

Ethics of research in social sciences

I. Context

II. Applications

III. Debates, evolutions, tensions

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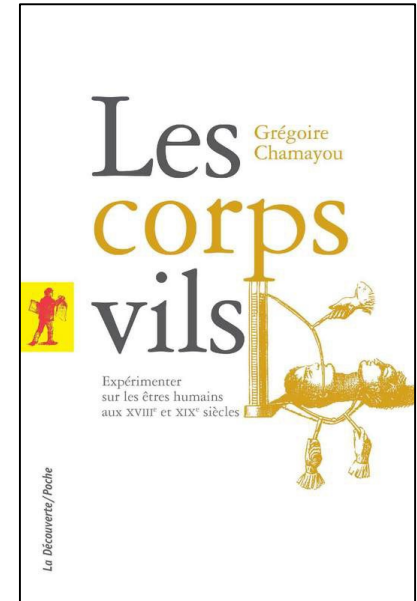
Ethics of research in social sciences

I. Context

- Contested research practices
- Definitions and main principles
- Transformations of the relationships between science and society
- Transformation of research practices

At the origins of research ethics, medical practice and research

- Hippocratic oath
'primum non nocere'
- Developments of modern medicine
 - Dissection of convicted persons' bodies
 - Vivisection on prisoners' bodies
 - Experimentation in the colonial context



(2008)

- First codes of medical ethics in the 19th century

Research practices considered as unacceptable

- Medical experimentations in prisoners' camps during the 2d world War
- Tuskegee study on syphilis, Alabama 1932-1972

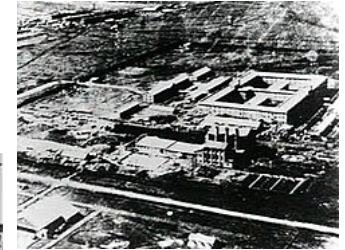
Fairchild, A. L., & Bayer, R. (1999). Uses and Abuses of Tuskegee. *Science*, 284(5416), 919-921.

- HIV clinical trials in several African countries and the Caribbean

Landes, M. (2005). Can context justify an ethical double standard for clinical research in developing countries? *Globalization and Health*, 1(1), 11.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nazi_concentration_camps



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unit_731

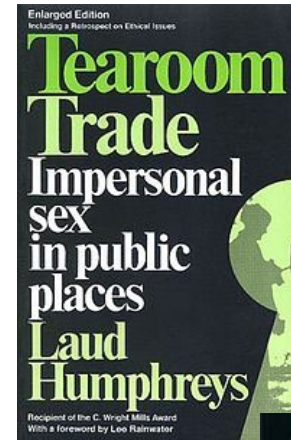


<https://pickingatopic.weebly.com/tuskegee-syphilis-experiment.html>

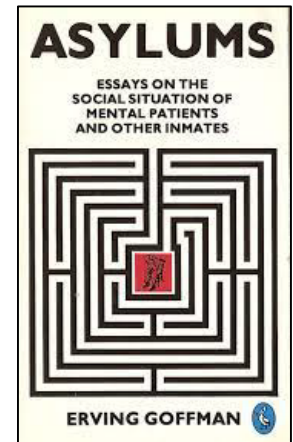
Contested practices closer to our disciplines

Research including

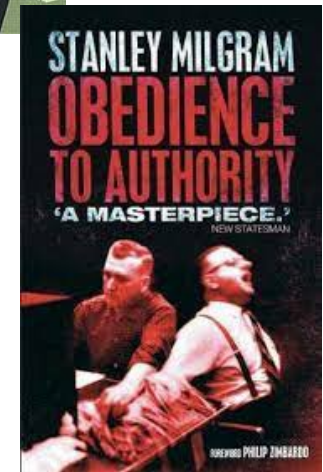
- Covert observation
- Partial information and deceit
- Power relations or constraints exerted on participation
- Experiments or questions which affect participants
- For example: Robson, C. (2002). *Real World Research. A Resource of Social Scientists and Practitioners-Researchers* (2d ed), Oxford, Blackwell.



(1970)



(1961)



(1963)

Ethics, professional deontology, integrity.

The rights and duties of researchers

➤ Professional deontology

Rights and obligations of a profession

➤ Ethics

Values which drive the researcher. Ethics refers to moral sense and accountability, it is dynamic and situated

➤ Integrity

The 'proper conduct' of research practices

<https://www.cnrs.fr/fr/ethique-deontologie-integrite-scientifique-et-lancement-dalerte>

No consensus on definitions and delimitations between these notions

Carvalho, S. (2019). L'éthique de la recherche entre réglementation et réflexivité. *Revue d'anthropologie des connaissances*, 13, 2(2), 299-326.

Code conduct for scientific integrity

Swiss Academies of sciences 2021

4 basic principles:

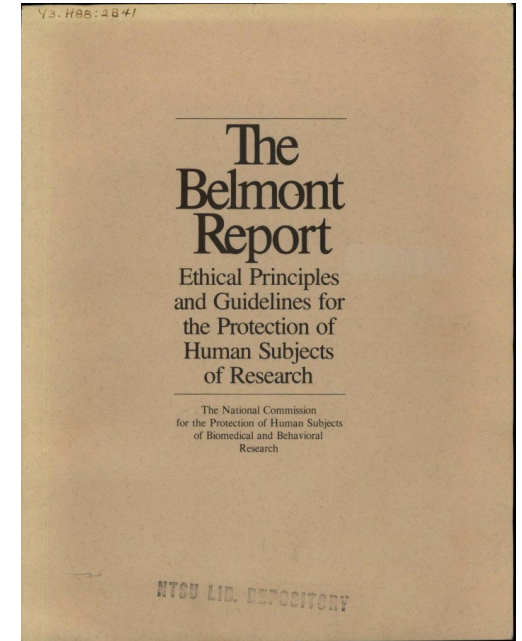
- reliability
- honesty
- respect
- accountability

Plagiarism as an illustration of violation of scientific integrity



Main principles of research ethics

- **Beneficence**
 - Assessment of risks and benefits
 - Avoid harm to participants
- **Respect of persons**
 - « informed consent »
 - Protection of anonymity
- **Justice**
 - Fair selection of participants



(1979)

Transformations of the relationships between science and society

- Media and public debates about unacceptable and contested research practices
- Demands for transparency and denunciation of conflicts of interests
- Social reflexivity and contestation of science
- Judicialisation of social relations



(2011)

Tension between **academic freedom and administrative, legal, political and social expectations**

Transformations of research practices

- **Pluri-, multi-, interdisciplinary research**
associating different scientific cultures
- **Globalisation of research practices**
funding, affiliations of researchers, fieldworks
- **Open science**
Open data, open access imply a circulation
of data and findings



Transformations of research practices

- **New types of data and *big data***
visual data, virtual data
- **Virtual channels of data collection and storage**
for example zoom, skype, Dropbox, Google drive
- **Outsourcing of data collection, crowdsourcing**
for example Amazon Mechanical Turk
- **Research designs : participatory, longitudinal**
consequences on the relationships between researchers and participants



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