

**Ethics Committee Statement on Freedom of Speech**

At the start of every academic year when the ethics committee meets to discuss application processing, ethical practice, and procedures, the ethics committee members are reminded that they are assessing a student's or faculty member's ethical use of research methods, the respectful treatment of their participants and/or primary sources of data, and compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 / GDPR. It is not the place of the ethics committee nor its members to comment on the guiding theory, perspective, philosophy, or hypothesis of the student's research background; nor is it within the remit of the committee to assess the ontology and epistemology the student or faculty member brings with their research project's application.

The research committee broadly works in compliance with existing UK legislation intended to apply to all higher education institutions. Ethics committee members are assessing that students and faculty are compliant with child and adult safeguarding legislation, the UK government's PREVENT strategy, the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and promoting fundamental British Values which are inclusive of individual liberty, mutual respect of others, and tolerance of others. Applications may be turned down and referred back to the student if the study details are not compliant with these laws, policies, or guidance; however, applications are not rejected or referred for the selection of their theoretical overview or potential research conclusions.

When new members join the ethics committee mid-term, they are trained to be aware of these points and guidelines, ensuring freedom of speech and intellectual autonomy are respected during ethical research application processing.

Dated: 17 April 2023

Ethics Committee Members: Noga Glucksam, Greg Gannon, Ekene Okwechime, Tavis Ryan King (Chair)