

SOUTHERN AFRICAN PERSPECTIVES ON THE ETHICS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESEARCH

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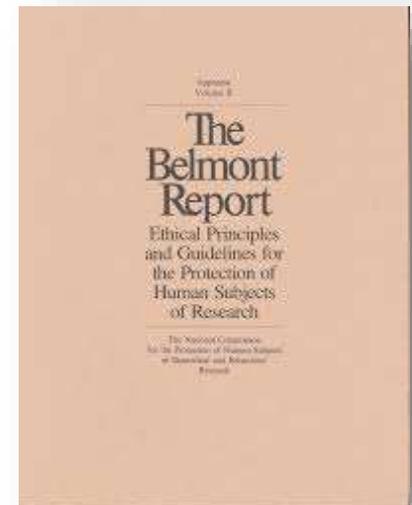


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Background

- Ethical dilemmas from sexual violence research
- Belmont Report: framework for ethical conduct in research
 - Presents challenges for implementation
 - Need for situational ethical considerations
- “Wicked” ethics
 - Requirements of protocol vs. implementation
 - Moral dilemma for research staff



Study Aims

1. Describe what an African perspective of ethical sexual violence research might look like
2. Implement this African inspired ethics framework into research on sexual violence with human subjects



Methods

- Two different institutions
 - North America, Southern Africa
- Shortcomings of Belmont-inspired framework
 - Apparent during implementation of project
- Conversations with other researchers conducting sexual violence research in southern Africa
 - Ethical dilemmas consistent



Results

- *Gap between research protocol and reality*
 - Subject's needs as a human being vs. need for subject as source of data
 - Multiple roles of research staff
 - Data collector
 - Counselor
 - Educator
 - Driver



Results

- *Relationship between investigators and institutions*
 - Historic colonial power differentials in individual relationships
 - Current power differentials between institutions



Results

- *Role of research incentives*
 - Advertising incentives as payment
 - Exploitative in low resource setting
 - Employers and laborers
 - Incentives as gifts
 - Reaffirmation of dignity
 - Relationship of equal standing



Conclusion

- Principles of human dignity and human relationships
- Prioritize person to person relationships
- Consideration of local ethical frameworks
- Prevention of “wicked” ethics problems



Thank you

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