Ethics: Before, During, and After Review

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PSI 600, October 2013
Micro Processes, Macro Consequences

- Ethics: right and wrong behavior (moving from idea, to study, to manuscript, to published article)
- Micro level: focus on relationships and dynamics among parties
  - Investigator, Study participants, Editor, Reviewers, Audience members
- Macro level: focus on trustworthiness of the journal, the discipline, and scholarly community
Ethical Considerations… BEFORE Review

- Data sources
  - Contact with study participants
  - Reliability/confidentiality of existing data sources
- Credit sources for arguments
- Analyses: “leave no stone unturned”
- Collaboration
  - Division of labor
  - Dynamics
  - Authorship
Ethical Considerations... DURING Review

- In the abstract, governed by...
  - Procedural justice: Neutrality, consistency, representativeness
  - Interactional justice: Respect, honesty
  - Generation of trust & confidence

- On the concrete level...
  - Roles & behavior of different “actors”
DURING Review: Authors Should…

- Submit to only one journal at a time
- “Blind” papers
- “Comply” with journal rules
- List only a few “preferred reviewers” who:
  - Have not seen the paper
  - Have no connection to author
DURING Review: Editors Should…

- "Listen" to authors’ concerns/preferences
- Treat submissions in consistent ways
- Find relevant, informed, neutral reviewers
- Communicate respectfully with authors & reviewers
- Navigate disrespectful reviews for authors
DURING Review: Reviewers Should...

- Accept reasonable requests…
  - Ok to decline, but suggest other reviewers
- Remain open-minded & objective
- Offer critical, yet respectful, feedback
  - Consider issues of theory, methods, analyses
  - Ask: “When I am an author, what helps me improve my papers?”
- Maintain confidentiality
Ethical Considerations... AFTER Review

- Editors
  - Provide account for decision
    - Rationale for rejection
    - Advice for revision
  - Indicate intentions for reviews of revised papers
  - Consider opportunities for scholarly debate
  - Deal with ethical violations

- Authors indicate ways critiques addressed
Ethical Considerations Throughout Review

- Promote responsible conduct of research
- Ensure integrity in professional scholarship
- Maintain the public’s trust in your discipline