

Enhancing the quality of published research on race/ethnicity: Piloting Guidance for Authors and Reviewers (September 2009)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation is currently funding a project that is exploring the feasibility and desirability of developing guidance to support commissioners and researchers improve the quality of research that pays attention to issues of race and ethnicity. The project responds to growing concerns that research which includes consideration of race and ethnicity issues is not always conducted with sufficient scientific and ethical rigour and that this can compromise the usefulness of the evidence generated.

The publication stage is identified as a critical point within the research cycle where researchers can be prompted to consider ways of improving the quality of their published work in this area.

Guidance for authors and reviewers has therefore been developed for piloting in several journals and the Editors of *Diversity in Health & Care* have agreed that the journal can be used as a site for the pilot phase of the project.

We are inviting all authors and reviewers to consider the guidance. Reviewers are asked to use the guidance to assist in their assessment of the paper under review. Authors are invited to read and consider the guidance when preparing their paper for submission.

Guidance Checklists can be accessed here:

<http://research.shu.ac.uk/ethics-ethnicity/htm/outputs/Diversity%20in%20Health%20&%20Care.dwt>

Reviewers and authors are asked to give feedback on the usefulness and appropriateness of the guidance by completing a short (10 minute) **online questionnaire** that can be accessed here:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=rdW4gocC3wPQvFwWDja1Fg_3d_3d

The pilot will not affect the usual way in which articles are dealt with by the journal and the research team will not have access to reviewers' confidential comments on papers submitted.

We hope that you will agree to participate in this pilot.

If you have any queries, further information can be obtained from: Dr. Sarah Salway, Centre for Health & Social Care Research, 32 Collegiate Crescent, SHEFFIELD, S10 2BP, UK

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