

ETHICS & HUMAN SUBJECTS PROTECTION ANTH 1

SOCIETY V. CULTURE

- Society
 - A social grouping characterizing humans and other social animals.
- Culture [or civilization]
 - "...that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, customs, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society." EB Tylor, 1871

ETHICS

- Values pertaining to human conduct, considering the rightness and wrongness of actions and the goodness or badness of the motives and ends of such actions.
- Systematic rules or principles governing right conduct. Each practitioner, upon entering a profession, is invested with the responsibility to adhere to the standards of ethical practice and conduct set by the profession.

CODE OF ETHICS

- American Anthropological Association (AAA) Statement on Ethics Principles of Professional Responsibility
 - Revised May 2012

#1: DO NO HARM

- Consider the informants first
- Safeguard informants rights, interests and sensitivities
- IRB:
 - Institutional Review Board
 - Do the benefits of research outweigh the risks to human subjects?

#2 BE OPEN AND HONEST REGARDING YOUR WORK

- Openness, honesty, transparency
- Explicit negotiation with research partners and participants about data ownership and access and dissemination
- Must not plagiarize, nor fabricate or falsify evidence or knowingly misrepresent information or its source.

#3 OBTAIN INFORMED CONSENT AND NECESSARY PERMISSIONS

- Informed consent
 - vital part of the research process.
 - More than obtaining a signature on a form.
- Educate potential subjects to ensure that they can reach an informed decision
 - whether or not to participate in the research
- Informed consent must be given freely, without coercion
 - based on a clear understanding of what participation involves

#4 WEIGH COMPETING ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS DUE COLLABORATORS & AFFECTED PARTIES

- Weigh ethical obligations to:
 - research participants
 - Students
 - professional colleagues
 - employers and funders
 - and others
- obligations to research participants are usually primary
 - especially if they are vulnerable populations

#5 MAKE YOUR RESULTS ACCESSIBLE

- Results of research should be disseminated in a timely fashion.
- Preventing dissemination may be the most ethical decision
 - sharing research should not be at the expense of protecting confidentiality
- Should not withhold research results from research participants especially when they are shared with others.

#6 PROTECT AND PRESERVE YOUR RECORDS

- Issues of data ownership and stewardship.
- Priority must be to protect research participants as well as the preservation and protection of research records.

#7 MAINTAIN RESPECTFUL AND ETHICAL PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

- Maintain respectful relationships:
 - mentoring students
 - interacting with colleagues
 - working with clients
 - acting as a reviewer or evaluator
 - supervising staff
- We must not exploit individuals
- Must not obstruct the scholarly efforts of others when such efforts are carried out responsibly

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