Abstract

The conduct of scientific research raises ethical questions that ordinary moral intuitions may be poorly equipped to address: Is it permissible to review manuscripts when the study in question closely mirrors one’s own work? How does one control the use of their intellectual property and what can be done when property rights are violated? Graduate students and early-career researchers face further pressures: What if an advisor insists on conducting research that violates professional or ethical norms? How do students balance the demands to publish quickly with the protocols of thoroughly verified results, especially when results are inconclusive? This presentation will address these tensions and others with a special focus on the pressures faced by graduate students starting careers in scientific research. I hope to show how attention to ethics can not only improve the quality of research but also guide decisions about its dissemination, assessment, and use.