

KNOWING AND UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION ETHICS: AVOIDING RESEARCH MISCONDUCT IN THE HUMANITIES IN CAMEROON

Eunice Fonyuy Fondze-Fombebe

Department of English and Cultural Studies, University of Buea, Cameroon

Corresponding author's email: fonyuy.eunice@ubuea.cm

This study projects the importance of ethics in the research process in some humanity disciplines in Cameroonian universities. Some humanities researchers often neglect the role of ethics in the research and publication process because they are not researching real life humans. I have observed in some defences the paucity of ethics. I have had cursory and informal discussions with some teachers and postgraduate students of History, Literature and Cultural Studies, which reveal a second fiddle status accorded ethics. This pushed me to tease through 100 History, Literature and Linguistics theses in the University of Buea Library after an informed written consent. The results called for an urgent need to emphasize on the necessity to consider research ethics as mandatory in disciplines in the humanities in Cameroon universities. This was reinforced by responses to an online survey of over 200 lecturers and students participants who clearly showed ignorance of research ethics essence. The research design was quantitative and qualitative and the observation and online survey through whatsapp and email were used to determine selected participant's knowledge and interest in research ethics. The results reveal lack of knowledge and understanding of the importance of respecting and applying research ethical norms in some subjects in the humanities in Cameroon? This research is important in that with the knowledge of what comprises research ethics and unethical practices, researchers and post graduate students of the Arts in Universities in Cameroon will be better prepared to do and report research ethically and originally. This task is aimed at mindset-change and awareness creation on the essence of ethical norms in research planning and reporting in some disciplines in the humanities in order to enhance research results reliability, validity and hence, impact.

Citation: Fondze-Fombebe. ASFI Annual Conference and Boot Camp, 28th-30th November 2023



Copyright: © 2024 by the authors. Submitted for possible open access publication under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

Keywords: Research Ethics, Research Misconduct, Cameroon Humanities, Reliability, Impact
