



The geographical jurisdiction of the Ethical Review Act: Does Sweden ensure that Swedish research abroad is conducted in an ethically defensible manner?

Mats Johansson, William Bülow, Vilhelm Persson & Lena Wahlberg

Abstract

In Sweden, ethical review is regulated by law. In recent years, the law has been subject to severe criticism. The criticism has largely focused on how the ethical review system affects researchers and research, not least in the humanities and social sciences. However, little attention has been paid to how well it protects research subjects. From this perspective, the geographical scope of the Act is of interest. The Swedish Ethical Review Act only applies to research conducted in Sweden, which means that some ethically problematic research falls between the cracks. This article analyses the geographical scope of the Act and the consequences it has had in relation to the aim of protecting human subjects in research.

Keywords: Ethical Review Act, Geographical Scope, Ethical Approval, Cross-border Research, Ethical Responsibility, Research Ethics Committee, Human Subject Research.



© Author(s). This is an Open Access-article distributed under the terms given in CC-BY 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), which allows to copy and redistribute remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially given that proper attribution is made, and indicated if changes were made, and that this licence is specified and linked to.