

# Ethical concerns in Research

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# Ethics as part of the research ecosystem

- Drawing on collective research and reflections
- ‘From’ the South rather than ‘for’ the South
- The question of ethics in research is often thought of in relation to particular components of the process rather than as a critical part of the overall research ecosystem
- Difficult to think about ethics in publication without considering the larger research ecosystem
- Terrain of knowledge production and dissemination remains deeply skewed in favour of Northern modes of research and production, which cascades down to outputs and systems of knowledge production and dissemination that in turn reinforce existing grant-making frames

## Four key aspects

- The framing of the research process: Building a shared research agenda
- The research funding process
- Co-producing research
- Dissemination research

# Building a shared research agenda

- North-South partnerships:
  - Equitable partnerships
  - Collaboration
- Sharing agency:
  - Across partners
  - Across researchers and respondents
- Expand opportunities for participation
- Particularly a concern for urban research given the urgency of the questions being studied and the need to arrive at truly equitable global solutions

# Research funding

- Need to pay attention to how research grants are framed and what frameworks they valorise
- Changing these is critical to opening up knowledge production networks
- With rare exceptions, funding calls often predetermine overall approaches in terms of theory, method, and output.
- For example, grants often require broad-based international partnerships across a range of stakeholders, but also limit expenditure through budget caps
- Grant conditions and constraints limit meaningful partnerships and lead to development of research ecosystems that serve specific needs and outputs

# Co-producing research

- Learning with partners: developing a shared research question and agenda
- Research for whom: developing shared outcomes
- Research to what purpose: not only for academic output but for wider use and dissemination
- Critical especially in the context of North-South partnerships
- The need to be mindful of power dynamics:
  - Between researchers and respondents
  - Among different sets of respondents

# Disseminating research

- Publishing:
  - Writing collectively
  - What kinds of outputs?
  - For whom?
  - Where and through what kinds of platforms?
  - Open-access
  - Language and literacy