What is ‘Responsible Conduct of Research’ in Research-Creation?

An International Survey of Researcher-creators

Cynthia Noury, PhD student, Communication, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)

Nathalie Voarino, PhD student, Bioethics, Université de Montréal

with J.C. Bélisle-Pipon, S. Birko, C. Marsan, B. Williams-Jones

WCRI, Amsterdam, May 29, 2017
Defining Research-Creation (RC)

- RC is the articulation of:
  - Creative Practice
  - Intrinsic Reflection
  - Dissemination

Adapted from: Fonds de recherche du Québec — Société et culture (FRQSC)
Research Problem

- Dual-expertise requirements between creation and academia that may sometimes conflict:

- Artist
  - Creation
  - Artistic liberty
  - Artworks, exhibitions...
  - Etc.

- RCR/RC Issues
  - Authorship
  - Conflict of Interest
  - Conflict of commitment
  - Evaluation
  - Knowledge transfer
  - Validation
  - Etc.

- Researcher
  - Research
  - RCR policies
  - Papers, conferences...
  - Etc.
Survey – Profiles & Recruitment

- Three profiles:
  1) RC Practitioners
  2) RC Commentators & Evaluators
  3) Artists

- Three-point recruitment strategy:

  **Key RC Entry Points**
  (approx. 2,000 emails)
  - Canada
  - University Research Offices
  - RC Research Fund Grantees
  - International RC Groups & Associations
  - RC Journals & Authors

  **Bibliometric Approach**
  (approx. 27,000 emails)
  - International
  - RC related publications on *Web of Sciences*

  **Key Partners**
  - Québec
  - FRQSC
  - Hexagram RC Network
  - MILIEUX Institute
  - Canada
  - CAFAD
  - Etc.
Survey — Respondents Portrait

- Total of **759 respondents** (552 in English and 207 in French).
Survey — Respondents Disciplines

RC

Artists
Results – General RCR Issues

- *Have you received training on ethical conduct?*

![Chart showing the percentage of individuals who have received training on ethical conduct in research and arts, with a significant majority for research and a smaller percentage for arts.]
Results – General RCR Issues

- Any type of oversight/management will have the effect of limiting the creative liberty of researcher-creators.
Results – General RCR Issues

- The nature of artistic production should be taken into account in the identification, evaluation and management of RCR issues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commentator</td>
<td>4.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluator</td>
<td>4.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulator</td>
<td>3.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researcher</td>
<td>4.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>4.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results – General RCR Issues

- Due to the nature of the projects, responsible conduct in research-creation may be more difficult to identify.
Results – KT Issues

Witnessed plagiarism?

- Yes
- No

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Researcher</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researcher</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researcher-Creator</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researcher-Creator</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results – Conflicts of Interests Issues

- Level of understanding
Results – Conflicts of Interests Issues

- In the past 5 years, do you feel that you ...

Have been in COI?

Witnessed COI?
Results – Funding Issues

**Ideal funding**

- Grants coming solely from research funders
- Equally distributed between research and arts funders
- Grants coming solely from arts funders

**Current funding distribution**

- Favours research projects
- Is equitable
- Favours creation projects
Conclusion

Three main needs:

1. To investigate RC specificity in relation to traditional RCR issues;
2. To take artistic nature into account for RCR management;
3. To develop training tools for both the RC and RCR communities.
Acknowledgments

- Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ) – Concerted action « La conduite responsable en recherche : mieux comprendre pour mieux agir »
- Université de Montréal
- School of Library and Information Sciences (EBSI) – Professor Vincent Lariviére and Mr. Philippe Mongeon (bibliometric recruitment)
- Secretariat on Responsible Conduct of Research (SRCR)
- UQAM – Faculté de communication et Doctorat en communication
- And all the people who contributed to this research project.

Contact information:
- www.crr-rc-rcr.ca
- info@crr-rc-rcr.ca
Additional Information
Defining Research-Creation (RC)

Three key elements:

- It includes research activities or approaches favouring the creation or interpretation of literary or artistic works of any type.

- It's a combination of:
  - A sustained creative practice;
  - An intrinsic reflection on it;
  - The dissemination of the works produced in various forms.

- It contributes to disciplinary development in the form of:
  - Renewal of knowledge or know-how;
  - Aesthetic, pedagogical, technical or instrumental innovations;
  - Or else.

Adapted from: Fonds de recherche du Québec — Société et culture (FRQSC)
Research Problem

- RC implies dual-expertise requirements between creation and the academia that may sometimes conflict.
- It may affect how researcher-creators experience RCR issues and respond to institutional and governmental policies.
- This situation also complicates the integration of RC into the academia (e.g. evaluation, validation, authorship, knowledge transfer, conflicts of interests and commitment, etc.).
Global Research Objectives

This research project is part of a concerted action financed by the Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ).

- Three key objectives:
  - Identify the RCR challenges arising specifically in the RC context;
  - Highlight the researcher-creator’s perceptions of these issues and how they experience them in relation to their work;
  - Identify needs and gaps in existing institutional and national policies and develop awareness and management tools for the researcher-creators and their institutions.
Methodology

1. Scoping review of academic literature dealing with RCR in RC.
2. International online survey aimed at researcher-creators:
   - Validate the findings from the literature review;
   - Access their perceptions and experiences of RCR issues;
   - Identify their needs and preferences for the tool development.
3. Focus groups to discuss the needs and preferences identified further.
4. Tolls and guidelines development (to be improved during a collaborative workshop with actors from the RC and RCR communities).
5. Knowledge transfer and tools promotion.
Survey – Respondent Profiles

PROFILE 1 - RC Practioners
1.1 PhD students doing RC
1.2 Masters students doing RC
1.3 Postdocs doing RC
1.4 Professors doing RC
1.5 Independent researchers doing RC
1.6 Other RC practitioners

PROFILE 2 - RC Commentators and Evaluators
2.1 PhD students investigating RC
2.2 Masters students investigating RC
2.3 Postdocs investigating RC
2.4 Professors investigating RC
2.5 Independent researchers investigating RC
2.6 Other RC investigators
2.7 Evaluators of RC applications
2.8 Evaluators (REB) of RC applications

PROFILE 3 - Artists
3.1 PhD students in arts
3.2 Masters students in arts
3.3 Postdocs in arts
3.4 Professors in arts
3.5 Artists
3.6 Other respondents within arts

Most of your research-creation work / activity involves ...

Choose only one answer:
- doing research ON research-creation
- doing research-creation
- evaluating the projects of researcher-creators
- doing creative work
- establishing rules / good practices in research-creation
- evaluating projects for a research ethics board / committee
Survey – Overview

- **Invitations:**
  - Sent to ≈29,000 emails (≈2,000 were identified manually);
  - Initial invitation followed by two reminders.

- **Response period:** March 30 to April 30, 2017.

- **Survey characteristics:**
  - Mostly multiple choice questions;
  - Likert type continuums, most without a neutral value;
  - A few open questions to elaborate on RCR issues faced in RC;
  - Length from 10 to 30 minutes depending on the profile;
  - Average answering time of 28 min. 57 sec.
Survey – Limits

- **Research-creation definition:**
  - Broad and encompassing definition of research-creation used;
  - Difficulty to include all its possible domains within the survey.

- **Recruitment strategy:**
  - Important percentage of soft and hard email bounce due to the bibliometric approach (roughly 20%);
  - International differences related to REB and research financing.

- **Survey conception:**
  - Complex survey translation and discrepancies from French to English;
  - Some respondents not appreciating the Likert continuum strategy.

- **Survey manager (TypeForm):**
  - Platform technical limits related to the survey conception and analysis;
  - Some respondents experiencing problems transmitting the survey.
Survey – Recruitment

Three-point strategy aiming at reaching the heterogeneous and disperse RC community:

- Manually identifying the main entry points for disseminating the survey;
  - Research offices in universities across Canada;
  - Key RC writers, groups, associations and journals internationally;
  - Etc.

- Relying on a bibliometric approach to constitute a list of authors whose research-creation related publications were listed on Web of Science.

- Approaching key RC partners for a targeted dissemination:
  - Fonds de recherche du Québec — Société et culture (FRQSC);
  - Hexagram RC Network;
Results – Posture Issue

- Sub-profile by self-identification (RC profiles only)
Results – Main Findings

- Respondents profiles by status
Results – Posture Issue

- What should be the eligibility criteria to be a researcher-creator?
Artist

Creation
Artistic liberty
Artworks, exhibitions...
Etc.

RCR/R
Issues

Authorship
Conflict of Interest
Conflict of commitment
Evaluation
Knowledge transfer
Validation
Etc.

Researcher

Research
RCR policies
Papers, conferences...
Etc.