

CLAS Research Ethics and Integrity Policy

1. Introduction

Research activity in the University of Kent's department of Classical and Archaeological Studies covers a range of disciplines, potentially as broad as in any Humanities subject. This policy sets out our principles for ethical research planning and practice, informed by national and international standards and by our professional experience.

These principles are in line with the University's policies and procedures for research activity:

- Any research projects in the Division of Arts and Humanities with ethical implications must seek approval from the University's Central Research Ethics Advisory Group. The application process is explained [here](#).
- Our research is subject to all applicable laws.
- Wherever appropriate, we follow the University of Kent's sector-leading [Code of Practice concerning Freedom of Speech, External Speakers and Events](#).

2. Publication

- i. We take every opportunity to comply with the University's commitment to Open Access, both for publications and for research data. This can involve dedicated University resources such as the Kent Academic Repository or data publication tools.
- ii. We communicate the results of our research to the academic community and wider public through responsible means, such as academically rigorous publication and timely activities.
- iii. The results of our research have inherent value, and if they are not published within a reasonable length of time they should normally be made available by alternative means.
- iv. We take every effort to ensure the preservation of research data for future use.

3. Student Collaboration in Research

- i. Student collaborators on research projects, at any level of study, must have a clearly defined role including a workload that is compatible with their studies and any other obligations.
- ii. During their participation, student collaborators should receive informal mentoring from their project leader or another designated academic.
- iii. As appropriate, student collaborators should receive due credit for their work.

4. Archaeological Fieldwork

- i. A Risk Assessment must be completed in preparation for all archaeological fieldwork and onsite activity, taking into account the needs of participants and stakeholders.
- ii. The excavation of archaeological sites should be performed to the highest professional standards, including sensitivity to local concerns, and the results of this research should normally be shared in the public domain.
- iii. We support the conservation of cultural heritage and the long-term protection of archaeological and historical records.
- iv. From the outset, all fieldwork projects should have a project specification including plans for conserving, preserving, and publishing the archaeological record.
- v. There should be suitable and accessible storage and curatorial facilities for all archaeological materials, records and archives.
- vi. We undertake to use all collections, records, reports, and other research materials responsibly.
- vii. We give due attention to any ethical concerns raised by the sponsorship of archaeological activities by companies or individuals.

5. Partner Institutions, Heritage Studies, and Conservation

- i. We uphold our strong commitment to Academic Freedom in all research collaborations, with partner institutions or in Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, including the rights of other researchers to express their professional opinion.
- ii. Researchers should respect the rights of heritage institutions and organisations, including the right to receive academic critique through any medium as part of the open expression of professional opinion.
- iii. Researchers should strive to attain the highest possible standards in all aspects of conservation. All actions should be governed by an informed respect for cultural property.
- iv. Researchers should promote an awareness and understanding of conservation through open communication with related professionals and the public.
- v. We recognise the importance of preventative conservation by taking all reasonable measures to limit damage or deterioration to cultural property and to minimize environmental impact (such as ensuring that materials used are disposed of safely).

6. Live Participants and Communities

- i. Potential participants should give fully informed consent to their participation in a given research project, and be allowed to withdraw at any time without explanation.
- ii. We respect the concerns of people whose histories or resources are the subject of investigation.
- iii. Individuals or groups should be actively consulted to establish a working relationship beneficial to all, including either crediting OR anonymizing their

- contributions, depending on their agreed preference and on the nature of these contributions.
- iv. Researchers should ensure that their work does not harm participants' safety, dignity, or privacy.
 - v. Researchers should recognize their debt to the societies in which they work, and establish appropriate forms of reciprocity with local communities and cultures.

7. Participant Data, Human Representations, Human Remains

- i. The permission of living human subjects in imagery must be obtained before such imagery is used for any public purpose.
- ii. The remains of the dead should always be treated with respect, regardless of origin, race, religion, nationality, custom or tradition.
- iii. The wishes of the local community and of relatives or guardians of the dead should be respected whenever possible.
- iv. The scientific research value of skeletal, mummified, and fragmentary human remains should be respected whenever possible.

Supplementary List of Ethics Resources:

- [American Anthropological Association \(AAA\) Code of Ethics](#)
- [American Cultural Resources Association \(ACRA\) Code of Ethics](#)
- [Archaeological Institute of America \(AIA\) Code of Ethics and Code of Professional Standards](#)
- [American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works \(AIC\) Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice](#)
- [American Association of Museums Code of Ethics for Museums](#)
- [Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and the Commonwealth Ethical Guidelines for Good Research Practice](#)
- [EAA Code of Practice](#)
- [ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums](#)
- [ICOMOS Ethical Commitment Statement for ICOMOS Members](#)
- [IFA Code of Conduct](#)
- [Register of Professional Archaeologists Code of Conduct and Standards of Research Performance](#)
- [SAA Principles of Archaeological Ethics](#)
- [WAC First Code of Ethics and Vermillion Accord](#)
- [ESRC Research Ethics Framework project](#)
- [Policy Statement of the UCL Institute of Archaeology, London, Regarding the Illicit Trade in Antiquities](#)
- [The Market Research Society Code of Conduct in Ethical Research:](#)
 - including [research with ethnic minorities](#)
 - on doing [research with children & young people](#)

Dr Dunstan Lowe
Chair of the Central Research Ethics Advisory Group