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Ethical Action Plan (500-750 words)*

This document is a chance for you to **begin shaping your project** while thinking through its ethical considerations, implications, and responsibilities. We know this might feel early in your action research journey, but this short plan is here to help pin down your ideas and work-in-progress.

Use whatever writing format that suits you - lists, bullet points, statements or paragraphs - and follow the suggested links stated alongside some of the questions for guidance.

A good starting point is the BERA Guidelines for Educational Research, fifth edition (2024) alongside the 'Ethics Files and Resources' on Moodle.

When you're ready, email your draft to your allocated tutor **48 hours in advance of you first group tutorial** in the week commencing **6 October 2025**, so it can help guide the focus of discussions and support your project development.

Name: Omar-Andres Hernandez del Canto

Tutor: Frederico Matos

Date: 20/10/2025

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1. **What is the working title of your project?** Also write a few sentences about the focus of your project.

Understanding the creative value of manga/anime:
How can we use manga/anime as an academic resource?

My project focuses on the values of manga/anime that academics can use as a teaching resource. Through my teaching observations, Illustration students use and recreate manga/anime in their projects as it is a popular piece of media and art form. As an outcome of this action research project, I aim to develop a digital material resource or reference database designed to support tutors in understanding the cultural, aesthetic, and pedagogical value of manga and anime.

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2. **What sources will you read or reference?** Share 5 to 10.

Prior, R. W. (2018) *Using Art as Research in Learning and Teaching: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Educational Research.* Bristol: Intellect Books.

Araki, H. (2017) *Manga in Theory and Practice: The Craft of Creating Manga.* San Francisco: VIZ Media.

Creswell, J.W. and Poth, C.N. (2018) Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Approaches. 4th edn. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.

Berndt, J. (2018) *Manga: Media, Infrastructure, and Aesthetics.* Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai'i Press.

Hall, S. (1997) Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices. London: SAGE.

Krueger, R.A. and Casey, M.A. (2015) Focus Groups: A Practical Guide for Applied Research. 5th edn. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.

hooks, b. (1994) Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom. New York: Routledge.

Pillay, T. (2022) Decolonising the Curriculum: Transforming the University in South Africa. London: Routledge.

3. **What action(s) are you planning to take, and are they realistic in the time you have (Sept-Dec)?**

I will draw on data collected from focus group discussions and supporting text throughout November. I understand not all tutors will be available at one time so there could be two or multiple focus group sessions throughout November.

During December I will then create a digitally accessible and evolving guide/database using the data collected from the focus groups.

4. **Who will be involved, and in what way?** (e.g. colleagues, students, local community…). Note, if any of your participants will be under the age years of 18yrs, please seek further advice from your tutor.

I will involve the BA Illustration and Visual Media team within a focus group, as this is where the main source of data and research will come from. The focus group will explore tutors' differing outlooks, experiences, and observations surrounding manga and anime. Participants will also complete a short questionnaire to capture individual perspectives that may not surface in the focus group discussions. All tutors come from diverse backgrounds and practices which will help diversify data collection.

At this current moment, no students will be involved.

5. **What are the health & safety concerns, and how will you prepare for them?**

   o https://canvas.arts.ac.uk/sites/explore/SitePage/42587/health-and-safety-hub
   o https://canvas.arts.ac.uk/sites/explore/SitePage/45761/health-and-safety-policies-and-standards

No health and safety concerns, since the focus group will take place in a classroom or controlled environment. Usual health and safety protocols will be adopted in a classroom.

6. **How will you manage and protect any physical and / or digital data you collect, including the data of people involved?**

   - https://www.bera.ac.uk/publication/ethical-guidelines-for-educational-research-fifth-edition-2024-online#consent
   - https://www.bera.ac.uk/publication/ethical-guidelines-for-educational-research-fifth-edition-2024-online#privacy-data-storage

I will state that the activity I will be doing will be part of a research project and all data will be recorded. All participants will sign a consent form stating that I will use the data collected as a key component of an intervention that I will bring to the course.

7. **How will you take ethics into account in your project for participants and / or yourself?**

   - https://www.bera.ac.uk/publication/ethical-guidelines-for-educational-research-fifth-edition-2024-online#responsibilities-participants
   - https://www.bera.ac.uk/publication/ethical-guidelines-for-educational-research-fifth-edition-2024-online#responsibilities-sponsors
   - https://www.bera.ac.uk/publication/ethical-guidelines-for-educational-research-fifth-edition-2024-online#responsibilities-wellbeing
   - See Emotionally Demanding Research PDF on Moodle

I will remain aware of my own biases when interpreting tutors' knowledge about manga and anime. My perceptions may not accurately reflect their understanding or experiences, and I must approach the inquiry with openness and humility. I will engage in reflexive practice throughout the research process, acknowledging that my role as both colleague and researcher may influence the responses and dynamics within the study.

I will record the focus group session, making sure all participants have given me permission and consent in recording and using data provided.

There will be two methods of data collection: 1. A focus group 2. Questionnaires for each participant. When phrasing questions or prompts, I will take care to use respectful and inclusive language that does not imply any deficit in participants' professional practice or knowledge.

Because manga and anime sometimes explores mature or problematic themes, such as violence, gender stereotyping, or sexualised imagery, it is essential to anticipate possible discomfort among participants. If I consider including such examples, they will be introduced through a critical and academic lens. Participants will be informed in advance about any potentially sensitive content and will be free to decline engaging with particular materials or discussions.

In facilitating focus groups, I will ensure that confidentiality and respect are maintained. Ground rules will be agreed at the beginning of the session, and while individual comments will be anonymised in reporting, participants will be reminded that complete confidentiality within the group cannot be fully guaranteed. Finally, participants will be offered a summary of findings or access to the resulting resource as a form of transparency and reciprocity.

Voluntary participation will be secured through informed consent. Personal information and responses will remain confidential and anonymised in all documentation and reporting. Any focus group discussions will be conducted in a professional and inclusive environment where all voices are valued.

All participation will be voluntary, and individuals will have the right to withdraw at any point without consequence.

* The form itself is around 300 words, so with your additions the total length will come to a maximum of about 1,050 words.