



Institutional Review Panel for Human Subjects

**TO:** Chairs/Department Managers/Principal Investigators

**FROM:** Philip Johnson-Laird, Chair, Institutional Review Panel for Human Subjects  
Andrew Sylvester, Secretary, Institutional Review Panel for Human Subjects

**SUBJECT:** Guidance for Submission to the IRP

**DATE:** May 22, 2002

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The Institutional Review Panel for Human Subjects (IRP) is charged with the task of protecting the interests and rights of human subjects involved in research projects conducted by Princeton investigators. To further this task the IRP has revised their policy regarding Human Subjects review. The intent of this revised policy is to distinguish between research that does not need to be submitted to the IRP for review, and research that should be submitted to the IRP for review.

Proposed research including journalistic interviews, oral histories, biographical profiles, or other forms of nonfiction narratives, normally does not fall within the jurisdiction of the IRP. In these cases, the individuals being interviewed understand that they are being quoted, and have every expectation that their views will be made known. The interviewees are advised of their right to remain anonymous, to have their remarks printed without attribution, or kept 'off the record'. If the interviewee is directly quoted, they are allowed to read or hear the quotations attributed to them. The interviewee will also be advised of any publication plans for the project. Most projects from Humanities meet the above criteria; therefore they **do not** qualify for the IRP review, and do not need to submit their project to the IRP for approval.

Projects that can be defined as a systematic investigation which includes research development, testing and evaluation, designed to contribute to generalizable knowledge, including; surveys, questionnaire studies, or examinations of existing data, do fall within the jurisdiction of the IRP. Most projects from departments within Social and Biological Sciences **do** qualify for IRP review, and need to be approved by the IRP before the research can proceed.

If you are still uncertain whether or not your proposed research should be submitted for IRP review, please consult the IRP decision flowchart. The flowchart is posted on the IRP website, the URL is: <http://www.princeton.edu/~orpa1/memos/IRPflowchart.pdf>. It is our hope that the flowchart will assist investigators who are still uncertain if they should submit their proposed research to the IRP for review.

If you have any questions regarding this decision flow chart, please feel free to contact Joe Broderick at [jbroderi@princeton.edu](mailto:jbroderi@princeton.edu) or 8.3976.