

Dear Oliver Keyes and signatories

Thank you for your letter and petition on the case of OkCupid and Emil Kirkegaard (EK), linguistics student at Aarhus University (AU). We understand and appreciate that you call into question the ethics and legal foundation of the activities by EK. However, AU is not responsible for his private publishing activities, and therefore we can not meet your request.

- EK is acting on his own private initiative and his activities are unrelated to research and study activities at the AU.
- EK is a student – not a scientist or researcher – at the university. Regardless of what he writes on the Internet or in his papers, he is not and has never been employed at AU.
- The university does not monitor traffic on the computers available to students at the University Library, but there is no indication whatsoever that the university's resources have been involved in EK's private activities.
- We can not prevent EK from writing AU in connection with his name, as long as he is a student with us – whether in his e-mail signature, on his homepage or in his paper. It is not against the law, no matter how misleading and damaging this is for the university and our reputation.

The Committees for Responsible Conduct of Research at Aarhus University

- Private research without connection to Aarhus University does not fall under the competences of the Committees for Responsible Conduct of Research at Aarhus University. Therefore the committee can not be involved in the case of Emil Kirkegaard.

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Page 1/2

Responsibility for his ethical standards

- The study director at the School of Communication and Culture confirms that the MA programme in linguistics includes training in research ethics and good scientific conduct (as, in fact, does the BA programme in linguistics).
- In November 2014, Denmark adopted a national code for good scientific conduct. All eight universities contributed to the principles and subscribe to them. Please find the link to the relevant rules below together with the link to Aarhus University's specific rules. Aarhus University has a policy for responsible conduct of research as well as a code of practice. They can both be found at the links below.
<http://ufm.dk/en/publications/2014/the-danish-code-of-conduct-for-research-integrity>
<http://www.au.dk/en/research/responsible-conduct-of-research/local-provisions-and-guidelines/>
- We are sure that EK has not learned his methods and ethical standards of research at our university, and he is clearly not representative of the about 38,000 students at AU.

Once again, thank you for contacting us. Hopefully this answers your questions.

Kind regards

Mads Niemann-Christensen