

Fiction movies in education on responsible conduct of research

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In this presentation

- Why fiction movies?
- Practical and legal issues
- The used format
- The movie collection
- First experiences



Why fiction movies?

- Teaching not only rules and norms
- Also skills
 - Reflection (on own and others behaviour)
 - Talking about sensitive topics
 - Dealing with moral dilemma's
- Fictional narratives enable:
 - Identify/empathise with (main)characters
 - Sense of unwritten/unspoken issues



Practical and legal issues

- ‘Citation law’
 - ‘cite’ parts of movie for discussion, long enough for relevant goal (not as ‘decoration’)
 - Provide reference tot original material
 - Only cite material that is already made public by the author
- Educational purpose + non-profit
- DVD, (il)legal downloads and streaming



The used format

- Content and context
 - Introduction to fragment(s)
- Ethics
 - Moral dilemma(s) + view on both sides
- Realism
- Suggested use for education
 - Discussion points and/or other methods
- Ending



The movie collection

- 31 movies watched
 - 11 rejected for this purpose
 - 20 finalised analyses
- Various RI topics, such as
 - Conflict of interest
 - Authorship
 - Selective reporting and citation
 - Data collection and study design issues



Fiction movies for RCR education

This is an internship project for the practical assignment of the master Philosophy, Bioethics and Health at VU University Amsterdam, performed by Christiaan Grigoleit, Bob Hoogenes and Isabella Vos.

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Several major violations of research integrity shook up academia and society during the last decade. Fostering responsible conduct of research (RCR) and preventing research misbehaviour were put high on the agenda. Teaching students and researchers about rules and norms in research is one thing, but empowering them to deal with moral dilemmas in research practice is a challenge. We argue that fictional narratives can be very useful in exploring the tough choices scientists have to make. In this project, we investigated the usefulness and applicability of a selection of fiction movies for RCR education.

Overview of selected fiction movies

Click on the title for more information and selected fragments for education.

Movie title	Medium	Key words	Fragments	Duration
And the band played on	YouTube	Conflict of interest	1	2
Awakenings	Netflix	Conflict of interest	1	5
Creation	DVD	Conflict of interest, Scientific writing	3	2-8
Dallas Buyers Club	DVD	Ethics (medical)	1	3
Extreme measures	DVD	Ethics, Decision making	2	3-8
Kinsey	Youtube	Policy, Education, Scientific writing	3	3-11

First experiences

- Star Trek 'Nothing human'
 - Masterstudents Philosophy Bioethics and Health
 - Realism: science fiction, but good recognition of the issue
- ...And the band played on
 - PhD-students VU University Medical Center
 - Different stances among groups



Thank you

Thank you for your attention

I'd be happy to answer your questions

Have a question later on? Feel free to send me an email at f.blom@vumc.nl

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