Research Ethics: Ethical Principles

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Euro-Western principles: regulation

• Between ethical theories and ethical practice
• Ethical governance: high standards in research
• What is ethical governance for?
• Ethical review: safeguard participants
• What is ethical review for?
• Ethical review mechanisms: how ethical are they?
Euro-Western principles: progress

- Ethics Rupture Summit 2012 – New Brunswick Declaration Feb 13
- Academy of Social Sciences – core principles
- New Zealand – RECs accessible to community-based researchers
- Moving away from regulation and towards education
- Moving away from ‘do no harm’ and towards the promotion of social justice
Indigenous ethical principles

• Wilson & Wilson (2013, 343)
• Communality of knowledge: knowledge does not belong to any individual, but to all
• Relational accountability: every relationship should be founded on mutual accountability
• Reciprocity: we should give back to our communities and to each other
• Holism: we should acknowledge and attend to the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual aspects of being and experience
Indigenous ethical principles

• “A postcolonial indigenous ethical theory recognizes power sharing within diversity as an integral part of fairness and social justice and as a means to challenge power structures in order to transform lives.” (Chilisa 2012:174-5)
Indigenous ethical principles

• The ‘Four R’s’ (Chilisa 2012:22)
• 1. Relational accountability: all parts of the research process are related; the researcher is accountable to all relations
• 2. Respectful representation: the researcher needs to listen, pay attention, acknowledge, and create space for the voices and knowledge systems of participants and others
Indigenous ethical principles

• 3. Reciprocal appropriation: acknowledge research as appropriation and ensure that benefits accrue to participants and communities as well as researchers

• 4. Rights and regulations: ethical protocols should give colonized and marginalized peoples ownership of the research process and the knowledge produced

Next: ethical practice
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