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Norwegian Research School in  
Social Work and Child Welfare

November 28th-29th, 2024 | NTNU Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim

Symposium

## Ethics in Social Work and Child Welfare Research



Doing research ethically is never a straightforward process. This is particularly true for academic disciplines such as social work and child welfare, as these are highly normative and value based. Often research within these fields may involve participation from marginalized and vulnerable groups. Researching social problems requires sensitivity to how structural policies frame the lives of the individual, and to how modern welfare systems are both complex and often fragmented structures. Acknowledging and understanding the ethical dilemmas that are inherent in the entire research process in social work and child welfare is important to raise the integrity of research, and to protect and promote justice and well-being of the human beings who are subject to the research.

NORWEL welcomes everyone interested in research ethics in the fields of social work and child welfare. PhD students are especially encouraged to contribute to the workshops on day 2.

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# Symposium Program

Thursday, November 28th, 2024 | NTNU, Trondheim, Øya Campus, Helgasetr: [02-034](#)

*Facilitator of the Day – Aina Lian Flem*

09.30-10.00	<b>Registration and coffee</b>
10.00-10.30	<b>Welcome</b> with music from Djangoprekariatet (David Andersson, bass, Emil holden Home, gitar, Gaute Skrove, fele).
10.30-11.15	<b>Ethics and human rights in social work and child welfare research: Towards decolonisation and transformation,</b> <a href="#">Vishanthie Sewpaul</a> , Honorary doctor, NTNU Professor emerita, University of KwaZulu-Natal <i>Sewpaul will address the inter-related goals of transformation and decolonisation, which involve complex socio-political and cultural dynamics of normalisation, acquiescence, resistance and counter-resistance, in efforts to counter the reproduction of colonial patterns of othering, oppression, exclusion, violence and the silencing of Indigenous thought.</i>
11.15-12.00	<b>Research ethics in social work and child welfare,</b> Vidar Enebakk, sekretariatsleder, <a href="#">the National Research Ethics Committees</a> <i>Enebakk will talk about the research ethics system in Norway, the importance of Research Ethics Guidelines for Social Sciences and Humanities (2023), and how they can be linked to social work and child protection.</i>
12.00-13.00	<b>Lunch</b>
13.00-13.45	<b>Negotiating the ethical space of participatory action research,</b> <a href="#">Sarah Banks</a> , (Online), Professor, The Department of Sociology and co-founder of the Centre for Social Justice and Community Action at Durham University, UK <i>Banks examines the changing context for participatory action research (PAR) and the implications for ethical practice. PAR entails people with lived experience of the issue being researched playing an active role in designing and conducting the study, sometimes in partnership with academics or other 'professional' researchers, with the aim of bringing about positive change. Using real-life examples, this session will explore some of the everyday ethical challenges faced in PAR, examining the 'ethics work' undertaken by researchers as they strive to practise ethically and justify and reflect on their actions in context.</i>
13.45-14.15	<b>The balance between participation, research and protection,</b> Shimron Mohd, counsellor, LFB – <a href="#">Landsforeningen for barnvernsbarn</a> <i>Mohd argues that research-based knowledge is needed to give the best possible help and implement the best measures so that we can fulfil the primary concern of child welfare; the best interest of the child. However, using children with experiences from child welfare as informants or participants in research may be problematic.</i>
14.15-14.45	<b>Break. Coffee and refreshments</b>
14.45-15.15	<b>Forskningsetikk når offentlig sektor er aktiv partner i forskningsprosjekt</b> <a href="#">Marit Hovdal</a> , prosjektleder Universitetskommunen 3.0, Trondheim kommune
15.15-16.00	<b>Helhetssynet i sosialt arbeid- et etisk og faglig fundament som står på spill?</b> <a href="#">Hilde Marie Thrana</a> , professor, the Department of Social Work, NTNU <i>Thrana trekker opp hovedlinjer fra Baruch de Spinozas etikk (1632-1677) og hans helhetssyn som har påvirket mange fagområder innen velferd og helse. Innlegget stiller spørsmål ved om helhetssynet er gitt opp i sosialt arbeids praksis, og hvordan vi gjennom grunnforskning kan gripe fatt i dette problemet?</i>

# Symposium Program

Friday, November 29th, 2024 | Øya Campus, Helgasetr, room 02-034, 03-047, 03-061, 03-062, 03-063, 03-074 and 03-075

## Workshops – Ethical considerations in social work and child welfare research

We invite PhD candidates to contribute to the workshops on day 2. Workshops will address a broad range of topics, among others related to research ethics in social work and child welfare. Topics may include (but are not limited to):

- Procedural ethics or day-to-day ethics in deciding what to research, how to design and/or conduct research in social work and child welfare
- Ethical dilemmas in different types of research studies, for instance in practice based - or action research
- Research with marginalised or vulnerable groups, such as young children, families in child welfare, minorities and more
- Ethical dilemmas in disseminating findings

If you are a PhD student and want to contribute to the workshop, please submit a title and an abstract of max. 200 words, using the same link as for the registration for the symposium.

	<b>Workshop 1</b> Theoretical issues <i>rom 03-047</i>	<b>Workshop 2</b> Ethical issues in gathering data <i>rom 03-061</i>	<b>Workshop 3</b> Ethical issues in communicating research results I <i>rom 03-062</i>	<b>Workshop 4</b> Ethical issues in communicating research results II <i>rom 03-063</i>
09.00 – 09.10	<b>Welcome</b>			
09.10 – 09.50	<b>Åsne Lindahl</b> <i>Working with families with low socio-economic status: What promotes constructive cooperation?</i>	<b>Rannveig F. Sinkaberg</b> <i>Social work, disability and power- how are these aspects related?</i>	<b>Nawar M.A. Sayyad</b> <i>Navigating ethical dilemmas in data anonymization: Balancing privacy and meaning.</i>	<b>Idun Økland</b> <i>Experiences and reflections regarding pragmatism, the researcher's role, and time pressure in PhD "The child welfare service's work to create and maintain support networks for youth who have received in-home services".</i>
09.50 – 10.00	<b>Break</b>			
10.00 – 10.40	<b>Cecilie Zachariassen</b> <i>Stabilitet i fosterhjem etter EMD-dommene: Utfordringer i praksis og konsekvenser for barnevernets vurderinger.</i>	<b>Cecilie Reed</b> <i>Foreldrekurs til hjelp eller besvær? - en studie om foreldrekurs gitt forebyggende som universelt tiltak.</i>	<b>Sonia Acheampong</b> <i>Ethical dilemmas in researching service coordination among frontline social workers.</i>	<b>Workshop 5</b> <i>rom 03- 063</i> <b>Investigating ethical issues in SW practice</b> <b>Noora Kivioja</b> <i>Social work and the state's security agenda - an ethically challenging position for social workers?</i>
10.40 – 10.50	<b>Break</b>			
10.50 – 11.30	<b>Henrik H. Nielsen</b> <i>Utvidet familie, utvidet hjem: Storfamiliens påvirkning på boligkvalitet.</i>	<b>Brenda Nyambe</b> <i>Ethical Issues when conducting research with families and children.</i>	<b>Mary Hemler</b> <i>Associations between social assistance benefits and child welfare interventions in Norway.</i>	<b>Christopher K. Mhone</b> <i>The Situation of Children with Disabilities in Malawi: The Ethical and Moral Crisis of Neoliberalism.</i>
11.30 – 12.30	<b>Lunsj</b>			
12.30 – 14.00	<b>Being a member of NORWEL: Did the school help me in my PhD-journey &amp; What do I wish for the future?</b> <i>rom 02-034</i>			

[Registration link](#)



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