

# Structured Ethics Appendices

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# Why include a Structured Ethics Appendix?

- Improves discussion of papers
  - Common misperception: IRBs = ethics review boards
  - Omission → Assumptions
    - Norms in fields vary on inclusion in paper
- Clarifies and improves ethics norms

# Ethics Appendix Sections

1. **Policy Equipoise & Scarcity**
2. Researcher roles with respect to **implementation**
3. Potential harms to participants **or nonparticipants** from the interventions or policies
4. Potential harms from data collection or research protocols
5. Financial and reputational conflicts of interest
6. Intellectual freedom
7. Feedback to participants or communities
8. Foreseeable misuse of research results
9. Other ethics issues to discuss

# 1. Policy Equipoise & Scarcity

- Is there policy equipoise?
  - Net benefits from each arm
    - Relative to each arm AND relative to “best possible policy”
  - Reality:
    - Most do NOT satisfy this. Take any cash transfer program. Cash > No cash.
- If no equipoise, two conditions must be met:
  - Scarcity and Nobody predicted to be made worse off
  - Participants have equal moral or legal claims to the program
    - (related to scarcity)

# Other Sections

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- 6. Intellectual freedom**
- 7. Feedback to participants or communities**
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