

Slide 1



Katy designed the slide.

Katy- Hello and welcome to our presentation on the ethical practitioner in psychology.

Slide 2

What is ethics within psychology?

"the principles of morally right conduct accepted by a person or a group or considered appropriate to a specific field. In psychological research, for example, proper ethics requires that participants be treated fairly and without harm and that investigators report results and findings honestly" (APA Dictionary of Psychology).



Katy designed the slide.

Katy- Upon researching for a definition of ethics, I found a variety of different definitions, now another word for being ethical is having morals, and both of those are open to interpretation. However, the American Psychological Association defines ethics as "the principle of morally right conduct accepted by a person or a group or considered appropriate to a specific field" (APA Dictionary of Psychology).

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What are the 10 APA standards of ethical issues?

1. Resolving ethical issues
2. Competence
3. Human relations
4. Privacy and confidentiality
5. Advertising and other public statements
6. Record keeping and fees
7. Education and training
8. Research and publication
9. Assessment
10. Therapy

(Skidmore, 2022)



Katy designed the slide.

Katy- What are the 10 APA standards of ethical issues?

Charlotte- "Resolving ethical issues"

Katy- "Competence"

Charlotte- "Human relations"

Katy- "Privacy and confidentiality"

Charlotte- "Advertising and other public statements"

Katy- "Record keeping and fees"

Charlotte- "Education and training"

Katy- "Research and publication"

Charlotte- "Assessment"

Katy and "Therapy".

(Skidmore, 2022).

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Charlotte designed this slide.

Charlotte- The first case study that I'll be highlighting ethical aspects within, will be the blue eye/brown eye experiment (1968). This involved an American teacher, Jane Elliott, explaining to her pupils how discrimination is unacceptable and how unfair it is for people to be treated differently, for something out of their control.

Therefore, the teacher wanted the pupils to experience what it would feel like to be discriminated against. The teacher decided that eye colour was the variable for the experiment, as all pupils would be able to take part and using skin colour would be inappropriate and counter intuitive. In the famous social experiment conducted by Jane Elliot, she aimed to demonstrate the negative effects of discrimination by dividing a classroom of students based on their eye colour, with the blue-eyed students being labelled as superior and the brown-eyed students being labelled as inferior.

Although the initial reaction from the blue-eyed students was one of pleasure and validation, as the experiment progressed, they began to experience feelings of rejection and sadness as they witnessed the negative effects of discrimination on their classmates. Despite the negative experience, the students soon realized that discrimination based on eye colour was wrong, as evidenced by the reactions of the blue-eyed students, who shook their heads in disapproval. This experiment serves as a powerful reminder of the destructive nature of discrimination and the importance of treating all individuals with equality and respect.

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Case study highlighting bad ethics

Title of case study: "A study of prisoners and guards in a simulated prison."

Researchers: Craig Haney, Curtis Banks, and Phillip Zimbardo (1971)

The study:

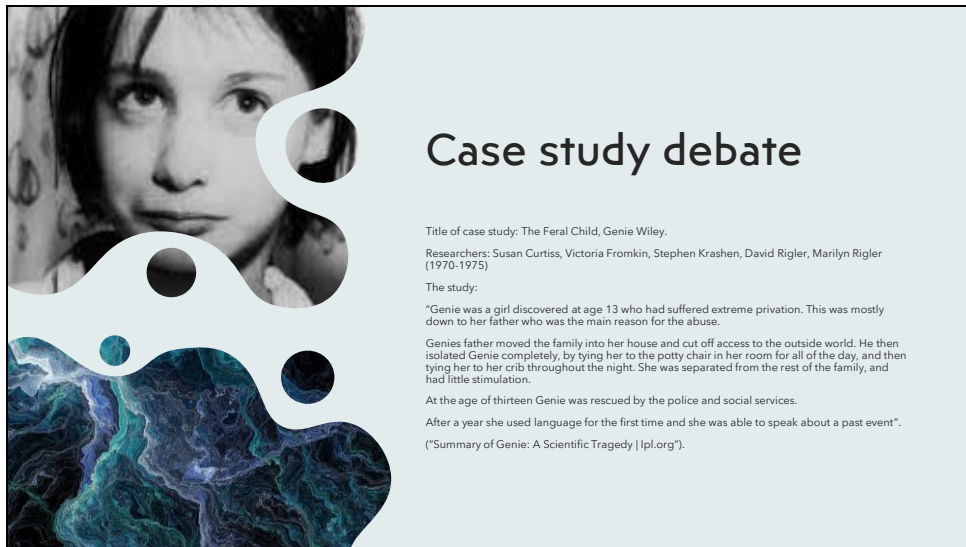
- The Stanford Prison Experiment was a landmark psychological study of the human response to captivity, in particular, to the real world circumstances of prison life.
- It was conducted in 1971 by Philip Zimbardo of Stanford University.
- Although the intent of the experiment was to examine captivity, its result has been used to demonstrate the impressionability and obedience of people when provided with a legitimizing ideology and social and institutional support.
- The student "guards" were also issued batons by Professor Zimbardo on their first day, which may have predisposed them to consider physical force as an acceptable means of running the "prison".
- Professor Zimbardo justifies this by stating that prison is a confusing and dehumanizing experience and it was necessary to endorse these procedures to put the "prisoners" in the proper frame of mind.



Katy designed the slide.

Katy- This infamous study is described on screen for what it entailed. The book, "Key studies in psychology, fourth edition by Richard Gross" states that "ethical, legal and practical considerations set limits" on this study, meaning at the time that the study was taken place, they met all ethical procedures, however this book also states that "some guards were tough but fair, or they played by the rules, whilst others went far beyond their roles to engage in creative cruelty and harassment", which does beg the question as to what really happened? Were there some guards that had a higher ethical standpoint and therefore stuck to the rules compared to the other guards that wanted to push what they were seeing further and therefore broke the rules? It is very clear to see in this modern-day era that a strong level of ethics was not adhered to, guards were "emasculating" men. Zimbardo himself states that they "had to close down the mock prison after only six days because what they saw was frightening" (Anon). Zimbardo later states that himself and his team knowingly withheld information as they "wanted the mock arrests to come as a surprise. This was a breach, by omission, of the ethics of the informed consent contract" (Zimbardo, 1973).

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Case study debate

Title of case study: The Feral Child, Genie Wiley.

Researchers: Susan Curtiss, Victoria Fromkin, Stephen Krashen, David Rigler, Marilyn Rigler (1970-1975)

The study:

"Genie was a girl discovered at age 13 who had suffered extreme privation. This was mostly down to her father who was the main reason for the abuse.

Genie's father moved the family into her house and cut off access to the outside world. He then isolated Genie completely, by tying her to the potty chair in her room for all of the day, and then tying her to her crib throughout the night. She was separated from the rest of the family, and had little stimulation.

At the age of thirteen Genie was rescued by the police and social services.

After a year she used language for the first time and she was able to speak about a past event".

("Summary of Genie: A Scientific Tragedy | Ipl.org").

Katy designed the slide.

Charlotte- The case study that katy and I are debating is the feral child (1971). The case study involves Genie Wiley, who was deprived and abused throughout her childhood. This resulted in Genie having speech and language development issues, as she was isolated from human contact. 'A social worker discovered the 13-year-old girl after her mother sought out services for her own health. The social worker soon discovered that the girl had been confined to a small room, and an investigation by authorities quickly revealed that the child had spent most of her life in this room, often tied to a potty chair' (Cherry, 2022).

Although this case study shows that Genie Wiley experienced a traumatic childhood, it was a useful case for scientists to investigate the importance of contact with humans as it affects the ability to develop and process language. The case was important to psychologists as it demonstrated that the deprived individual suffered to develop language skills due to lack of human contact. Therefore, as quoted by Kendra Cherry, 'nativists believe that the capacity for language is innate, while empiricists suggest that environmental variables play a key role' (Cherry, 2022).

Katy- In this study, there was a direct "ethical dilemma between prioritising her care or prioritising research on her development" (Vinney). This more so came to light at the end of the study when 'Genie's' mother "filed a lawsuit against the team of researchers alleging they pushed 'Genie' to the point of exhaustion and prioritised testing over 'Genie's' welfare" (Vinney, 2019).

Charlotte- Similarly, after discovering what Genie had been through, many people wanted to provide help, support and funding in order to give her a life she deserved. A group of language experts and psychologists began the process of rebuilding her life, which led to Genie being capable of completing daily tasks such as dressing herself. From the support she received, she was able to develop new skills and 'after a year of treatment, she even started putting three words together' (Cherry, 2022).

Katy- A big ethical issue within this study was that because 'Genie' had severe language delay she could not give formal consent to any tests being done on her, or 'Genie' couldn't use her voice to leave testing. Added to this, because 'Genie's' mother was legally blind and 'Genie's' researchers were focusing on sign language, her mother couldn't stop experiments at specific moments because she also didn't fully know what was happening.

Case study highlighting good ethics

The marshmallow experiment (1972).

Walter Mischel



Charlotte designed this slide.

Charlotte- Another case study that shows positive ethical aspects would be the marshmallow case study (1972). This is when a child is told to wait alone with the marshmallow and if they're able to resist the temptation of eating it when their parent is out of the room, they could possibly receive another reward. 'The marshmallow test presented a lab-controlled version of what parents tell young kids to do every day: sit and wait' (Resnick, 2018). The test has a positive meaning behind it, as it potentially teaches children that if they're patient, they will be rewarded with a treat for good behaviour. 'A huge part of growing up is learning how to delay gratification, to sit patiently in the hope that our reward will be worth it', which this experiment shows as they receive more treats for listening to the experimenter (Resnick, 2018).

'The ability to hold out now for a better reward later is an essential life skill. Delayed gratification allows you to do things like going without large purchases to save for a vacation or take a job you don't love but that will help your career later in life' (Robbins, n.d).

Case study highlighting bad ethics



Title of case study: "Conditioned emotional reactions."
Researchers: John B. Watson and Rosalie Rayner (1920)

The study:

- Watson and Rayner presented Little Albert with a white rat and he showed no fear.
- Watson then presented the rat with a loud bang that startled Little Albert and made him cry.
- After the continuous association of the white rat and loud noise, Little Albert was classically conditioned to experience fear at the sight of the rat.
- Albert's fear generalized to other stimuli that were similar to the rat, including a fur coat, some cotton wool, and a Father Christmas mask.

(McLeod, 2020)

Katy designed the slide.

Katy- This study is described on screen for what it entailed. The website, 'Zero to Eternity' states that "Little Albert was harmed during the experiment" (Bajaj, A. 2020) through being classically conditioned into learning a new fear. The same website then goes on to state that informed consent was not obtained from "Little Albert's" mother, this is a direct violation of the APA's standards of ethics. Finally, another violation of ethics throughout this case study was the "competence in their professional work" (Bajaj, A. 2020), "the experiment was not conducted in a controlled environment" (Bajaj, A. 2020), by this experiment not being conducted in a controlled environment it is opened up to criticisms instantly, are the psychologists really testing for what they claim to be testing for, or would they have gathered more accurate and therefore more reliable data in a controlled environment?

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A summary and future research

The British Psychological Society (BPS) produced a code of ethics which was revised and updated in 2018. This code focusses on four primary ethical principles:

- Respect
- Competence
- Responsibility
- Integrity

www.bps.org.uk

www.bps.org.uk

Diagram illustrating the structure of the BPS Code of Ethics:

- Code of Ethics and Conduct
- Practice Guidelines
- Code of Human Research Ethics

Katy designed the slide.

Katy- A summary and future research

Charlotte- Within the blue eyed/brown eyed experiment (1968) it shows disrespect, as the pupils' parents weren't informed that their children were involved within an experiment, meaning the teacher didn't ask for consent from either the pupil or the parent. Therefore, if they were to do the experiment again, they should acquire consent from the parent as the child is unable to consent to the experiment.

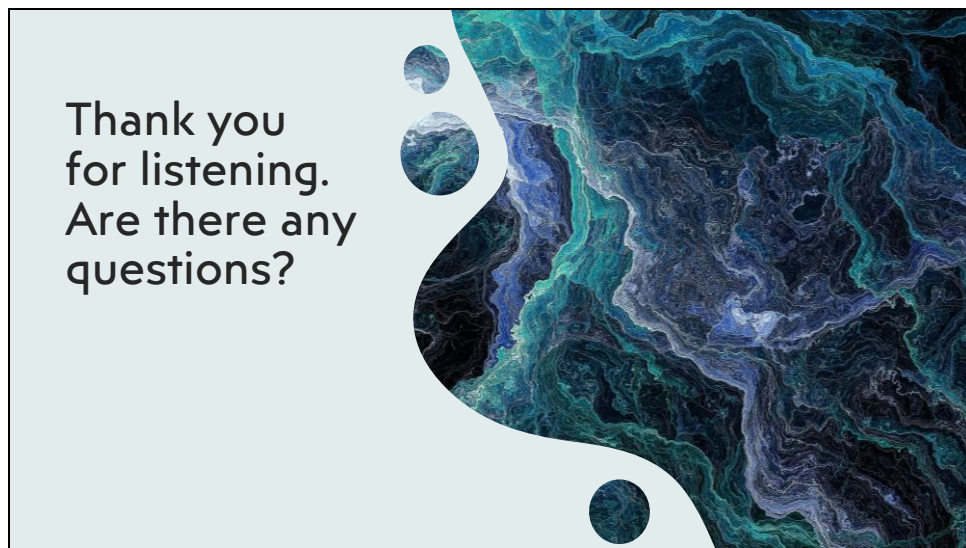
However, the experiment highlighted the glaring issues of discrimination within the modern world, in turn taught the children a valuable lesson on morals, as quoted by Jane Elliott, 'treat everyone as though they are your brother' (Elliott, 1968).

Katy- Looking at Watson's study on "Little Albert", Watson would be deemed as incompetent because he "failed to decondition 'Albert'" (Academy 4SC, 2021) at the end of the study, however this could be considered as the result of "Little Albert's" mother removing him from the study. But, if Watson and Rayner were more upfront and honest about what the study fully entailed when gaining consent from "Little Albert's" mother, and therefore also adhering to the BPS's code of ethics, this experiment could have been considered more successful.

Charlotte- All psychologists of the experiment are responsible for the duty of care of all participants and other researchers.

Katy- Finally, looking at Zimbardo's study of 'prisoners and guards in a simulated prison', whilst even just taking a cursory glance at this study it is clear to see that the researchers and some of the participants (more those acting as guards) did not have and were not showcasing integrity. It was Zimbardo's girlfriend at the time, now wife, Christina Maslach that persuaded Zimbardo to shut down the experiment as Zimbardo "couldn't see the emotional and psychological damage it was causing to the participants as he was so engrossed in the study (Toppo, G, 2018). For future research similar to this experiment an anonymous student paper states that "the only possible way to recreate this would be to exclude volunteers from participation and to use real prisons" (Anon, student paper).

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Katy designed the slide.

Katy- Thank you for listening to our presentation. Has anybody got any questions?

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