Institute of Education

Ethics in social science research

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What do these terms mean?

Research ethics

Academic integrity

Different kinds of ethics….

- Deontology (a lie is a lie)
- Consequentialism (a lie may be acceptable)
- Virtue ethics (an ethical person is a good person)
- Value ethics (an ethical person highlights their values)

- Ethics of justice (treating people equally)
- Ethics of care (looking after people)

(Kara, 2018)

Consider the ethics of justice

Staff and student perceptions of support services for international students in higher education: A case study

(Roberts and Dunworth, 2012)

Consider the ethics of care

Social reproduction in the shadows: migrant mothers and children with “no recourse to public funds”

(Rosen)

6 key principles of ethics….

1. Research should … ensure integrity and quality.
2. Research staff and subjects must be informed fully about the purpose, methods, uses and risks of the research, what participation entails ...
3. The confidentiality of information supplied by research subjects and the anonymity of respondents must be respected.
4. Research participants must participate in a voluntary way, free from any coercion.
5. Harm to research participants must be avoided.
6. The independence of research must be clear, and any conflicts of interest or partiality must be explicit.

http://www.ethicsguidebook.ac.uk/Key-ethics-principles-15

Consider the ethics

Racial and ethnic biases in rental housing

(Hogan and Berry, 2011)

Racial and ethnic biases in rental housing

So we were interested in doing an audit study that was very contemporary […] we wanted to do a study where we could go at scale and use different racial and ethnically encoded names in order to get a sense of who's going to get a call back and who isn't. […] What we did first is we took many of the replies to his rental enquiry and then we used the spirit of those replies. […] we drew upon lists of names using five different ethnicities that were commonly represented in Toronto

Racial and ethnic biases in rental housing

We also wanted to think about whether some names were particularly likely to prompt reactions when coupled with certain text. So, for example, if we had certain stereotypes about a name and then the message comes with all sorts of typos, it's really casual. Does that exacerbate the discrimination? […] Isn't there an issue with potentially misleading people when you approach them? You were contacting landlords and landladies, and you were effectively setting up a fake..?

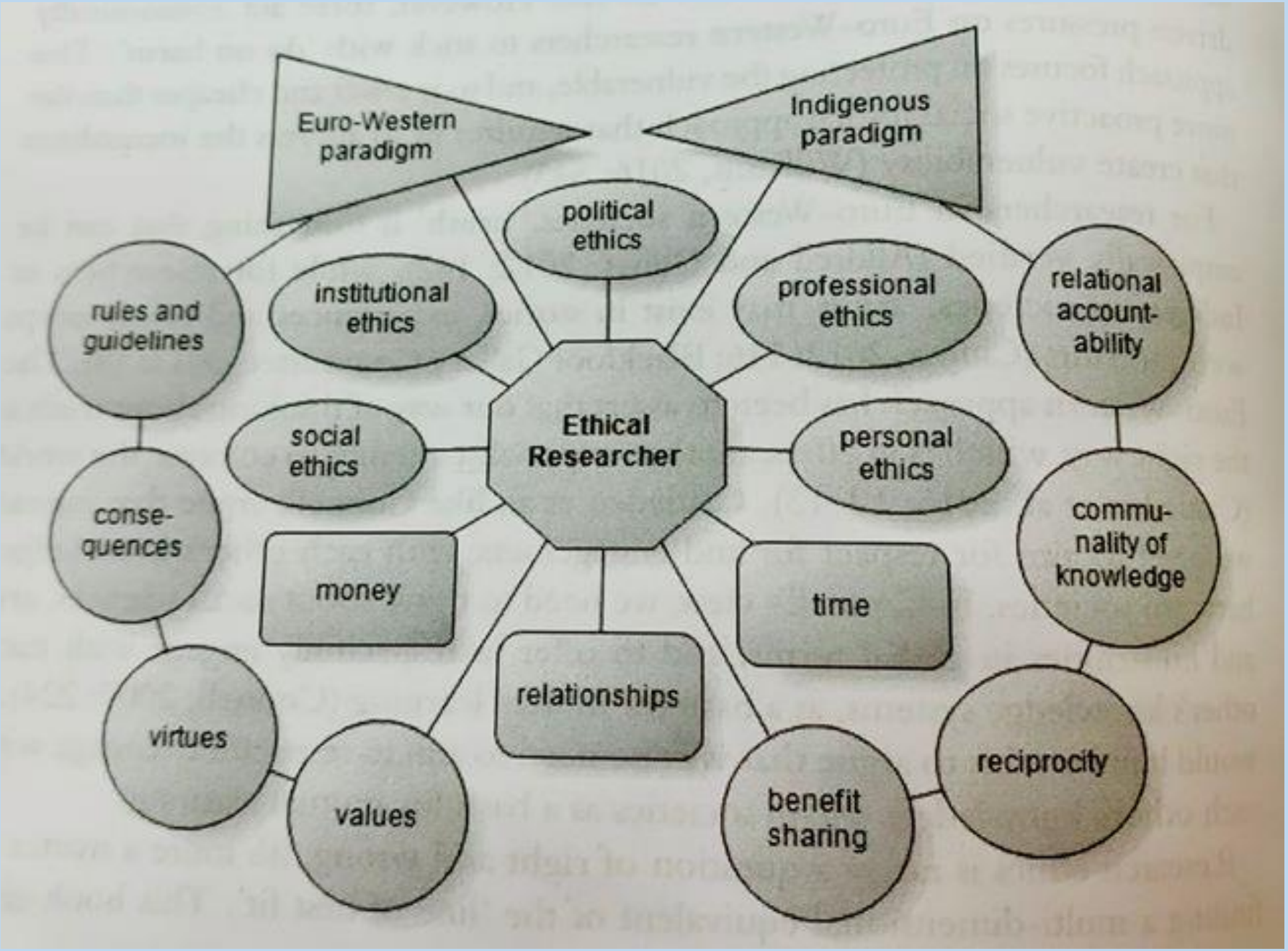

Figure 1: The ethical researcher (Kara, 2018)

2 stars and a wish….

References

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