Ethics in Interaction
Ethics pre-assessment preparation tool

Dennis Reidsma, George Hadjidemetriou, Amy de Lange, Laura Kester
Literature: HCI and research ethics

• Guidelines hard to apply
• Guidelines do not promote working with diverse and vulnerable target groups
• Researchers’ skills with preparing materials are often insufficient
• There is a lack of general insight into how to deal with the situational ethics in HCI
  (in design, things end up being different from what you prepared)
Our researchers struggle

Preparing materials for EC assessment

Know about ethics, but

• “What are the relevant ethical factors in *my* work?”
• “What is a good way to communicate things with participants?”

Copy and adapt existing examples from peers

→ but there are many typical patterns of research; the taken example may not quite fit and their selections and adaptations are not always great
Our researchers struggle

→ Beginner mistakes, but also unaware of best practices

→ Examples from peers do often not quite fit the new project
  
  *(better examples would have existed but were not found)*

→ We give repeated patterns of advice for similar recurring projects
  
  *(lots of work for team of ethics advisers)*

→ Higher quality research is sometimes possible...
Aim of this project (*)

• Streamline assessment process

• Higher quality first time submission & generally improving skills

• Through interactive *tailored advice*

• Plus integration with micro teaching units

(*) thanks to support so far already: LISA, EEMCS, HMI
Aim of this project

• Higher quality first time submission & generally improving skills

• Through a **tool** that provides *tailored* advice in an **interactive** way
  • beyond manual / guideline!
  • advanced advice for typical patterns of doing research in this group
  • *which* of these patterns are actually in use by the requesting researcher?

• Highest level of usability for front end user

• Link from advice to “further reading” / micro teaching units
TOOL PROTOTYPE

- Design Amy de Lange
- Implementation George Hadjidemetriou
- Advice content Laura Kester
Ethics pre-assessment preparation tool prototype

Front-end prototype / design: help researcher prepare materials

• Probe: Which typical patterns of research?
• Provide bundle of advice / best practices for parts of the project
• Provide tailored templates for fragments of consent form, info brochure, etc

Simple research plan?  → simple process and output
Complex research plan?  → more extensive advice
Demo front-end
Ethics pre-assessment preparation tool prototype

But research practices change...
New types of research emerge...

This requires tool that can evolve with these developments

e.g., the case of Animal Computer Interaction
(designed playful systems for monkeys at Apenheul; more to come...)
Ethics pre-assessment preparation tool prototype

Backend prototype / design:
build collection of advice patterns for a research group

• Build / modify the cascaded questionnaire to probe typical patterns to give advice
• Build / modify advice fragments & rules how to combine given questionnaire
Demo back-end questionnaire editor
Designs for advice document editor
What’s next?

• Implement prototype further
  • “advice document editor”
  • missing design details throughout
  • full collection of advice snippets for HMI
  • Start using tool in first research group and teaching program

• Work with other groups to tailor to their typical patterns of research and corresponding typical best practice advice

• Towards having tool available to streamline and improve research ethics
OUTCOME

• Unique support tool: no-one in world has anything like it
• Increase in academic integrity practice
• Less time (money) lost on preparing research ethics
• Less time (money) lost on reviewing research ethics on obvious issues
• Increased research ethics awareness and skills at UT
• More research impact because more inclusive, human-appropriate methods
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