

Lecturers' Perception of Students' Compliance with Ethical and Legal Provisions in Communication Research

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Abstract

This study examines lecturers' perception of students' compliance with ethics and legal issues in communication research drawing from various ethical provisions which were mainly derivations from biomedical sciences and behavioural or social sciences. A total of 58 lecturers in the Departments of Mass Communication and Film & Theatre Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka were sampled. Subjecting the data gathered to SPSS analysis, the lecturers' responses show low compliance as only two items: respect for respondents' privacy and researchers' maintenance of confidentiality, did the students show remarkable compliance while other 10 items in this category show low compliance. Plagiarism was identified as the most violated ethical issue in communication research. While adopting Social learning theory as a frame work of analysis, we argue that researchers should be held liable for their omission and commission. The respondents suggested ways of ensuring compliance with ethics and legal provisions in communication research which formed part of recommendation to include building of institutional capacity to check unethical practices in communication research and adequate punishment of offenders which confirms the theoretical bases of this study.

Keywords: Moral Responsibility, Plagiarism, Authorship, Ghost Authorship, Ethics, Law, Communication Research.