge is to monitor progress and developments with regard to the ethical considerations of practice research and to incorporate them in our processes and guidelines.

### 5 Research misconduct

One allegation of research misconduct has been received between June 2016 and May 2017 and is still under investigation. We are guided by the UKRIO Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research (2008). The policy setting out the procedure to be used in investigation and reporting on cases of misconduct, *Policy on safeguarding good academic and scientific practice and dealing with allegations of misconduct in research*, is available on our website at: <http://www.gold.ac.uk/media/documents-by-section/about-us/governance/safeguarding-research-practice.pdf>.

### 6 Actions for REISC in 2017

- (a) Second external member to be sought to be appointed to REISC during 2017, ideally for the commencement of the 2017/18 academic session.
- (b) Confirmation of Graduate School's purchase of a PhD Management System.
- (c) Base-line guidelines for ethical approval, application form and FAQs to be reviewed, finalised and posted on [www.gold.ac.uk](http://www.gold.ac.uk) and *Goldmine*.
- (d) Review of website and development of mini-site within staff intranet (*Goldmine*).
- (e) Seminar series, open to all staff and students, on ethics-related topics to share practice.