



Informed adaptation

Ethical considerations for adaptation researchers and decision-makers

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Ethics: general issues

- the privileged position of the researcher in influencing decision-makers
- adaptation decisions made on the basis of **who** is providing the expert advice rather than specific circumstances of the end-user



- creating additional risk in the recommendation of particular adaptation options

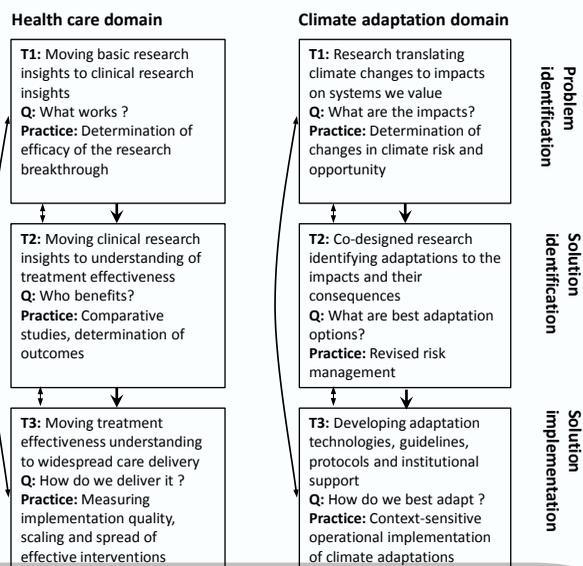
Lacey et al. 2015



Ethical challenges in adaptation research

- potential conflicts of interest (e.g. disciplinary bias, personal values and opinions about adaptation options, acting as advocates for own research)
- provision of conflicting advice to end-users and decision-makers (i.e. managing divergence of opinion)
- lack of alignment in science and public values (career metrics over value to decision-makers)
- lack of formal mechanisms to support ethical adaptation research and practice
- lack of clarity between research and operational aspects of adaptation

Lacey et al. 2015



Lacey et al. 2015



Thank you

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Interactive Session:

Drawing on our collective expertise and experience to answer the following questions (~45 mins)

- What are the main ethical issues in adaptation research and practice in your opinion?
- What are possible solutions to those identified issues or challenges?
- What ethical principles do/should guide our adaptation and research practice?

Four Discussion Groups:

Organizing the room around four distinct topics to identify similarities and/or differences

Prof Kathy Jacobs – adaptation and water resources management

Prof Jim Buizer – adaptation and international development

Dr Lilly Lim-Camacho – mainstreaming adaptation communication

Prof Bruce Hewitson – adaptation and city risk management

Rules of Engagement:

1. Find a group
2. Listen to a quick introduction of the table topic by your table group facilitator
3. This will be followed by three fast rounds of brainstorming and organizing your ideas into themes
4. Quick thinking over long discussion!
5. Each table will present back **key issues, possible solutions** and suggested **ethical principles** at the end of the session

Round 1:

What are the main ethical issues in adaptation research and practice in your opinion? (20 mins)

1. Each participant takes three post it notes and independently brainstorms 3 ethical issues based on experience, context etc.
2. Participants read out their issues and place them on butchers paper. The group organizes these issues into 5 or 6 themes (e.g. procedural, institutional, governance, funding arrangements, inappropriate rewards systems, other conflicts of interest).
3. The themes provide the basis for Round 2.

Round 2:

What are possible solutions to those identified issues and challenges? (15 mins)

1. Each participant takes three post it notes and independently brainstorms 3 possible solutions to the identified challenges.
2. Participants read out their issues and place them on butchers paper. The group organizes these issues into 5 or 6 themes (e.g. changes to existing processes or systems (why? how?), individual or institutional responses, information, behavior, shifts in responsibility)
3. The themes provide the basis for Round 3.

Round 3:

What ethical principles could guide adaptation research and practice? (15 mins)

1. Based on the identified issues and solutions in your table group, what principles could guide ethical adaptation research and practice? Keep this session focused on what we do rather than high level “universal” principles.
2. Each participant identifies up to 5 principles for ethical adaptation research and practice, and organizes them into themes as before (e.g. duty to share information, responsibilities in communication, value to end-user captured etc.)
3. The themes identified from Rounds 1-3 will be reported back by your group in plenary.