

# Annual Report for Senate – Research Ethics & Governance Committee

## Summary of key items discussed by the Research Ethics & Governance Committee 2017-18

- Online research ethics review system
  - Eventual success in persuading Information Services to agree to University-wide rollout
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
  - Guidance produced for researchers, University Research Ethics Advisory Groups (REAGs), and REAG reviewers, and a privacy notice specific to research
- Prevent Agenda
  - All REAGs' application documentation has been amended to include agreed wording about research that could have the potential to radicalise people, ensuring it will always undergo a full review
- Kent Data Repository (KDR)
  - Guidance for researchers
- Animal research openness and communication
  - It was recommended that openness around communication of issues relating to animal research activities in the University is improved to reduce FoI requests, negative comments on social media and student action. Institutional subscription to the organisation Understanding Animal Research (UAR) was recommended
- Researcher safety for students and staff conducting research overseas
  - In the light of media reports of the death of Cambridge PhD researcher Giulio Regeni in Egypt
- Students and research ethics review requirements
  - Sharing best practice on ensuring that information on research ethics review procedures is included in student modules, guidance and handbooks, and discussion of measures to address student non-compliance with research ethics review requirements
- Health and Social Care research and Sponsorship
  - A reminder of the procedure for seeking University Sponsorship for health and social care research projects that are seeking Health Research Authority (HRA) Approval
- Using information about people in health research
  - Guidance developed by the Medical Research Council Regulatory Support Centre
- School of Anthropology & Conservation research ethics review procedures

- Following bespoke training provided by the Chair and Secretary of the Committee, research ethics review procedures and documentation have been updated and improved
- Applied Research Ethics & Integrity Conference
  - Kent hosted its first ever Applied Research Ethics & Integrity Conference on Wednesday 4 April at which the Applied Research Ethics & Integrity Research Cluster was officially launched with a champagne reception. There were over 60 attendees from universities and other organisations across the UK, including academics, research administrators and students
- Research Ethics & Governance Committee Chair
  - Professor Rachel Forrester-Jones stepped down as Chair after five years. The Committee thanked Rachel for her work in leading the Committee and for championing research ethics and integrity within the University and beyond. After a selection process Dr Anna Brown from the School of Psychology has been chosen as Chair of the Committee to lead its work for the next five years.

#### **Key issues for the Research Ethics & Governance Committee for 2018-19**

- Rollout of the online research ethics review system
- Research data management
- Research data protection, GDPR and DPA 2018.

#### **Research misconduct**

There have been no formal investigations of research misconduct.