



RESEARCH ETHICS & SCIENTIFIC ACCOUNTABILITY

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The background image is a grayscale photograph. On the left, a white UNHCR ACNUR truck is visible, with its logo and text 'UNHCR ACNUR Agência da ONU para Refugiados' clearly shown. A young boy stands near the truck's open door. In the foreground, a woman is sitting on the ground, wearing large headphones and smiling. Other people are partially visible in the background, some sitting on the ground.

Ownership of data

Vulnerabilities of participants

Ethics & procedural transparency

“OPEN SCIENCE” (ACADEMIA)



PRE-
REGISTRATION



PROCEDURAL
TRANSPARENCY



REPLICABILITY

OPEN SCIENCE FOR ACCURACY

**Show Your Work. Share Your Work.
Advance Science.**

That's Open Science.

“being an ethical social scientist goes beyond our responsibilities toward study participants”
...practicing open science should itself be an ethical obligation.

(Christensen, Freese, and Miguel 2019: 11)



Berkeley Initiative for
Transparency in the Social Sciences



“OPEN SCIENCE” FOR EQUITY

EX. UNESCO

“ an inclusive construct... aiming to make multilingual scientific knowledge openly available, accessible and reusable for everyone, to increase scientific collaborations and sharing of information for the benefits of science and society, and to open the processes of scientific knowledge creation, evaluation and communication to societal actors beyond the traditional scientific community.”

See: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/portals-and-platforms/goap/open-science-movement/>

“OPEN SCIENCE” (UNESCO)



OPEN DATA



OPEN ACCESS



OPEN TO
SOCIETY

IS “OPEN” DEMOCRATIC, OR EXPLOITATIVE?

Indigenous Data Sovereignty:

“Indigenous data sovereignty is the right of each Native nation to govern the collection, ownership, and application of the tribe’s data.”

Carroll, S.R., Rodriguez-Lonebear, D. and Martinez, A., 2019.
Indigenous Data Governance: Strategies from United States Native Nations. *Data Science Journal* 18(1).
DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/dsj-2019-031>

Research Asymmetry:

The need for partnership: “Forced migration scholarship often disproportionately benefits those... least affected by displacement.”

International Association for the Study of Forced Migration Code of Ethics

See also: Clark-Kazak C. 2021. Ethics in Forced Migration Research: Taking Stock and Potential Ways Forward.” *Journal on Migration and Human Security* 9(3):125-138. doi:10.1177/23315024211034401.

RESEARCH ETHICS AND VULNERABILITY



Photo: Immigration and Customs Enforcement

ETHICS TRAINING & SHARING CHALLENGES

US: migrants not a recognized vulnerable class of research subjects

As late as 2011, out of 32 research universities, only 1 included immigration status as a possible source of vulnerability in human subjects oversight (Perry 2011).

EU: little to no institutional oversight in many countries

In Southern, Central, and Eastern Europe, “ethical assessments are hardly ever carried out internally in [social science] faculties, with responsibility for the ethical conduct of research being left to individual researchers” (Piccio 2016, 840)

RESEARCH ETHICS AND VULNERABILITY



PROTECTION FROM
HARM
(INCL. DATA PRIVACY)



INFORMED
CONSENT



COMMUNITY
BENEFICIENCE

RE-IDENTIFICATION OF POPULATION DATA



PROTECTION
FROM HARM

Advances in computing and statistics make it possible to re-identify the vast majority of people in supposedly de-identified population surveys and administrative datasets based on relatively few variables.

(Rocher, Hendrickx, and de Montjoye 2019)

SUBPOENAS & GOVERNMENT ACCESS



PROTECTION
FROM HARM

Researchers usually have few protections from legally mandated information disclosure.

“only a few courts have recognized any sort of privilege for academic research, and many courts have explicitly rejected it”

(Robinson 2016: 330)

SUBPOENAS & GOVERNMENT ACCESS



PROTECTION
FROM HARM

Certificate of Confidentiality may help... but there is no guarantee.

“Certificates have generally been effective as a deterrent to legal demands for research,” but “those protections have some vulnerabilities, particularly arising from changing technological and informational advances”

(Wolf et al. 2015: 604)

DATA OWNERSHIP, PART 2: DATA STORAGE



PROTECTION
FROM HARM

In 2010, the University of Arizona provided some research information to the state superintendent of education on English Language Learners following a court-ordered subpoena against the researchers' wishes.

MITIGATION (ADD HEALTH, 4TH WAVE)



PROTECTION
FROM HARM

“your identifying information will be electronically transmitted to the Add Health Security Manager in Canada” since “[s]toring different types of information in different places helps keep your identity confidential”

What are the core *principals* of open science and of research ethics?

What are the unique *vulnerabilities* of migrants in this study, given the socio-political context?

Evaluate routinized research activities and elaborate *procedures* to protect migrants.

MIGRATION RESEARCH ETHICS



ETHICAL TRANSPARENCY

- ❑ “we call on journals... to mandate that all authors submit an ethics and transparency paragraph, possibly as an on-line supplement, to promote this deliberative process and to provide models for other researchers”

ETHICAL TRANSPARENCY

- ❑ “we call on journals... to mandate that all authors submit an ethics and transparency paragraph, possibly as an on-line supplement, to promote this deliberative process and to provide models for other researchers”
- ❑ “For seasoned researchers, we underscore the role that they can play in sharing insights and experiences with students and emerging scholars and, when they review manuscripts or grant applications, in reminding their review board colleagues and supporters of open science of migrants’ vulnerabilities.”