

Research Ethics

Aims

- To begin to think about research ethics
- To understand the links to the Counselling frameworks
- To consider how ethical awareness is important within any research project.

History and Context

- Hippocratic Oath (5th century BCE)
- Nuremburg Code (1947)
- Declaration of Helsinki (1964/2008) sets out ethical research standards
- Bioethics
- Research ethics standards (latter part of twentieth century) (British Education Research Association (BERA)).

Unethical Research Projects

- Little Albert
- Milgram “shock Experiments”
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iktqSLt1Kes>
- Stanford Prison Experiment
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oAX9b7agT9o>
- Lost in the Mall study
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VTF7FUAoGWw>

Three frameworks for research ethics

- Principles, Outcomes or Rights
- Principles:
 - Doing research because it is the right thing to do.
 - There are four principles:
 - Personal integrity and autonomy
 - Justice
 - Doing no harm
 - Beneficence, doing good
- Any thoughts?!

Frameworks cont..

- Outcomes
 - How to reduce harm as much as possible,
 - How to reduce costs wherever possible
 - Promote the anticipated benefits of the research
 - To inform policy and practice

Principles cont..

- Rights based research
 - This is based on respect
- There are other ethical frameworks, including virtue ethics, feminist ethics and situated ethics.

Limitations of these frameworks

- Looking at the three frameworks again, can you critically reflect on the limitations of these?
 - Principles
 - Outcomes
 - Rights

Why do research ethics matter?



Early Research Plans and Ethics

- When developing a research plan, the researcher has to consider the question whether their research will cause harm to the people in their study. What might be the potential challenges within the project?
- Are they justified?
- What are the risks?
- Exploitation and labelling?

Privacy and Confidentiality

- Privacy means ensuring that no one except the research team will see any identifiable data.
- Confidentiality means that there will not be any identifiable data within the published report or shared with others that are not part of the primary research team.
- Data Protection Act 1998.

Consent and Competence

- Any researcher must receive the consent from their participants, but it must be informed and voluntary.
- Competence – Are children old enough to be competent to give consent? What about other vulnerable groups?

Reflecting on own Research Projects

- What might be the ethical tensions within your project?
- What might you need to do to ensure that you have considered ethics within your work?