

## Sociology 750 – Freese – Spring 2005

### Exercise #5: Research Ethics

**Weight:** 1 point

**Due date and time:** April 14, 5pm (note policy on the syllabus about late exercises). Turn in via e-mail with Completed Exercise 5 as subject line and answers given in body of e-mail (not as attachment)

**Purpose:** To provide an occasion to reflect on moral matters of research, both those matters that fall under a formal institutional review and those that do not.

**Task:** You should review the official University of Wisconsin-Madison Human Subjects Protections tutorial. It is located at the following URL:<sup>1</sup>

<http://info.gradsch.wisc.edu/research/compliance/humansubjects/tutorial/>

Many of you have likely already looked at this tutorial and have received the official certification of having completed it.<sup>2</sup> If you haven't, you might as well do so in the course of doing this assignment, although you do not need to send me the certification. If you have, I am basically asking you to look at (at least parts of it) again, although this time with an eye to the issues raised by this assignment.

The tutorial modules of interest for this exercise are Module 1 (w/ General Examples), Module 2 (although it can be quickly skimmed) and Module 3 (w/ General Examples).<sup>3</sup> I believe you need to go through all modules to be certified if you are not already, but this is *not* a requirement of this exercise.

Your exercise should contain *five parts, with appropriate enumerations separating each part.*

1. Both questions #2 and #4 are framed in terms of “kinds of research that you can imagine yourself conducting.” In a brief sentence or two, describe what kind(s) of research you will be orienting toward as you answer #2 and #3. ***You do not have to provide anything so specific as details of a particular project, etc., the purpose of #1 is just to make sure that you don't answer #2 and #4 without me having any idea what kind(s) of research you are thinking and talking about.*** (two sentences *maximum*)

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<sup>1</sup> I have also placed a link to this tutorial on the course webpage.

<sup>2</sup> For that matter, some of you may already have had experiences with the UW (or some other) IRB in the course of your research. If so, you may certainly bring those experiences into this exercise if appropriate.

<sup>3</sup> If you believe that your research will be much more focused on health than the typical sociological research agenda, you may choose to go through the Medical Research Examples instead.

2. For kind(s) of research that you can imagine yourself conducting, what do you believe will be 2-3 central issues of concern to the Institutional Review Boards/Human Subjects Committees that will be reviewing your research? That is, what do you think may be some of the specific issues that might most strongly influence what or how you go about this research? At least according to the tutorial, what seem to be the guiding principles that the UW IRB uses in making judgments regarding these issues? ***Do not repeat text from the tutorial verbatim.*** (eight sentences *maximum*)

3. For kind(s) of research that you can imagine yourself conducting, what do you believe are 2-3 important issues of ethical concern that are *not* issues covered (or covered much) in the human subjects tutorial?<sup>4</sup> That is, what are some key moral matters of the research process that are not generally considered under the purview of “protecting human subjects.” What do you believe are some basic principles that you, as an ethical researcher, should observe in these matters? (eight sentences *maximum*)

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<sup>4</sup> If you get stuck here, you might stimulate your imagination by consulting the ASA code of ethics: <http://www.asanet.org/members/ecoderev.html>