

Obtain Informed Consent?

- Is the obtainment of informed consent necessary?
- Social psychologists who were interested in tipping behavior investigate whether tipping behavior is changed if servers in a restaurant draw or not draw a happy face on bill.
- Informed consent would destroy the credibility of the study.

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Obtain Informed Consent?

- Archival studies? Y or N?
- Research with young children? Y or N?
- with participants that have a limited or diminished capacity to understand the consent form? Y or N?

Obtain Informed Consent?

- University students? Y or N?
- Most psychological studies use university students as participants
- Almost all of our knowledge on perception, cognition, or social behavior comes from university students

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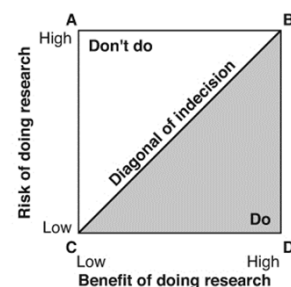
Obtain Informed Consent?

- In some Psychology departments, students are required to participate in experiments
 - Freedom of choice (Participating study vs. alternative requirement)
 - Freedom of choice (what this alternative requirement should be?)
 - There must be an educational benefit to participate (i.e. deeper understanding of the research process)
 - Alternative requirement must also be educational

Principle II = Do no harm

- Researchers should attempt to maximize the benefits of their research
- Institutional review board (İnsan Araştırmaları Etik Kurulu) performs risk-benefit analysis

Idealized Risk-benefit Evaluation



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Ethics Review

- Institutional review board (IRB) performs risk-benefit analysis
- Minimal risk = likelihood of harm no greater than experienced in everyday life
 - Most of the studies in psychology involves minimal risk

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Potential Risks of Research

- Physical risk
 - when there is the possibility of physical injury, as when bodily harm is threatened
- Psychological risk
 - when the procedures in the research are likely to induce serious mental or emotional stress.
- Social risk
 - when information gained about an individual through her or his participation in psychological research is revealed to others

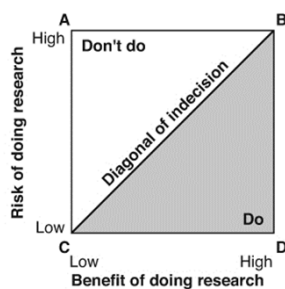
Potential Risks of Research

- When none of the risks exist? There might be further risks? Minimal risk=
 - Annoyances to the subjects
 - Inconveniences to the subjects
- It is impossible to design a risk-free research.

Potential Benefits of Research

- Advance of scientific knowledge
- Educational or psychological advantages to participants or other people

Idealized Risk-benefit Evaluation



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Further Issues

- Societal and scientific costs of not doing research
- Cost of using valuable resources carelessly
- Bureaucrats and communities might stop important research

Further Issues

- A study on sexual behavior of adults was terminated, because "it violated community norms"
- Stopping this research prevented community from scientific data that were needed to address health problems
- Similar obstacles might be encountered by psychologists in Turkey

Principle III = Pursuit of Justice

- The burdens and benefits of the study are supposed to be distributed fairly

Ethical Issues in Research Design



- 28 men died of syphilis, 100 of related complications, 40 wives were infected, 19 children were born with it
- In 1997 President Bill Clinton offered a formal apology for the Tuskegee Study.
- Violating ethical principles always have tragic consequences.

Principle III = Pursuit of Justice

- The burdens and benefits of the study are supposed to be distributed fairly
- In Tuskegee study none of the participants benefited any significant way

Drug Testing?

- How to test effectiveness of a drug?
 - Compare experimental group with placebo group
- Is it ethical to deprive some people from the benefits of a potentially lifesaving drug? (those in the control group)
 - Give control group the best available medicine
 - Placebo should be used only when no other effective treatment is available for comparison

An Ethical Question?

- A drug company announces a new medicine that slows the course of multiple sclerosis
- Company is unable to produce enough of the medicine to treat everyone who wants it
- How to select people for treatment?
 - Random lottery = everyone has an equal chance of life and death
 - Select patients who most likely benefit from it first
- Which procedure is more ethical?

Principle IV = Relationship of Trust

- A relationship of trust between researchers and participants
 - It is established by informed consent
 - and nothing should happen to risk this trust
- What might damage this relationship of trust?

"Relationship of Trust"

- Withhold information only if they will bias responses but debrief participants at the end
- Ensure confidentiality of responses
 - Confidentiality = participants' responses are "protected against unwarranted access"

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"Relationship of Trust"

- How to ensure full confidentiality in your research?
 - Not asking any personal information
 - Personal information is necessary
 - Holding your data at a secure place
 - Devising a coding system
- Give example situations in which confidentiality is violated.

Principle V = Fidelity and Scientific integrity

- There is a close relationship between scientific quality and ethical quality of research
- Poor-quality research is wasteful of resources
 - Public resources
 - Participant's resources

Damage of Poor Quality Research

- Poor Quality Research
 - Badly design
 - Sloppily implementation
 - Mindless analyses
 - Exaggerated conclusions
- Poor Quality Research is not only wasteful but also misleading
 - Randomized clinical trials in medical research

Unscientific and Unethical Acts

- Fabricating data
- Deliberately omitting results that contradict the researcher's hypothesis
- Career of the scientist usually ends
- Students will be punished

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Unscientific and Unethical Acts

- Implying a causal relationship where the data do not support
- An example proposal:
 - Hypothesis: testing whether private schools improve children's intellectual functioning more than public schools
 - Children randomly selected private and public schools will be tested extensively
 - Difference between scores will test hypothesis



Unscientific and Unethical Acts

- Resources will be wasted and conclusions will be inaccurate
- How to change this study to make it ethical?
 - Designing a causal study?
 - This will be unethical too. Why?
 - Testing whether test performances are better in private schools compared to public schools