Research Ethics in Practice: A SAGE MethodSpace webinar

Cheryl Poth and Natalia Reinoso Chávez
Moderator: Janet Salmons

Los Angeles | London | New Delhi | Singapore | Washington DC | Melbourne
Introductions

Cheryl Poth
Natalia Reinoso Chávez
Janet Salmons
Research Ethics in Practice

Introductions: Michael Todd

Overview: Janet Salmons

Panel discussion: Cheryl Poth and Natalia Reinoso Chávez

Q & A: Continued on MethodSpace
Research ethics is different on the page... and in practice!
Keep learning from our panelists!

Chapter 11., Challenges of a Systematization of Experiences Study: Learning from a Displaced Victim Assistance Program, during COVID-19 Emergency in Ethnic Territories in Colombia ~ Natalia Reinoso Chávez, Santiago Castro-Reyes and Luisa Fernanda Echeverry
Two questions will guide this panel....

How do I identify critical ethical issues for my research?

What are the practicalities of responding to ethical issues as they arise?

Poth, 2021, P. 17
What is meant by research ethics?

Attending to ethical issues is critical to research.

Apply ethical reasoning to the planning and implementing decisions researchers make to assess and mitigate risks to protect participants, researchers, and society.

*ethical review boards are just one part of this process*
How can researchers prepare to respond appropriately when issues arise?

Researchers can be guided by careful planning to pay attention to changes, take actions to identify arising ethical issues, and respond in a way that meets the three guiding ethical principles.
Case: Systematization of Experiences Study

- Forced displacement / armed conflict
- Afro-colombian and indigenous communities
- Psychosocial professionals
- Value guided community Psychology researcher

- Evaluate Cultural approach of psychosocial strategy.
Values and Research design

Social justice and diversity
Guide goals and process

Cultural humility

- Non expert role
- Focus on client expertise, for therapeutic and community alliance.

Systematization of Experiences Methodology

- Latin-American PAR methodology
- Collective learning from praxis
- Collaborative plan and development
What 3 principles guide ethical research?

Key ethical issues involve ensuring free and informed consent without interference or coercions.

1. Respect for persons has to do with the treatment of persons and their data involved in the research process.

How are you ensuring participatory is voluntary?

How are your documenting consent?
Planning for the Who and How

Displaced or confined beneficiaries

Researcher Assistant
National Program Director

Region 1
Region 2
Region 3
Region 4
Region 5
Practitioners

Stakeholders - social org.
Stakeholders - GO

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Stakeholders - social org.
Stakeholders - GO
1. Introductory Online Focus group
   (14 psychosocial professionals)
   - Adjust objectives and methodology

2. Online Interviews / co-constructed timelines
   (9 psychosocial professionals)
   - Reconstruction of experiences

3. Telephone interviews
   (7 local agents and leaders)

4. Stories - Most Significant Change.
   (13 afro & indigenous beneficiaries)
   - Training psychosocial professionals on MSC
   - Member checking

5. Online discussion group
   (4 psychosocial professionals)

6. Final Workshop
   (local, national and international parts)
   - Results
   - Indigenous and afrocolombian wants & needs
- Safe space for dialogue and participation
- Research Team: practitioners as experts in decision making on ethic and methodological concerns

- Shared power
- Capacity-building (research /Cultural humility)
- Virtual scenarios gathering multiple actors

- Continuous Member checking
- Critical reflection on praxis
- Exemplar intercultural experiences acknowledged

1. Introductory Online Focus group
2. Online Interviews / co-constructed timelines
3. Telephone interviews
4. Stories - Most Significant Change
5. Online discussion group
6. Final Workshop
1. Respect for persons

Practitioners:
✓ Present and adjust objectives and methodology
✓ Explain Benefits: research team to consolidate and make visible their successful experiences
✓ Respect individual level of participation

Community members:
✓ Part of the program evaluation
✓ Benefits: culture protection in psychosocial assistance
X Specific Community informed consent

How are you ensuring participatory is voluntary?

How are your documenting consent?

✓ Send letter of information and receive the written informed consent previously (institutional mail)
✓ Verbally communicated (video-recorded)
2. **Concern for welfare**, is about the protection of participants by minimizing harm and maximizing benefits of the research.

Key ethical issues involve protecting privacy and confidentiality of those involved in the research.

- What 3 principles guide ethical research?
- What risks do you anticipate for those involved in your research?
- How will you protect the privacy of your research participants?
2. Concern for welfare

What risks do you anticipate for those involved in your research?

How will you protect the privacy of your research participants?

Practitioners:

✓ Sensible information in war context / online settings

Community members:

✓ Underrepresentation – due to technology & not being able to participate in indigenous methodologies
✓ Sensible information in war context

✓ Online settings previously planned
✓ Assure benefits: design space for socialization of good practice

No Anonymity:

✓ Successful experiences
✓ Indigenous and afro-Colombian leaders
✓ Member checking
What 3 principles guide ethical research?

3. **Concern for justice**, refers to the need to treat people fairly and equitably and concerns all who participate in the research.

Key ethical issues involve reducing sources of bias in researchers, participants, and designs.

- How are you ensuring equitable and fair participant recruitment and sampling?
- How are you ensuring equitable and fair treatment of your participants in your reporting?
3. Concern for justice

Organizational level: Open invitation. Member checking.
Community level: key indigenous and afro stakeholders. Practitioners reached community members on field. Diverse methods.

X under-representation / no equitable procedures for all

How are you ensuring equitable and fair participant recruitment and sampling?
How are you ensuring equitable and fair treatment of your participants in your reporting?

Reflexive practices + cultural humility

✓ Researchers bias / privilege
✓ Diverse sources of expertise
✓ Member checking / Triangulation / peer debriefing
✓ Results presentation: diverse participants
The topics for the next MethodSpace Live webinars are:

**Online Research with Participants or Posts**
Janet Salmons & Luke Sloan
May 2021

**Equitable research partnerships between high income and lower income countries**
Doris Schroeder & panelist(s) TBA
October 2021

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