

## **Collaborative Discussion 1 – Research Methods and Professional Practice – Peer Response, Ying Chan – Michael Geiger**

Thank you Ying, your post clearly illustrates the consequences of irresponsible behaviour and decisions by managers and the conflict that employees are in as a result. ACM (N.D.) emphasizes in the case study that the public criticism that the employees planned is ethically justifiable on the one hand, but on the other hand they could still be legally responsible.

While the Public Interest Disclosure Act could protect the engineers from prosecution, the expressed interest of government agencies could also raise suspicions that the release of information about the project under the Justice and Security Act would violate the national interest in keeping the plans secret, as government officials have expressed an interest in the development of fatal reactions (Charity Commission for England and Wales, 2020; Security Service MI5, N.D.).

This reveals a central conflict, ethically correct behaviour and legislation are not always compatible. On the one hand, legally permitted behaviour can be ethically reprehensible. On the other hand, ethically responsible behaviour can violate laws. A considered handling of ethics and laws is therefore of great importance, as the examples of well-known whistleblowers like Edward Snowden and Julian Assange have shown in the past.

## References:

ACM (N.D.) Case: Automated Active Response Weaponry. Available from: <https://ethics.acm.org/code-of-ethics/using-the-code/case-automated-active-response-weaponry/> [Accessed 14 November 2022].

Charity Commission for England and Wales (2020) The Public Interest Disclosure Act. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-auditors-and-independent-examiners-of-charities/the-public-interest-disclosure-act--2> [Accessed 14 November 2022].

Security Service MI5 (N.D.) Introduction to Evidence and Disclosure. Available from: <https://www.mi5.gov.uk/evidence-and-disclosure> [Accessed 14 November 2022].