

Principles for equitable participatory research

Equality: all societal groups should be able to participate equally in scientific processes, regardless of gender, ethnic background, class, or other personal characteristics. Participation should not depend on financial resources.

Methodological diversity: participatory research employs a variety of social, humanistic, and artistic methods, as well as specialized engagement methodologies.

Interdisciplinarity: participatory research uses inter- and transdisciplinary approaches and methods, involving experts from all relevant fields of academia and society.

Reciprocity: participatory research must benefit all involved. Where research benefits from the involvement of patients and the public, they must in turn derive equivalent benefits from their participation.

Respect: participatory research must take place on equal terms. Experts and "experts by experience" are equal actors and must develop a common language and approach, as well as democratic decision-making processes.

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Partiality: participatory research primarily aims for collective insight rather than economic utility or political influence. It is committed to, and advocates for, participant's interests vis a vis economic or political actors.

Inclusion: participation in research should be open to all parts of society, including vulnerable and marginalized groups. This requires appropriate (outreach) methodologies and specialized knowledge of research ethics and diversity in science.

Openness: participatory research should make its goals, methods, results, as well as financial resources and interests transparent according to the principles of Open Science. Wherever possible, research results should be published Open Access.

Validity and Rigour: participatory research should be based in state of the art scientific practice. Researchers should actively participate in national and international debates and networks on current participatory methods and approaches.

Ethics: participatory research requires ethical oversight to ensure that participants are not harmed or economically exploited. Standards of Good Scientific Practice must be adhered to at all times.