

**NATIONAL NUCLEAR COMMISSION:
ETHICS PROTOCOL FOR RESEARCHERS AND STUDY ABROAD INSTRUCTORS
(to be signed, dated, and filed at the NNC office)**

Kommol kōn am itoklimo in kōlaplok jelā eo am ikijien melele ko rej iionlok jorren ko rej itok jen kōkamelel in kein tarinae in nuclear ko an Kien eo an U.S im jorren ko ito kitier ioon bwidej im ibben armij in Marshall Islands. The National Nuclear Commission (NNC) eo an Republic eo an Marshall Islands ej kile ilo utiej bwebwenato kein im aorōk in kapeel im melele kein jen ebeben ko maantak, im NNC eo ekōnan bwe research kein ren wōnmaanlok. Aet, Marshall Islands aikuj bwe research ko ren wōnmaanlok einwōt ke ej wōr wōt ijōko jejjab melele kaki. Elaņe enaj itok limoim, NNC emaroņ jibaņ kōn remaroņ kōmman aer research kōn design in juōn lajarak in kajitōk ko renaj itoklimo eo am im melele ko renaj jibaņ kōn Marshall Islands.

Protocol in kōnono kake ijin ilal ekar jab design ñan kabaņ ak kamijak lok researcher ro jen aer kōmmani katak ko aer kōn nuclear legacy in an Marshall Islands; jibadbad eo an NNC ej ñan kōmmane juōn bujen eo eben ibben armij in Marshalls ro ilo juōn weween eo ejokkin wōt juōn. Kōmij kōrwaineneiktok researchers ro ñan makitkit ko an March 1 raan eo ej kōmman iio otemjej einwōt juōn ial ñan katak kōn jorren in nuclear ko elap aer jelet jukjuk in bed ko bareinwōt Kien eo an RMI, ñan bar iione armij in jukjuk in bed ko, im ñan jino bwebwenato kōn kain project in research ko renaj jijjet ñan researchers ro bareinwōt ñan jukjuk in bed ko an Marshalls.

Elōñ iien researchers ro im rikōmman news ro rej jei melele ak katak ko aer ikijieen Marshall Islands bedbed ioon kōtebar ko aer make. Melele kein an researchers ro im instructors ro rejelet weween an public kōlmenlokjen kōn Marshall Islands. Ilo jōmlōk in kōtebar kein aer ej armij in Marshalls, im jab rilotok rein, renaj ineeek jorren kein rej walok jen melele kein rejjab jimwe. Ejelok ilo kōtebar ko an NNC bwe ren kieel katak ko an independent researchers ro; jōuj im kememej, bwe elaņe, kōlmenlokjen ko rebijbij rej jarjar ikijien armij in Marshalls renaj kakure bōklōket ko aer ilo aer beran im wōnake er make. Jōuj im eiki jermal ko renaj renaj kōmman kōki melele ko rekōbōkakkak ñan bōktok kajoor im beran ñan armij in Marshalls. NNC eo elap an naj mōnōnō in jibaņ ilo ilo jabdewōt weween bōktok jermal ko rejimwe im ekkar, ekoba:
<https://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/handle/10125/32892>.

Section I: Pre-departure written submissions to the NNC.

Jōuj im būktok ñan NNC jermal ko am ilo jeje: 1. Jermal ko am emōj aer approved i, ilo jeje, jen local governments, communities ak institutions ko ilo Marshall Islands, im 2. Juōn ethics review, ilo letterhead page, ilo meņan kein rualitōk kōmeleleik ijin ilal ilo "Ethics Review: Written Submissions #2."

Local permission: Written Submission #1. Mokta jen am lolok ijoko naj jermal ie, data gathering, filming, or photography, jōuj im bōktok ñan NNC copies in melim ko emōj kōmelimi jen local governments ak appropriate entities ko ilo RMI. (NNC emaroņ jibaņ lorlorjake im kadedelok melim kein mokta jen am itok, bōtab eban jermal einwōt juōn eo

ej kōmmāne aoleper bwe aorōk bwe researchers eo ak ro ren ejake juōn bujen ibben ro can assist with securing these permissions ahead of time, but will not serve as an intermediary as it is essential for researchers to develop relationships directly with atoll representatives). Your agreements with local entities must communicate your plans for data transfer, storage and privacy; this includes physical or biological specimens, material culture, images, recordings, and cultural practices. These protections extend to study abroad programs as well. Please be mindful that requests from local entities may take time given different levels of infrastructure in the Marshall Islands, including computer and telephone access on the remote islands. Visitors to the Marshall Islands should plan many months in advance to secure permission.

Ethics Review: Written Submission #2. To meet expectations for ethical engagement with communities in the Marshall Islands, including the full participation of community members during every phase of your inquiry, submit to the RMI National Nuclear Commission written demonstration that you have integrated the following principles into your proposal:

1. No further harm. The Marshallese people and land have been harmed greatly by research. It is imperative to consider this before undertaking your work given the history of violent and exploitative knowledge extraction that predates your arrival and activities. Your work must acknowledge previous harms as well as ensure no further physical, psychological, political, or economic harm to the Marshallese. Please explain how your inquiry will protect from further harms.
2. Previous research has not benefited the Marshallese people. The Marshallese people and land is often violently exploited by outsiders who use the Marshall Islands to advance their own interests, careers, learning, or power. The exploitive and extractive activities reached an apex during the testing program, but these practices are not limited to the past, nor only to U.S. Government researchers. Please explain how your inquiry will benefit the Marshallese people.
3. Expectations and respect. The NNC encourages you to familiarize yourself with Marshallese custom, including learning some phrases in the Marshallese language, so you can model for others, including outsiders who will visit the islands after you, the importance of respectful engagement with the people and place. Please do not expect that people should share their stories, images, lives or experiences with you just because you are interested. Nuclear issues in the Marshall Islands are extremely sensitive, personal, and in many cases painful. Working with our elders requires the utmost respect, including respect for their exhaustion in talking to outsiders without seeing any demonstrated benefits to their communities. Please explain your plans for thoughtful engagement of the people, and in particular the elders.
4. Supporting research is a burden. Knowledge production – through research, teaching (e.g. study abroad), and media representations -- is not benign, and often serves the interests and priorities of those seeking the knowledge rather than the Marshallese people. Even well-intentioned research or knowledge production is invasive, and creates hardships for communities. Please describe

the previously recorded or existing research you have accessed in preparation for your research, and provide a justification for your inquiry.

5. Capacity building. If you are coming to the Marshall Islands to undertake investigations that will advance your own career, education, or interests, you should ensure that your activities build the capacity of the Marshallese people to conduct similar inquiries and to better understand the topics of your exploration. Whenever possible, your research should employ and build the skills of the Marshallese people, including the mentoring of our young people to explore university-based research.

It is the expectation of the NNC that any research includes paid positions for community members to serve as on-going liaisons, translators, and cultural guides whether you are researching in the Marshall Islands for the first time, or have long-term relationships with communities. If you applied for and received funding for research in the Marshall Islands that does not include funding to hire local collaborators, then please obtain additional funding to provide paid positions for local Marshallese. This requirement is in response to economic inequalities between researchers and their institutions and local communities in the RMI. Local collaborators can also guide researchers through cultural protocols, permissions, and serve as interpreters. Please describe your plans for capacity building, and hiring local community members to support your projects.

1. Data transfer. Any physical specimens or interviews collected during research are the property of landowners and community members where you propose to conduct research. It is the expectation that raw data collected in the RMI will be shared with communities, not just the final interpretations of data analysis in the form of a publication. For the communities where you work, it is important to provide not just a copy of your final research, but a summary of your thoughts and findings in layperson terms, translated into Marshallese. Please describe your plans for data transfer, including translation.

1. Informed consent and permissions. Prior to data collection, researchers must obtain appropriate informed consent from community members in the Marshallese language which explains the purpose of the research, and how data collected in the RMI will be used by the data collection. Oral permission may be appropriate in some cases, but must be recorded and documented. Researchers conducting interviews must always give permission for informants to use pseudonyms to protect privacy. If you are affiliated with an academic institution, provide the NNC with a copy of your Institutional Review Board approval. If you are leading a study abroad, provide a copy of your approved study abroad proposal to your institution, and syllabus. If you are a U.S. Government worker, provide copies of any authorization for research, including Congressional mandates. Also, please provide a copy of your consent procedures for use with Marshallese informants for your inquiry.

1. Suggested donations. Supporting researchers takes time, resources, and energy away from other vital tasks. Researchers should consider making donations to non-profit agencies that provide support inquiry.

Section II: Pre-departure conversation with an NNC Commissioner.

After submitting your written responses to Section I to the NNC, please arrange a telephone or in-person meeting with one of the three Commissioners for the National Nuclear Commission to discuss the sensitive aspects noted above and how they relate to your activities in the Marshall Islands. The purpose of this step is to explore the ways that your inquiry fits into other activities and undertakings related to the nuclear legacy.

After satisfactory submission of the two written requirements as well as your conversation with an NNC Commissioner, the NNC will provide you with signed acknowledgement of the approval for your research or teaching related to nuclear issues in the Marshall Islands. The NNC verification will accompany your approval from local entities in the RMI, and will be kept on file in the NNC office. You must provide a copy of your research approval to the RMI Customs official at the airport upon arrival as this models transparency as a fundamental component of community engagement.

Section III: Data transfer.

Upon return to your home institution, please provide to relevant local governments and non-governmental organizations, and the NNC any publications or materials based on your research or teaching related to the nuclear legacy, including media productions. This transfer of data should include your layperson summary and translation into Marshallese (the NNC can provide the names of excellent translators to hire). Students in study abroad programs should demonstrate consideration of ethics into final projects submitted to their instructors, even if they are not published.

The final products submitted to the NNC will be kept on file as evidence of commitment to undertake ethical research in the RMI, including the return of data, and will be considered for any future requests for research visits.

Contact information for the RMI National Nuclear Commission:

Ms. Rhea Moss-Christian, NNC Chair and Commissioner:
rhea.mosschristian@rminuclearcommission.net

Mr. Alson Kelen, NNC Commissioner: alson.kelen@rminuclearcommission.net

Dr. Holly Barker, NNC Commissioner: holly.barker@rminuclearcommission.net

Ms. Keyoka Kabua, NNC Secretary: secretary@rminuclearcommission.net

Date:

To: RMI National Nuclear Commission

From: _____ (local government or RMI organization)

The leadership of either our local government or organization acknowledges that _____ received approval to undertake research or study abroad activities according to our local requirements.

Signature:

Date:

Date:

To: RMI Customs

From: RMI National Nuclear Commission

The undersigned NNC Commissioner verifies that the proposed research by _____ was approved by local governments with full consent and transparency, and demonstrates the integration of research ethics, including full community participation, into every phase of the proposed research.

Signature:

Date: