

# RC DEVELOPING A TOOLKIT FOR PROMOTING RC RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT IN RESEARCH-CREATION

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## PROJECT CONTEXT

This 2-year project was conducted under the auspices of a “Concerted Action” grant from the *Fonds de recherche du Québec* (FRQ), the main research funding agency in the province of Québec (Canada). The FRQ sought to stimulate research to explore and document the specificities of **Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)** in **Research-Creation (RC)**.



## Our specific objectives for this exploratory empirical study were:

- To identify the issues and **challenges related to conflicts of interest, dissemination and evaluation** that frequently arise in the context of RC and to determine their specificities;
- To **highlight the perceptions that researcher-creators have of these issues** and the application of RCR principles in line with their practical experience;
- To **identify the limits of existing institutional and national RCR policies** with regard to their integration of creative research practices;
- To **develop RCR awareness-raising tools** adapted to the realities of the RC community.

## WHAT IS RCRC?

To our knowledge, this research is the first to investigate together the two fields of RCR and RC. The term **Responsible Conduct in Research-Creation (RCRC)** is used to help synthesize our findings.

### RCR Responsible Conduct of Research

Encompassing both the concepts of **research integrity** and **research ethics**, RCR generally refers to the expected behaviour of researchers and other research stakeholders in the pursuit of their activities. Our research encompasses classic RCR themes such as conflicts of interests, authorship, fabrication, falsification, etc.

### RC Research-Creation

Although many definitions co-exist, RC can be described as combining **artistic and creative activities** with their **problematization** in the aim of producing new esthetic, theoretical, methodological, epistemological or technical knowledge.

### RCRC Responsible Conduct in Research-Creation



## Examples of Possible Research-Creation Projects

A researcher-creator is interested in the transposition of dance body movements into real-time music generation.

*(Example from our Case Study 1 on Conflicts of Interest)*

A visual artist collaborates with engineers on the design of robotic exoskeletons to push the body's biological limits through a series of performances.

*(Example from our Case study 4 on Inadequate Mention)*

## METHODOLOGICAL TIMELINE

- 1 Scoping Review of the Academic Literature on RCR and RC**  
| 181 texts retained, coded and analyzed
- 2 International Online Survey of RC Practitioners, Evaluators and Commentators**  
| 755 respondents from 59 countries
- 3 Group Discussion with the RC Community About its Perceptions of RCR**  
| 8 professors, students and administrators from 3 Montreal universities
- 4 Co-design workshop with the RCR and RC Communities to Create Practical Tools**  
| 2-day collaborative workshop to foster dialogue between the two communities
- 5 Review of RCR Institutional Policies Regarding their Integration of Creative Practices**  
| 49 Canadian and international policies reviewed

## Main Conclusions for Toolkit Development

Beyond the classic RCR issues (e.g., conflicts of interests and commitments, data management, dissemination and evaluation), the main obstacles encountered in RCRC emerge from the **definition of RC** itself and the diversity of practices it encompasses.

The **postures adopted by researcher-creators**, some promoting a RC perspective closer to artistic practices while others leaning more towards academic research, also have an important influence on their vision and appreciation of RCR.

An important **communication and understanding gap** prevails between the RC and RCR actors and communities. This research confirmed the need for creating tools to accompany and sustain a reflection on RCR in RC.

## WHAT WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO REMEMBER FROM THIS PROJECT

This bottom-up approach could also be promising for promoting RCR in other fields of research. **First**, because a reflection on RCR anchored in specific research practices makes findings concrete and easier to relate to than abstract policies. **Second**, because engaging concerned actors and communities throughout the entire research process fosters better opportunities for results uptake, adherence to guidelines, and “buy-in”.

## Takeaway Messages

Once the communication and understanding gaps are filled, the RCR challenges met by RC practitioners are not so different from those in other fields. However, they **require a more nuanced approach to RCR** to be fully understood and dealt with, hence the importance of promoting RCRC.

Rather than adopting a top-down RCR approach based in institutional policies, our project showed the **pertinence of taking a bottom-up approach** to promote practice specific reflections in RC about RCR issues, as well as consider the best “creative” practices as pathways to responsible RCRC.

## THE RESULT

### AN INNOVATIVE PRACTICAL TOOLKIT ON RCRC

We designed our Toolkit to **accompany both the RCR and RC communities in a shared reflection on RCRC**. In line with our research methodology and findings, we anchored our tools for reflection in concrete RC practices. These tools are intentionally not prescriptive as their aim is to promote a better and more nuanced understanding and reflection on RCRC.

**Specificities** | 130-Page Toolkit | Research Findings + 4 Detachable Practical Tools  
| Bilingual (English and French) | Available Online and Open Access

## TOOLKIT COMPONENTS



### Introduction to the Toolkit

Introduces the project's context and acronyms used for a smooth navigation of the Toolkit.



### Accompanying Guide in RCRC

Provides an overview of RCR, RC and their specificities in the context of RCRC.



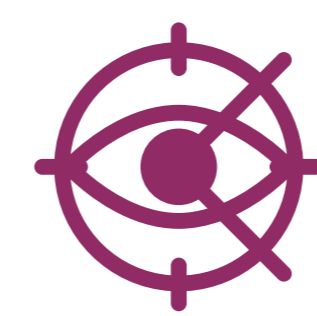
### Tool 1 — RCR Checklist

Outlines key questions and practical considerations for researcher-creators to promote RCRC.



### Tool 2 — Summary of Recommendations for RCRC

Presents the main institutional recommendations for the promotion of RCRC.



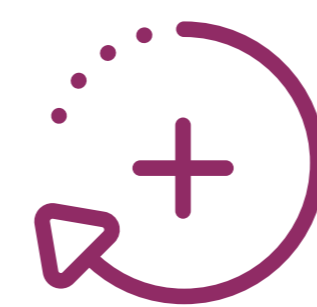
### Tool 3 — Case Studies for RCRC

Illustrates and exemplifies 10 key RCR breaches through examples of specific RC practices.



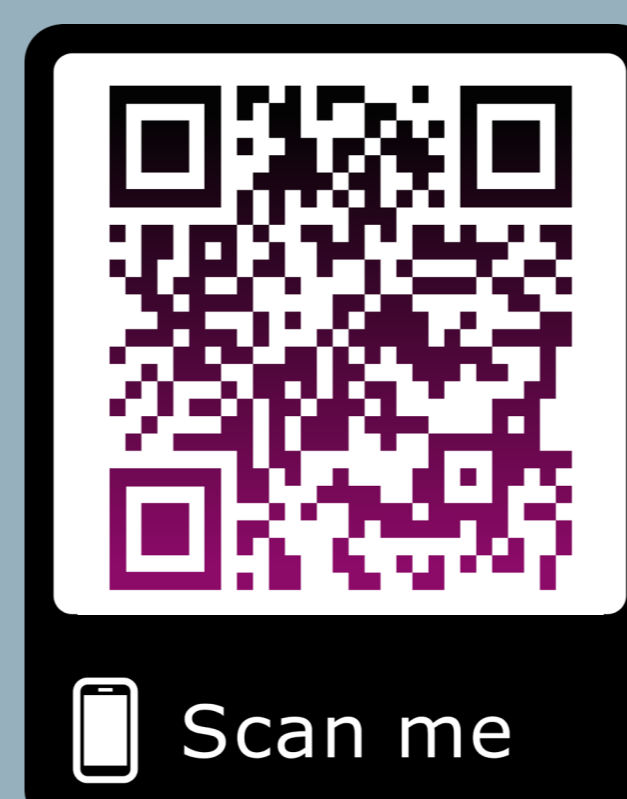
### Tool 4 — Podcast on COI and CC in RC

Addresses the conflicts of interest (COI) and commitment (CC) encountered by researcher-creators in academic contexts (in French).



### Additional Information

Provides more information about the project's methodology, the international survey results and the RCR policy analysis.



## GET THE TOOLKIT

### Permanent Toolkit Link

English - <http://hdl.handle.net/1866/20924>  
Français - <http://hdl.handle.net/1866/20923>

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A complete list of our collaborators is presented in the Toolkit.

Québec  
Fonds de recherche – Nature et technologies  
Fonds de recherche – Santé  
Fonds de recherche – Société et culture

Université de Montréal  
Social Sciences and Humanities  
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La recherche-création responsable  
Responsible Research-Creation  
Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

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