

Four-stage decision-making model for the ethical assessment of work with an AV archive (FG1 – experts)

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1. Assessment of harm

First, it is necessary to assess whether the use of the material entails concrete or reasonably foreseeable harm to the people depicted, their loved ones, or other affected groups.

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2. Assessment of consent and the power conditions under which the material was produced

It is necessary to examine whether the material was produced under conditions of consent, or whether disagreement, shame, coercion, or an asymmetry of power can be identified in it.

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3. Assessment of public or epistemic interest

The third step is to assess whether there is a sufficiently strong public, historical, educational, or epistemic interest that may justify the use of the material.

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4. Minimisation of harm

Only then is it appropriate to look for ways to reduce any potential harm: through anonymisation, shortening, framing, warnings about sensitive content, or the omission of identifying details.

*The model does not replace moral judgement.
Its aim is to clarify the moments at which ethical attention should be heightened when working with film archives.*