Ethics of research in social sciences

I. Context

II. Applications

III. Debates, evolutions, tensions

Claudine Burton-Jeangros

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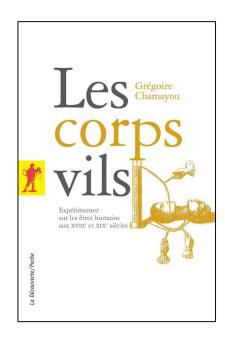
Ethics of research in social sciences

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/Unit 731

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nazi concentration camps



Syphilis Victims in U.S. Study Went Untreated for 40 Years

By JEAN HELLER

WASHINGTON, July 25—76
O years the United States Pul
lic Health Service has conduct
d a study in which hums
beings with apphilts, who wer
induced to strue as gaine
pigs, have gone without med
cal treatment for the discos
and a flow have clied of it
late offects, even though an elfactive therapy was eventual

The study was conducted to decermine from autopaies what the disease does to the luman hody.

Officials of the health service who initiated the experiment have long since retired. Current officials, who say they have serious doubts about the morality of the study, also say that it is too late to treat the syphilis in any survising participants.

Doctors in the service say they are now rendering whatever other medical services they can give to the survivers while the study of the disease's effects continues.

Dr. Merlin K. DuVal, Assistant Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare for Boath and Scientific Affairs, expressed sheek on learning of the study. He mid that he win making an immediate investication.

The experiment, called the Tuskegee Study, began in 1932 with about 600 black men.

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

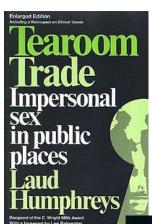
FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES DE LA SOCIÉTÉ

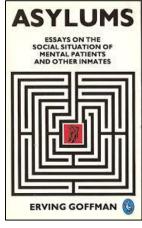


Contested practices closer to our disciplines

Research including

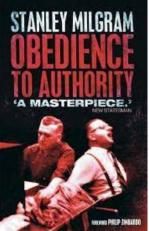
- Covert observation
- Partial information and deceit
- Power relations or constraints exerted on participation
- Experiments or questions which affect participants
- For example: Robson, C. (2002). Real World Research. A Resource of Social Scientists and Practitioners-Researchers (2d ed), Oxford, Blackwell.





(1961)

(1970)



(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 delimintations between these notions

Carvallo, 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 basice principles:

- reliability
- honesty
- respect
- accountability

Plagiarism as an illustration of violation of scientific integrity





Main principles of research ethics

Beneficence

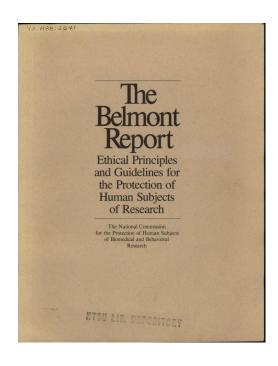
- Assesment of risks and benefits
- Avoid harm to participants

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 inacceptable and contested research practices
- Demands for transparency and denunciation of conflicts of interests
- Social reflexivity and contestation of science
- Judiciarisation of social relations

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



(2011)



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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