

# Research ethics beyond the IRB

Discussion starters for the  
Friedman School doctoral seminar  
28 February 2019

Warning!

These slides ask for instant feedback via anonymous survey at [pollev.com/foodecon](https://pollev.com/foodecon)  
You can point your browser there, or use the app: [polleverywhere.com/app](https://polleverywhere.com/app)

Based loosely on a paper in progress by Anna Josephson, Jeffrey Michler & Will Masters,  
from an AAEA invited session on research ethics at the American Economics Association  
annual meetings: <https://www.aeaweb.org/conference/2019/preliminary/873>

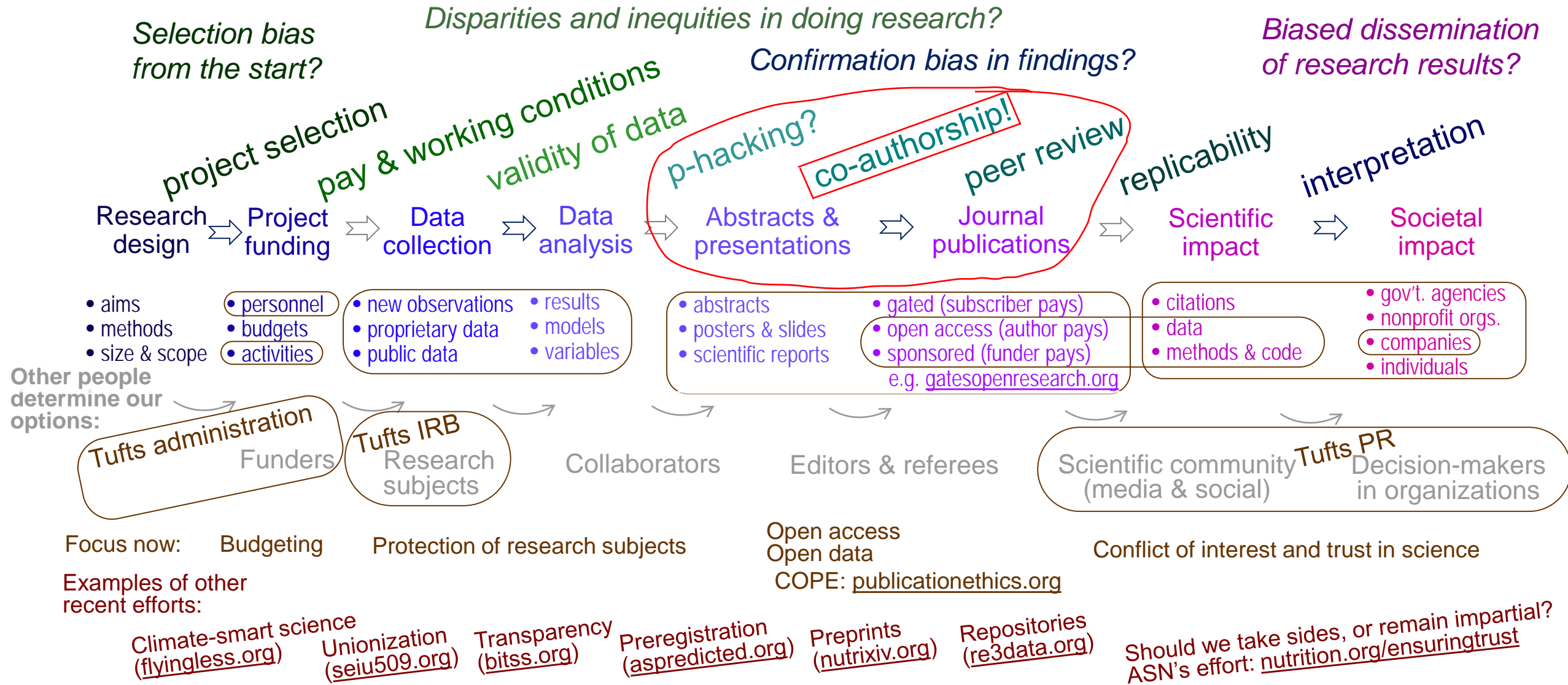


# Motivation

- Ethics training and enforcement is a big part of life at Tufts and elsewhere
  - Protection of human subjects, requiring permission before research is done
    - CITI training for all students and researchers, IRB approval for all projects
  - Protection of students and staff, through sanctions when violations are found
    - Standards are changing rapidly, e.g. Tufts policy on consensual relations
  - Protection of research integrity, through disclosure of financial interests
    - Different audiences have different standards, e.g. mandatory first slide in many nutrition talks
  - Compliance with Federal regulations
    - Institutions face difficult choices, e.g. contrast in enforcement of [immigration status](#) vs [export controls](#)
- We face *many* other ethical questions
  - Focus here on *research* ethics encountered in PhD programs, to spark discussion
  - Students have expressed special interest in co-authorship rules
  - Lots of concern about p-hacking and replicability, even in RCTs (e.g. [Brian Wansink](#))
  - Research in food & nutrition research faces particular challenges (e.g. [John Ioannidis](#))

# Life cycle of research projects

Ethical concerns could arise at all stages of research



# In your experience so far...

Anonymous survey ahead, at <https://pollev.com/foodecon>:

Which actions have you found to be of most ethical concern?



# Please point to the actions which you have found to be of most ethical concern

