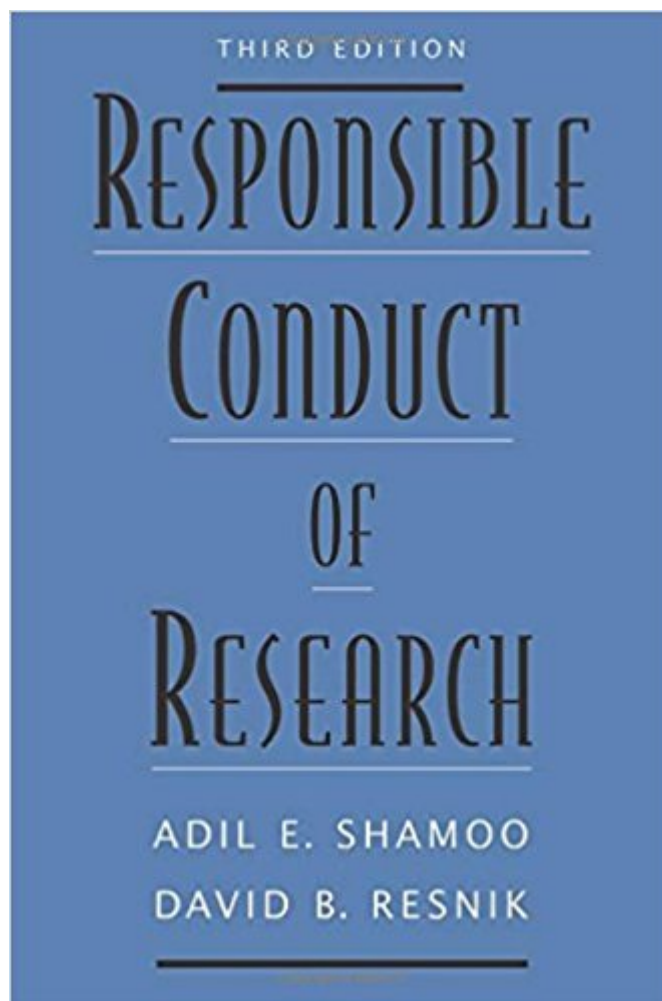


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Responsible Conduct Of Research



Synopsis

Since the early 2000s, the field of Responsible Conduct of Research has become widely recognized as essential to scientific education, investigation, and training. At present, research institutions with public funding are expected to have some minimal training and education in RCR for their graduate students, fellows and trainees. These institutions also are expected to have a system in place for investigating and reporting misconduct in research or violations of regulations in research with human subjects, or in their applications to federal agencies for funding. Public scrutiny of the conduct of scientific researchers remains high. Media reports of misconduct scandals, biased research, violations of human research ethics rules, and moral controversies in research occur on a weekly basis. Since the 2009 publication of the 2nd edition of Shamoo and Resnik's Responsible Conduct of Research, there has been a vast expansion in the information, knowledge, methods, and diagnosis of problems related to RCR and the multitude of ethical issues of human subject protections. With the climate surrounding research conduct always shifting, developments in the field make an updated edition a necessity. All chapters have been revised and reflect the most current RCR landscape. New or further-developed topics include social responsibility and misconduct in social sciences, climate-change research, authorship, and peer review. Updates include new information on research involving human subjects or "vulnerable" biological subjects, as well as genetic research. Just like in previous editions, all chapters contain recent case studies and legal examples of various subjects.

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Customer Reviews

This book was assigned for my university's ethics refresher course for graduate students. The book, like the course, is useful as an administrative response to systemic issues, but not much else. Many of the 2nd edition reviews state that it's "dry" - I don't agree. "Dry" to me means "scholarly jargon that's hard to stay in sync with, but has weighty contributions to make." This book is not a weighty contribution, and there's no jargon - just citations (primarily of other things the authors have written). The intended audience is either a completely incompetent group of scientists, or people who have no idea how science works. Nobody who actually works in science would need to be told the difference between machines and data, or that collaborations depend on trust, or that money influences what you work on. For that matter, nobody anywhere would need to be told that you can back up your diskettes onto CDs. The authors have a love affair with lists. Virtually every other sentence in this book is a list, including "things that constitute data," "people in your life that might qualify as a mentor," "ways in which information can be disseminated," "different statistical methods," "techniques you might use to study something," "ways you can bias your data," "things that undermine people's trust in each other," "people who were philosophers," along with the numbered lists, the bulleted lists, and the tables of lists. The list information is rarely expanded on, which gives a terrific impression of a 10-year-old trying to reach a word count in a writing assignment.

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