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## **Learning from transnational differences in how risk of harm is viewed in human research ethics**

Sherlaw W, Fernandez A, McColl K and Cooper R, *European Journal of Public Health*, 2018

From a transnational perspective, we will address the issue of tensions between differing national approaches to ethics in research. After characterizing different ethical approval procedures, participants will be asked to co-construct advice to international Master and PhD students, their supervisors, as well as academic researchers. This session will draw on insights from a recent EHESP PhD student seminar on transnational research ethics held in Paris coupled to the experience of Europubhealth+, an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Public Health delivered by a consortium of six European universities. With extensive experience in transnational education and research we are familiar with the varying regulations between countries and associated issues that may arise. These include administrative matters (visa, admission) as well as surprisingly ethical ones. In spite of internationally recognized principles, ethical approval procedures in higher education and research may vary substantially between countries. A survey carried out among partners has revealed notable differences between countries with respect to how risk of harm is viewed within human research, especially in the social sciences. There are important practical implications for students and supervisors with respect to the validation of Master's dissertation or thesis work. There are also implications for current and future researchers with regards to carrying out transnational research and subsequent submission and publication in international peer reviewed journals. Rather than view this as an obstacle, it will be argued that such variation offers an opportunity to further the development of ethical persona in trainees and researchers and to hone advice on research ethics. In the longer term, we hope to develop ethical approval practice and ultimately transcend such differences in national practice.