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## Facilitate Open Science Training for European Research

Scottish Graduate School of Social Science Workshop:  
**Good practice in data management & data sharing with social research**

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# Ethics

## Ethics committees

- Review research applications and advise on whether they are ethical.
- Safeguard the rights of research participants.

## Participants

- Must be fully informed as to the purpose, methods and intended uses of the research, and advised of what their involvement will entail.
  - NB As funding councils expect that you will be sharing your data, best to include mention of this when consent is obtained.
- Their participation must be voluntary, fully informed and free of any coercion.
- Confidentiality of information collected and anonymity of subjects must be respected at all times.



# Privacy, confidentiality & disclosure

## Privacy

- An entitlement of the subject.
- Subsequent handling, storage and sharing of data must be carefully managed to preserve the privacy of the subject.

## Confidentiality

- Refers to the behaviour of the researcher, whereby the privacy of the subject is maintained at all times.

## Disclosure

- Must be guarded against!
- Various techniques to avoid it, whether for ethical, legal reasons or commercial reasons, e.g.
  - removing identifiers from personal information
  - aggregating geographical data to reduce precision
  - anonymising data - but without overdoing it!



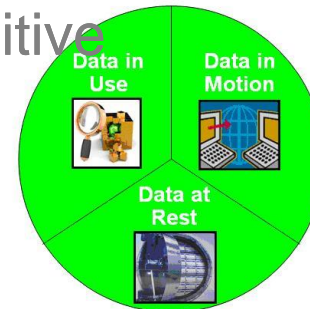
# Data protection

## 1988 Data Protection Act

Working with personal / sensitive research data

- Research data, specifically what you can do with it, falls within the scope of this Act.
  - Creation
  - Storage
  - Migration
  - Disposal
  - Sharing
- Failure to observe its requirements can get you into a lot of trouble!

**Data in Use:**  
Active data under constant change stored physically in databases, data warehouses, spreadsheets etc.






**Data in Motion:**  
Data that is traversing a network or temporarily residing in computer memory to be read or updated.

**Data at Rest:**  
Inactive data stored physically in databases, data warehouses, spreadsheets, archives, tapes, off-site backups etc.

Data Protection for Students (Records Management Office):

<http://edin.ac/1CVrZFn>

# Activity: consent forms

-  Have a look at the consent forms you're given and answer the following questions:
-  What are your initial impressions of each of the consent forms and information sheets?
-  Is there anything that's missing or anything that you feel unnecessary?