



Senate

<b>Paper Title</b>	<b>Ethics of Research Committee (QMERC)</b>
<b>Outcome requested</b>	To <b>note</b> the executive summary report of the QMERC meeting on 20 March 2024 and action taken since.
<b>Points for Senate members to note and further information</b>	
<b>Questions for Senate to consider</b>	N/A
<b>Regulatory/statutory reference points</b>	N/A
<b>Strategy and risk</b>	N/A
<b>Reporting/consideration route for the paper</b>	QMERC Senate
<b>Authors</b>	Nooreen Shaikh, Senior Research Ethics Facilitator, JRMO
<b>Sponsor</b>	Professor Andrew Livingston, Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation)

**QUEEN MARY ETHICS OF RESEARCH COMMITTEE**  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Date of Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**High-Risk Application**

<b>Study title:</b>	Theorising the Humanitarian Camp in the Process of Genocide
<b>Reference number:</b>	QME 24.0241
<b>Study type:</b>	Staff project, School of Law

The study is summarised below and was reviewed at QMERC Main Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The reason QMERC have requested Senate notification as it is a high-risk study involving vulnerable participants; the concerns for the safety of the researcher and the complex ethical issues.

The project raises fundamental questions for the practice of humanitarianism generally but even more acutely for camp humanitarianism operating during the process and aftermath of genocide.

The study aims to investigate the hypothesis, that across different sites and contexts, the humanitarian camp is not only a technology of protection, management and control aimed at mitigating the horrific effects of genocidal violence, but rather serves as a constitutive component of genocide, prolonging and enhancing processes of stigmatisation, violence, isolation, systematic weakening, annihilation, and social reorganisation.

We have advised the appropriate measures to be put in place to ensure this study is appropriately risk assessed.

<b>Study title:</b>	<b>Chilling Effects of Surveillance in Israel</b>
<b>Reference number:</b>	QME 24.0285
<b>Study type:</b>	Staff project, School of Law

The study is summarised below and was reviewed at QMERC Main Committee on 20 March 2024. The reason QMERC have requested Senate notification is due to the high-risk security-sensitive study; the concerns for the safety of the researcher; and the complex legal and ethical issues and potential reputational risk it poses for Queen Mary.

The study examines the ‘chilling effects’ of surveillance in the state of Israel, which are defined as individuals modifying their behaviour as a result of the fear that they might, or are, being monitored. The research aims to understand the political and psychological impact of chilling effects, along with their implications for human rights, especially in terms of rights to privacy and freedom of expression.

The research aims to challenge the view of surveillance often presented by states and police by documenting chilling effects to peer-reviewed standards. This study is a companion to similar studies previously conducted by the researcher under his previous university in order to determine the range and commonalities of chilling effects.

We have advised the appropriate measures that should be put in place to ensure this is appropriately risk assessed.

## **Main Items Discussed & Relevant Action Since**

### **Current Panel Membership**

We have good membership level from a wide range of departments and expertise.

### **Low-Risk audit update**

An audit of the low-risk review process by QMERC Chairs and members found, the applications were appropriately reviewed as low-risk and the new online ethics

application system is supporting the research ethics facilitators in lessening the administrative load and tracking applications.

### **Social media and ethics**

New guidance material is available on the JRMO website providing clarity around the use of social media data and the requirement of ethics approval.

### **AI and Ethics**

David Leslie, Professor of Ethics, Technology and Society at DERI presented a talk on the concepts and conceptual issues surrounding research ethics, generative AI, and large-scale AI model driven environments.

### **Metrics for 1 February 2024 to 31 May 2024**

The report below provides a summary of the applications for QMERC ethical approval received and approved between **1 February 2024 to 31 May 2024**.

	Received	Approved
Panel review apps	38	37
Low risk apps	93	88
QMERC apps	2	2
Amendments	17	19
Block (Generic) applications	0	0
DSREC set up applications	0	0
Transfer applications	3	4
International	3	2
Total	156	152

**Contact officer**

Nooreen Shaikh

Senior Research Ethics Facilitator, JRMO

Email: [research-ethics@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:research-ethics@qmul.ac.uk)