



## Office of Research Integrity and Assurance

607 255-6182 ~ www.oria.cornell.edu

<sup>1</sup> Identifiable private information is defined as:

- name
- address
- elements of dates related to an individual (e.g., birth date)
- email address
- numbers:
  - telephone
  - fax
  - social security
  - medical record
  - health beneficiary / health insurance
  - certificate or license numbers
  - vehicle
  - account numbers (e.g., credit card)
  - device identification numbers
  - serial numbers
  - any unique identifying numbers, characteristics, or codes (e.g., Global Positioning System (GPS) readings)
- Web URLs
- Internet Protocol (IP) addresses
- biometric identifiers (e.g., voice, fingerprints)
- full face photographs or comparable images

<sup>2</sup> Will the data you are receiving be coded or de-identified? If coded, at a minimum you still have access to private information.

<sup>3</sup> A sample agreement is available from ORIA, if you wish to use one for your activity.

<sup>4</sup> Common research methods include interviews, surveys, questionnaires, observation, shadowing, case studies, etc. Some methods are clearly systematic, such as surveys and scripted interviews; others are less formally structured but may still qualify as systematic, such as emergent-design interviews and case studies. Additionally, some disciplines overlap in methodologies or “borrow” methods from other disciplines. For instance, researchers in linguistics or English studies may use ethnographic methods (such as case studies and emergent-design interviews) to examine people’s spoken or written communication practices. While the University encourages the interdisciplinary use of research methods, researchers must be aware that they are responsible for obtaining the necessary ethical review when using new or unfamiliar methods.

Another way of considering the question is to ask: Is there a written (or formulated or articulated) plan for the activity? Does that plan reflect the norms of an established discipline? If you are still unsure if your activity would be considered systematic, please contact the ORIA office for assistance.

<sup>5</sup> The phrase generalizable knowledge also includes disseminating information through websites, newsletters, brochures, and other similar types of media. For instructors requiring human participant research exclusively as part of course activities, please submit a Research as Class Instruction form to ORIA.