

Peer Review

Review of: "Trust and Trade: Ethical Reflections on Patient Trust and the Monetisation of Real-World Data"

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This is a well-written and conceptually engaging paper. I was particularly drawn to the discussion on selective disclosure during the consent process, which resonates strongly with the persistent power asymmetries between researchers and research participants. Building on this, I would argue that consent is often treated as a largely procedural exercise, leaving considerable discretion over what information is shared, how it is framed, and what is ultimately withheld.

The paper raises a critical question about whether participants are adequately informed that their data may later be transformed into economic value for institutions, companies, or individual careers. This concern becomes especially salient when examined through a relational ethics lens, which emphasises reciprocity, interdependence, and ongoing moral obligations between data contributors and data users.

In practice, data monetisation frequently occurs without the knowledge or meaningful involvement of those who contribute the data. In the absence of explicit benefit-sharing mechanisms, the paper usefully prompts reflection on how the interests, expectations, and rights of patients and data contributors can be ethically recognised and protected beyond the point of initial consent.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.