

Racial Justice and Black Lives in Research: Consider these areas of inquiry –

- Developed by the Black Lives Matter in Research Working Group 2021 - Researchers, Ethics & IRB Professionals

01

Community Engagement

How do you engage the community ?

- Identify barriers to community participation, including fear
- Seek community stakeholders who benefit from participation
- Plan ways to return findings to the community in a meaningful way
- Create ongoing communication strategies, including centering black voices.
- E.g., if we're talking about lived experiences of Black women in their bodies, methods better leave room for Black women to express that.

02

White Normativity

How do you plan to assess white normativity in Research Design?

- Assess demographic question's added value to research design.
- Extend the latitude of what is researchable (research versus methodology).
- Evaluate the uniformity in data reporting and limit interference in non-uniform research design.
- Explore epistemologies or methods are limited based on "standard" set by institution.
- E.g. If the methodologists are all white how do we encourage and facilitate BIPOC methodologists

03

Participant Lived Experiences

How do researchers incorporate participant's lived experiences?

- Acknowledge the effects of lived and historical trauma, do not make assumptions
- Speak about lived experiences with compassion and sensitivity.
- Acknowledge and validate the connection between trauma and health in the experiences of Black folk.
- Center the joy, celebration, innovation, and genius of Black communities, Black families, and Black parents (e.g., in field of education).
- Prioritize Black or BIPOC communities' input and recruitment into therapeutic research for conditions which their community is most stricken.

04

Awareness

What is the level of awareness amongst IRB members and researchers?

- Honor and promote recognition of research on Black Lives. Recognize that internalized racism and bias can exist among Black researchers and IRB professionals.
- Recognize that POC researchers are often trained in white, cis male spaces.
- Assess diversity and inclusion of research teams. Has research been grounded in the knowledge and experience of the community (emic vs. etic approach)?
- Actively assess the cultural appropriateness of methods (data collection strategies, tests, interviews) and request adjustments accordingly

05

Training and Education

What additional considerations might you make for training and education?

- Provide multicultural teaching and mentoring across all systems.
- Train IRB members with consideration of diversity in research teams.
- Train research teams in:
 - cultural competence
 - sound practices for community engagement
 - methodologies best suited for all participants and communities

06

Publication and Access

What additional considerations might you think about for publication and access to data?

- Consider the importance of journals from a diversity of sources, not just "top-tier" journals. Recognize the value and make other resources available, create institutional change regarding what publications are valued.
- Consider high-quality research that uses a range of methods, uses alternate ways of understanding, and presents alternate theories besides mainstream journals that might have limited inclusivity.
- Encourage open access research and research repositories.
- Evaluate research objectives for participant support and what can be returned to them.
- Revisit that question to find which journals to publish to, which projects to pursue, how to pursue them.
- Promote research that supports and uplifts participants in some way.
- Do not allow "Gatekeeping" in funding and publication.
- E.g. if a funder is not inclusive do not use the justification "the funder approved this study design" as ethical.

07

IRB Composition and Committees

What considerations should be made for IRB Composition?

- Representation and composition on IRBs should reflect the community; including racial representation and research representation.
- Commit to time limits for IRB terms.
- Require transparency in the selection process.
- IRB focuses on community advocacy (versus liability control.)

<https://www.montclair.edu/institutional-review-board/blminresearch/>
Created in collaboration with individuals attending the November 2020 symposia and compiled by the Working Group.