

Code for the Conduct of Research by RHD Candidates in the School of Psychology

Last updated: 31st October, 2008

All research conducted by RHD candidates within the School of Psychology must be done in accordance with the following codes of practice:

- 1) The NHMRC and ARC Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/r39syn.htm>); and
- 2) The Australian Psychological Society (APS) Code of Ethics (http://www.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/code_of_ethics.pdf).

1. Authorship on publications

RHD candidates and advisors should discuss potential publications arising from the thesis and negotiate authorship as early as possible, and do so in accordance with the principles contained in these codes of practice. The general principle underlying both codes of practice is that the order of authorship is dependent upon the intellectual contribution to the work, though that may come in many forms.

In most cases, the order of authorship is straightforward. For example, in many cases the Principal Advisor develops the general research question, which is then refined by the RHD candidate, who then designs the study, collects the data, analyses the data, and writes the first draft of the paper. In these cases, the candidate would typically be first author and the Principal Advisor second. If the Associate Advisor provided a substantive contribution, then the Associate Advisor may be third. This is scenario that is outlined in the APS code of ethics.

In some cases, questions of authorship are more difficult to resolve. These often occur where an RHD candidate is working as part of a team. For example, a paper might include multiple studies, some of which might have been carried out by members of the advisory team, or by other RHD candidates. In this case, the RHD candidate might not be first author. The order of authorship should reflect the relative contributions of the people involved.

2. University policies

University policies on the conduct of research (HUPP 4.20.2) and Intellectual Property (HUPP 4.15.1) can be found at:

- 1) Conduct of research: <http://www.uq.edu.au/hupp/index.html?page=25156&pid=0>
- 2) Intellectual Property (IP): <http://www.uq.edu.au/hupp/index.html?page=25152&pid=0>

The University requires that a copy of all research data is kept within the School for a minimum period of five years from the data of publication. For RHD candidates in the School of Psychology, this includes the data used in the thesis, and the data used in any publications stemming from the thesis. The data should be kept by the Principal Advisor.

It should be noted that authorship and IP are separate issues, and are often confused. Some guidelines that may help RHD candidates and advisors interpret University policy regarding IP are below:

- In general terms, IP is restricted to knowledge or know-how that is registerable, copyrightable, or a trade secret. In many cases, the only IP that is generated during the course of RHD candidature is copyright in the thesis itself. For many research projects in psychology, the concepts, data and analyses may not qualify as IP in a legal sense.
- If IP is generated during the course of candidature, then the candidate and advisory team should discuss the nature of that IP, and identify the relative contributions of the different parties to the creation of that IP.
- Unless there is specific agreement to the contrary, a student will own the IP that he or she creates while studying at the University. However, if University staff contribute to the creation of that IP, or provide background IP, the IP may be jointly owned by the student and the University. In some situations, an RHD candidate may be required to assign IP (excluding copyright in the thesis) to the University to fulfil requirements of a grant. Some funding bodies (e.g., Cooperative Research Centres) require such an agreement before the start of an RHD project.

Joe McLean (Manager of Innovation and Commercial Development for the Social and Behavioural Sciences Faculty: j.mclean@uniquet.com.au) can provide advice regarding IP issues.