

Ethics

What Is Ethics?

- **The process of studying moral standards and examining how we should interpret and apply them in various situations**

History of Ethics in Research

- Nazi war crimes research (early 1940's)
- Tuskegee syphilis study (1930'-until exposed 1970's)
- Willowbrook study (1963-1966)
- Jewish chronic hospital study (1963)
- Stanley Milgram's obedience research (1963)

The Belmont Report

- 3 basic principles:
 - **Beneficence**
 - **Respect for person**
 - **Justice**

Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans

"TCPS"

- CIHR/NSERC/SSHRC (<<MRC guidelines, 1987)
- "living document"—ongoing consideration/revision
- not legislation
- key ideas
 - respect for human dignity, participant-centred approach
 - proportional review based on risk

http://www.ncehr-cnerh.org/english/code_2/

American Psychological Association Ethical Principles & Code of Conduct

- First published in 1953
- Developed by a committee chaired by Nicholas Hobbs
- Revised in 2002 and is available at:
<http://www2.apa.org/ethics/code2002.doc>

American Psychological Association Ethical Standards

- **Institutional Approval** – Standard 8.01
 - obtain from host institutions or organizations approval prior to conducting research
- IRB/REB
 - Made up of individuals from a variety of disciplines

American Psychological Association Ethical Standards

- **Informed Consent** - Standards 8.02, 8.03, 8.05
 - **Potential participants provided with information that might influence their decision of whether to participate**
 - **Important that participants understand the information on the consent form**

Informed Consent with Special Populations

- **Minors, patients in psychiatric hospitals, or adults with cognitive impairments**
- **Assent form = agreement by minor**
- **Written consent from parent/legal guardian also required**
- **The society for research in child development (SRCD) has developed a set of 16 guidelines for research with children.**
<http://www.srkd.org/about.html#standards>

Informed Consent for Recording Voices and Images

- Standard 8.03
 - Must first obtain informed consent from the participant
 - Need to explain how you will use the recording.

Conditions When Informed Consent Is Not Required

- Standard 8.05
 - Naturalistic observation
 - Use of anonymous questionnaires only

American Psychological Association Ethical Standards

- **Deception** - Standard 8.07
 - **Researcher purposefully withholds information or misleads participants**
 - **Should not be deceived about some potentially harmful aspect of the research**
 - Passive vs Active deception
 - When Deception is Acceptable.

American Psychological Association Ethical Standards

- **Debriefing** - Standard 8.08
 - Occurs after the completion of the study
 - Opportunity to deal with issues of withholding information, deception, and potential harmful effects of participation
 - Opportunity to explain the purpose of the study and tell participants what kinds of results are expected & the practical implications
 - Allows researchers to learn how participants viewed the procedures

Confidentiality

- Researcher has a duty not to share the information with others
- Are there limits to confidentiality?
- Crts subpoenae
- No privledged information for psychologists

Ways To Maximize Confidentiality

- One way to maintain confidentiality is to use a meaningless number to identify the participants
- Presenting aggregate data

What about animals?

- Used for several reasons:
 - some procedures cannot be used on humans
 - greater control over environmental conditions.
- Controversial issue
 - Activists denounce the use of animals
 - Scientists argue that animal research benefits humans and point to many discoveries



American Psychological Association Ethical Standards

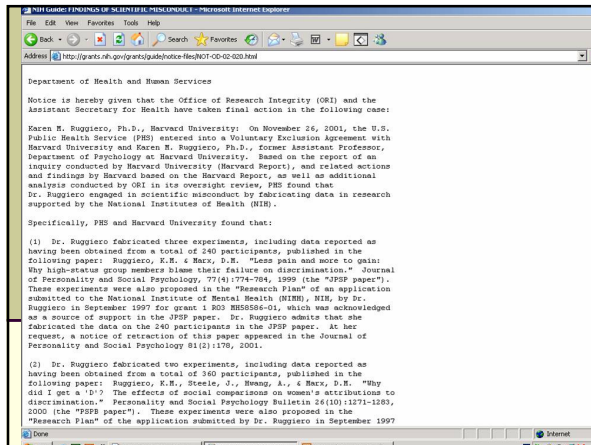
- **Humane care and use of animals** - Standard 8.09
 - avoid any cruelty in the form of unnecessary pain to the animal
 - all individuals handling animals must have received sufficient training in the care and maintenance of the species being used
 - if surgical procedures are performed, they must be under appropriate anesthesia

American Psychological Association Ethical Standards

- **Scientific Fraud** - Standards 8.10, 8.11
 - Very serious, but very rare
 - Common reason for suspecting fraud is when an important or unusual finding cannot be replicated
 - Reasons for committing:

Scientific Fraud

- Plagiarism
 - using others' ideas and words without clearly acknowledging the source of that information.
- Data Fabrication
 - experimenter either deliberately changes or alters data that were already gathered or simply makes up data to suit his/her needs
 - e.g., Cyril Burt



Websites of interest

- <http://www.cpa.ca/ethics2000.html>
- <http://www.apa.org/science/anguide.html>
- http://www.who.int/ethics/indigenous_peoples/en/index12.html
- http://www.ncehr-cnerh.org/english/int_act.html
