

Collaborative Research Case Study Reaction Paper

Dr. Will has become part of a collaborative research project with a "loose arrangement." Because of this apparent elasticity, she thinks she can claim herself as the initiator and that one of her doctoral students can present his related research findings without approval from the group. Unfortunately, the apparent leader of the collaboration is not happy with this, asking Dr. Will to leave the group.

None of the parties in this case are conducting responsible, ethical research. First, Dr. Will has not ensured that she shares a full understanding of how the research project will be organized, the roles and duties of each collaborator, etc. with her collaborators prior to joining the group. She also has not discussed ownership of research data, such as that of her doctoral student, with the other collaborators. Further, her claim of having founded the collaboration group is a gross ethical violation. The leader of the collaboration is also not conducting responsible research. Like Dr. Will, she should have ensured a full and common understanding prior to the project's beginning; she also should have informed Dr. Will that any research presentations by her doctoral students would have to be approved. Finally, although the doctoral student is probably least at fault, he should have asked both Dr. Will and the collaborators when, where, and how he could present his research prior to doing so.

All researchers in the collaboration should have more formally planned the project prior to its beginning. Such a plan should have covered the roles and duties of each collaborator (including any doctoral students), the ownership of and rights to data and research related to the project, how new members would be included, and who could present research based on the project. This would limit misunderstandings and help ensure ethical and responsible research.