

Do scientists want to dwell in the ivory tower?

Mapping researchers' attitudes towards values in science

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What do researchers think of the interactions between research and socio-political values?

24 holders of grants from the European Research Council (ERC)

18 countries, 20 nationalities

Different research fields, seniorities, genders

Inductive thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke 2022)

Theme I: Researchers are aware that science is not value-free

Theme II: Researchers are concerned about values

Theme III: Researchers are confident that science is shielded

Theme IV: Researchers embrace some values as beneficial

Theme I: Awareness

“I don't believe in the neutrality of research. OK?”
[SH_3]

“What we end up doing is that *we try to average out the effects of potential pressure and of potential interest*, but they're all there, right?” [LS_2]

Theme II: Concern

“Before I was a researcher, I also worked a little bit outside academia. Business is driven by money and they typically want to do good research, but *at the end of the day, they need to make money. And that's their first priority.* And this is sometimes at odds with doing proper research.” [SH_5]

Therefore, **research** draws on the work of the community of researchers and *ideally* develops independently of pressure from commissioning parties and from ideological, economic or political interests.

(European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, 2017, p. 3)

“I think it's written carefully because some of these things are *objectives towards we should work for but are impossible as absolutes* for all work.” [LS_2]

“I like the ideal situation, so ‘independently of pressure from commissioning parties and from ideological, economic or political interest’. But then so I guess I would remove the industry...” [LS_3]

The new European Code of Conduct (June '23)

Therefore, **research** draws on the work of the community of researchers and *should* develop independently of pressure from commissioning parties and from ideological, economic, or political interests.”

(European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, 2023, p. 3)

Awareness that science is not value-free

VS

the professional ideal of minimizing value-influence

Should codes of conduct be more upfront
about these tensions?

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