

The Practice of Social Research Doctoral Training Centre

Session on Research Ethics

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Learning outcomes

- Have an understanding of issues of consent, confidentiality and anonymity in social science research in negotiating access, data collection and analysis
- Be familiar with ethics codes of different professional associations
- Understand issues of data protection and storage
- Understand the requirements of research ethics and governance
- Have begun to consider ethical issues in your own research in relation to data collection and analysis

Topics to be covered

- History of Research Ethics in relation to human subjects
- Consent, Confidentiality and Anonymity in research
- Research governance, ethics permission procedures and data storage
- Negotiating access to Organizations, Communities, Individuals
- Ethical Issues in Data Collection and Analysis

History of Research Ethics

- Nuremberg Code and Helsinki Declaration
- Tuskegee study US 1932 led to guidelines on research on human subjects 1974
- Reports by amnesty show prisoners still used as experimental subjects – export of limbs, testing chemical weapons (2002 Iraq)
- Issues in researching trial communities

Issues in social science research

- Anthropology and colonialism –
- Anthropology and spying – Boaz denunciation
- Iraq and Afghanistan and Human Terrain
- Being an advisor – for your research subjects or for authorities, brokering

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Ethics Codes

- Professional Associations have ethics codes – review
- Procedural Ethics and Ethics of Practice
- Common Issues in all ethics codes?

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Issues in Ethics Codes

- Consent
- Confidentiality
- Anonymity
- No harm
- Permission for use of findings – publication, audio, video, archive, performance
- Partial consent
- Lack of coercion

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Ethical Permission to carry out research

- Your department through upgrade
- HESSREC – Humanities and Social Science Research Ethics Committee
- Form/Proposal/Information Sheets and informed consent
- Health Research Ethics in NHS central procedure,
- When working abroad –
- The university is the research sponsor of your research
- Data must be stored securely with encryption and in locked cabinets
- Warwick has a Data security policy - http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/rss/researchgovernance/research_code_of_practice/datacollection_retention/research_data_mgt_policy/

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University Data management policy

- Data must be retained intact in an appropriate format and storage facility, normally for a period of at least 10 years from the date of any publication which is based upon it. Where specific regulations with regard to data retention apply, e.g., from funders, these regulations should prevail, particularly where the required retention period is longer than the University requires.
- 10. Data deemed to be of interest to future research, including data that substantiate research findings, will normally be offered for deposit in an appropriate external data service or repository and/or a Warwick repository.
- 11. Data should be made available for access and re-use under the appropriate conditions.
- 12. Where research data is not retained it should be disposed of according to University guidelines.
- 13. The University will provide means and services enabling registration, deposit, storage, retention of and access to research data.
- 14. The University will provide advice, training and support regarding research data management

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Ethics of Practice

- Negotiating Access – examples own experience and others
- Dilemmas of insider/outsider status
- Reflexivity
- Ethical dilemmas in the field - seek advice and use as data
- Sharing and validating findings – theatre, collaborative anthropology – (Eric Lassiter 2006)
- User involvement at different stages
- Key informants - issues

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Group Task

To design an information sheet and informed consent form for one of the studies described in your sheet

To identify ethical issues for discussion

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