

Further notes on ethics

We use the [BERA 4th Edition Guidelines \(2018\)](#) and [BAAL Guidelines for Applied Linguistics \(2016\)](#). These are good starting points in considering issues of ethics around video in particular.

If you are making video available that includes teachers in schools then [this document](#) is also a good resource. It covers issues concerned with the use of Iris Connect in a school in Bristol. It is a good example of a policy document which covers all the important areas of permissions and protections.

The two quotes from the BERA 4th Edition Guidelines 2018 are worth consideration in relation to video use and questions of anonymity and might make a good basis for discussion for you project team. They both raise questions of whether concealing identities with the use of pseudonyms and guarding against inductive revelation are necessary. The default position is certainly to conceal identities:

Researchers may need to negotiate an ethical course of action here – one that secures very clear agreement about anonymity and about subsequent use of the data. Researchers need to be aware that visual material could be misused by others (for example, as an example of poor practice), and should take steps to prevent this as far as possible. (BERA 2018: 22)

However, it is worth giving participants the choice. It may be that they want to 'own' their voice, their video and their contribution. So, the tension between the position in the quote above and such recognition of authenticity is captured in this second quote:

Tensions may be raised between a participant's voice and authentic response on the one hand, and anonymity on the other hand where, for instance, participants take photographs or video recordings in the context of visual ethnography. Researchers need to use their judgment about the appropriateness of anonymity in such circumstances. BERA 2018: 23