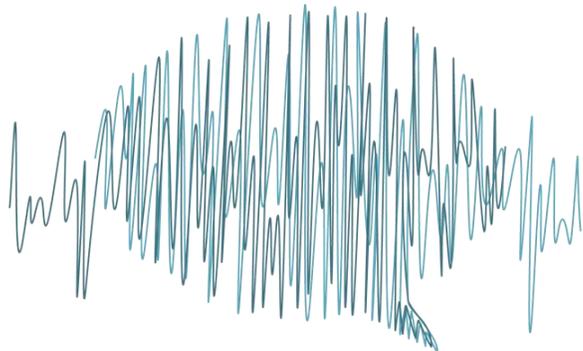
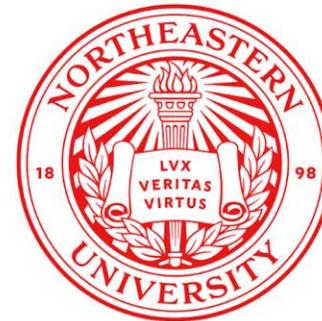


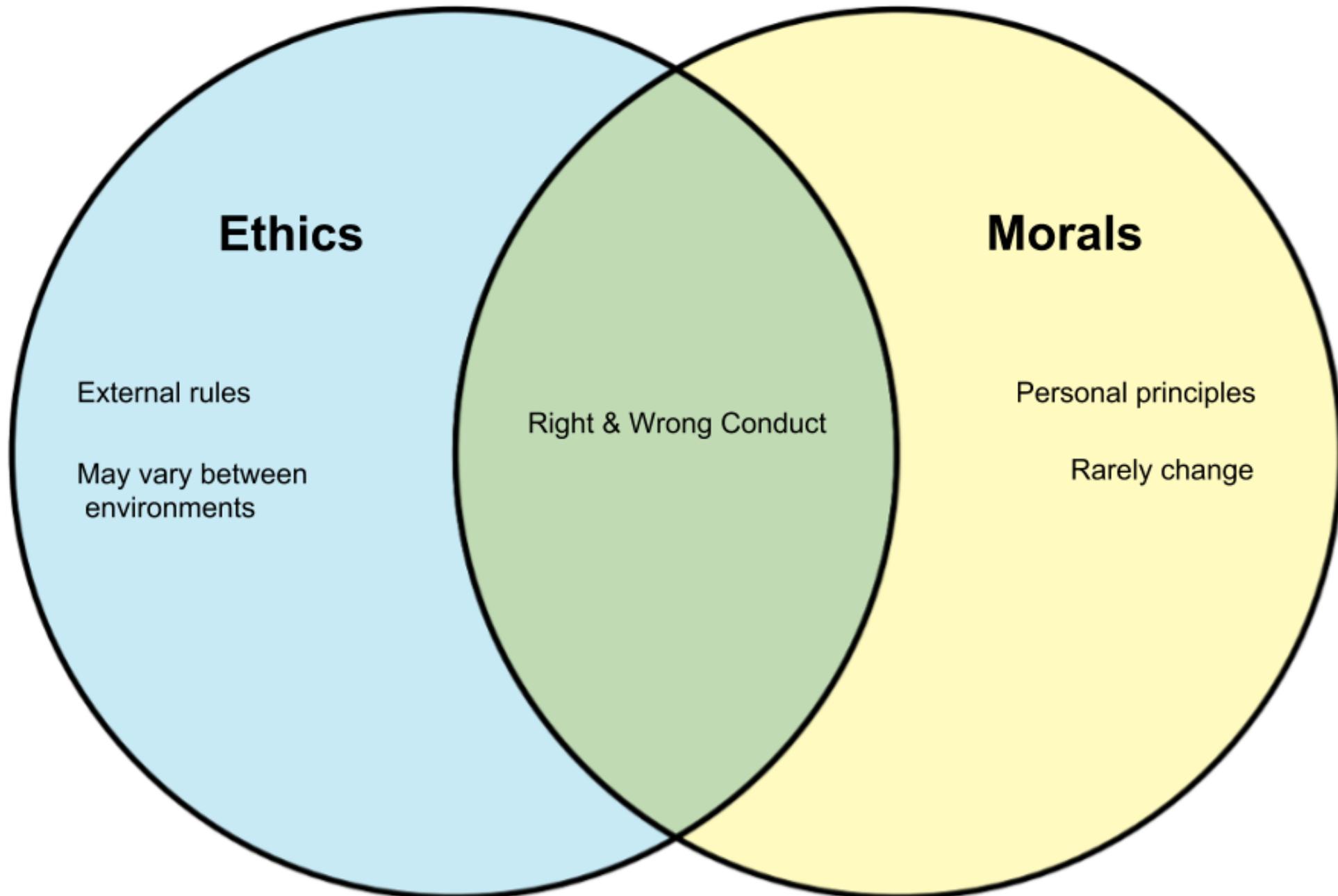
# Research Ethics



NU Comm Lab



**Northeastern  
University**



## Ethics

External rules

May vary between environments

## Morals

Personal principles

Rarely change

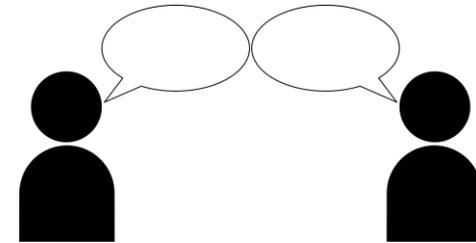
Right & Wrong Conduct

# What is a Turn and Talk?

**1. Write** down your thoughts



**2. Talk** with your neighbor



**3. Share** with the group



# How to address ethics in research

## AWARENESS

- How to recognize when you are in an ethical situation

## APPROACH

- What should you do when you find yourself in an ethical situation

## ACTION

- Take action to break the cycle of habitual bad ethics

## NETWORK

- Who should you talk to when you find yourself in an ethical dilemma

# Funding Bias

## Trust in Research - Garry Gray



# Case Study: NIH halts \$100 million study of moderate drinking that is funded by alcohol industry

The Washington Post, May 2018

- **Objective:** Determine whether moderate drinking has a health benefit.
- **Background:** Some research has suggested a benefit to moderate consumption, but the conclusion remains controversial.
- **Funding Source:** Alcohol industry via a private foundation that supports NIH
- **Where:** Harvard's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
- **Ethical dilemma:**
  - NIH director Francis Collins has ordered two reviews of the study. The first will “determine if any process or conduct irregularities occurred with grants associated with the study,” according to NIH. The second review will examine the scientific merit of the study.
  - “NIH has requested that the grantee, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, pause all study activities until the reviews are completed,”
  - In conducting its own review of the study, Beth Israel reported that “we have not found any reason to believe that it does not adhere to our institutional requirements.”
  - “This particular study was set up in such a way that the funding is largely coming from the beverage industry and there is evidence that NIH employees assisted in recruiting those funds for this study in a way that would violate our usual policies,”
  - NIH has previously sought partnerships with industry.

# Discussion Questions

Imagine you are a researcher for this study:

- **AWARENESS** – What are the potential side-effects of funding bias on this research?
- **APPROACH** – What steps would you take to address funding bias?
- **ACTION** – What would you do to prevent/reduce funding bias in the future?
- **NETWORK** – Who would you talk to for guidance?

Additional Questions:

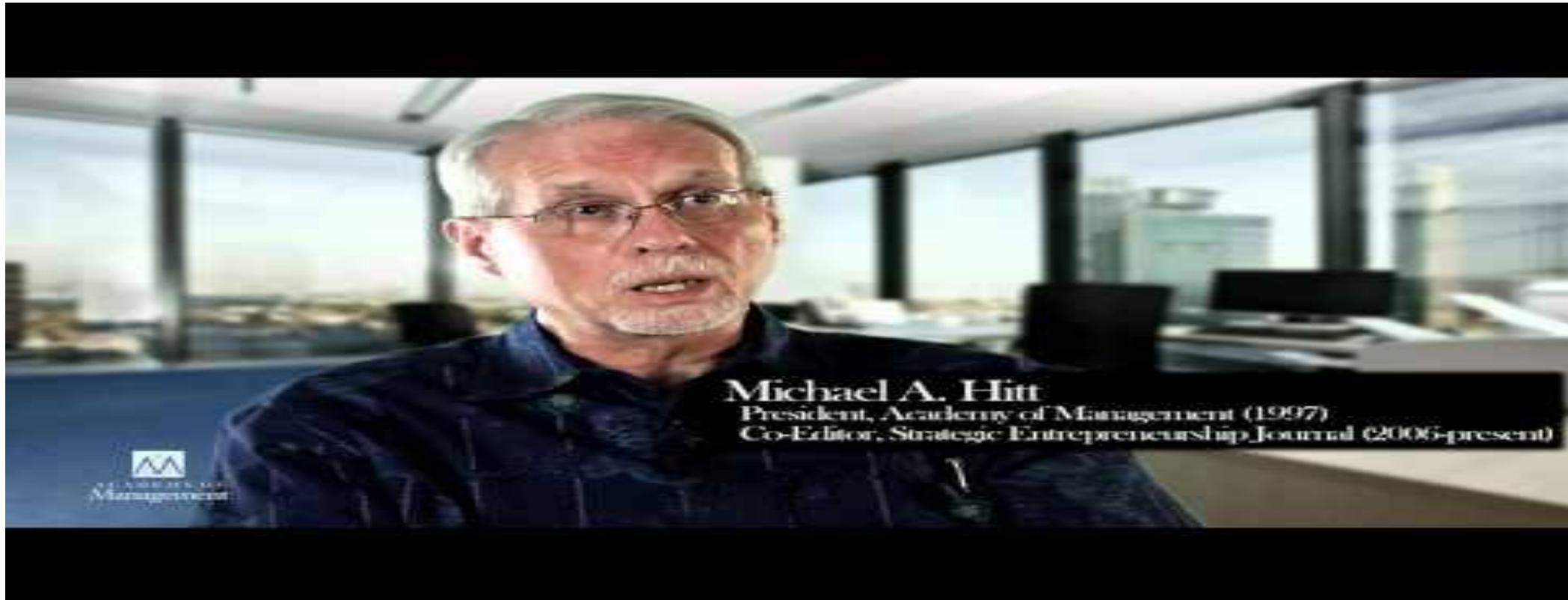
- What are other areas of research could be impacted by funding bias?
- Should the NIH be allowed to accept funding from industry?
- Would you trust the findings of a study on the impacts of alcohol that is funded by the alcohol industry? What if the results prove negative health impacts?

# Plagiarism



<http://aom.org/About-AOM/Ethics-of-Research---Publishing-Video-Series.aspx>

# Reporting Research



# Case Study: Fraud in Stem Cell Research at Riken Center for Developmental Biology in Kobe

- Two papers describing stimulus-triggered acquisition of pluripotency, were published in the prestigious journal *Nature* by Haruko Obokata
- Haruko Obokata was a visiting researcher at Harvard Medical School for two years under Prof. Charles Vacanti
- She claimed that she developed a new method to develop stem cells but she plagiarized writing, falsified and doctored images and data
- Nature retracted two papers within six months and Riken center created an internal investigative panel to report on the papers
- Three months the investigative panel report concluded that " she (Haruko Obokata) sorely lacks, not only a sense of research ethics, but also integrity and humility as a scientific researcher"
- This bombshell report led to increase in commercial orders of anti-plagiarism softwares from top Japanese Universities
- Biologist Yoshiki Sasai, leader of the Riken research group, was a co-author on both papers and committed suicide after the report became public

# Discussion Questions

Imagine you are writing a journal article:

- **AWARENESS** – What are potential sources of plagiarism, falsification, and fabrication?
- **APPROACH** – What steps would you take to avoid plagiarizing your prior work (self-plagiarism) or others' work? How would you avoid fabricating or falsifying your data?
- **ACTION** – What pre-emptive measures would you take to avoid plagiarizing in the future?
- **NETWORK** – Who would you talk to for guidance and feedback?

Additional Questions:

- Why does plagiarism happen?
- What would you do if you observed someone else plagiarizing or falsifying data?
- How would you feel if someone published your idea as their own?