

Resources relevant to ethical issues in research involving migrants and refugees

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Contents

Recommended reading

Other general resources relating to research involving refugees and migrants

Topic-specific resources relating to refugees and migrants

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- Ethical issues specific to particular populations

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 - Community participatory methods

Empirical evidence on outcomes for refugees and migrants who participate in research

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Resources on ethical issues in providing services for migrants and refugees

- Specific topics

 - Service provision for refugees in contexts of first asylum and in humanitarian emergencies

 - Health and mental health services for asylum seekers

 - Mental health services for refugees

Methods for refugee research

Resources relevant to ethical issues in research involving migrants and refugees

Recommended reading

Guidelines agreed by the membership of the ESRC seminar series on eliciting the views of refugees and people seeking asylum

Can be downloaded at no cost from
http://www.arvac.org.uk/docs/info_bull93e.html or
www.rapar.org.uk/doc/2004ESRCRAPARguidelines.pdf

Refugee Studies Centre, Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford.
(Undated). *Ethical Guidelines*

Can be downloaded at no cost from
<http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/PDFs/ethicalguidlines.pdf>

Thomas, S., & Byford, S. (2003). Research with unaccompanied children seeking asylum, *BMJ*, 327, 1400-1402.

This very brief article is of much broader interest than the title may suggest. It identifies ethical issues arising before, during and after conducting research with asylum-seeking and refugee populations. Recommended regardless of population or topic.

Can be downloaded at no cost from <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/reprint/327/7428/1400>

Other general resources relating to refugees and migrants

Birman, D. (2006). Ethical issues in research with immigrants and refugees. In Joseph E. Trimble & Celia B. Fisher (Eds.), *The handbook of ethical research with ethnocultural populations and communities*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Can be downloaded at no cost from
http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=_IDu8IbqbRkC&oi=fnd&pg=PA155&dq=ethic+refugee+research&ots=JzWUac655C&sig=I1zshNWWWhXqa-fW4iJBFwX1HkPo#v=onepage&q&f=false

Dona, G. (2007). The microphysics of participation in refugee research. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 20, 210-229.

This paper examines the involvement of refugees in the production and reproduction of knowledge of which they are ultimately meant to be beneficiaries. By using examples from research with Central American refugees and Rwandan displaced children, it considers forced migrants' roles

as participants in research, their position in 'participatory' research, and the representation of refugees' voices in refugee-centred research. Power is intimately connected to the diverse ways in which participation unfolds, and the last part of the paper examines refugees' participation in research in terms of 'power that circulates' (Foucault) to show that they are not more or less powerful but vehicles for the circulation of power, simultaneously undergoing and exercising it.

Can be downloaded at no cost from
<http://jrs.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/20/2/210>

Helms, J.E., Henze, K.T., Mascher, J., & Satiani, A. (2006). Ethical issues when White researchers study ALANA and immigrant people and communities. In Joseph E. Trimble & Celia B. Fisher (Eds.), *The handbook of ethical research with ethnocultural populations and communities*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Can be downloaded at no cost from
http://books.google.com/books?id=_IDu8lbqbRkC&pg=PA299&lpg=PA299&dq=Ethical+issues+when+White+researchers+study+ALANA+and+immigrant+people+and+communities.&source=bl&ots=JzVSd3bc1y&sig=cHWdSoOoMP85-FEP4kArgCigUNk&hl=en&ei=d0t6S_KuAculkAWqmY36Cg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CAoQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=Ethical%20issues%20when%20White%20researchers%20study%20ALANA%20and%20immigrant%20people%20and%20communities.&f=false

Jacobsen, K., & Landau, L. (2003). *Researching refugees: some methodological and ethical considerations in social science and forced migration*. New Issues In Refugee Research, Working Paper No. 90, UNHCR.

Social scientists, whose research focuses on humanitarian or forced migration issues, are both plagued by and attracted to the idea that our work be relevant. We want to believe that our research and teaching will contribute to our theoretical understanding of the world while actually helping the millions of people caught up in humanitarian disasters and complex emergencies. Most forced migration research therefore seeks to explain the behavior, impact, and problems of the displaced with the intention of influencing agencies and governments to develop more effective responses. Compared with non-humanitarian fields, there are relatively few studies that do not conclude with policy recommendations for NGOs, the UN or national governments (Castles 2003; Black 2001). In part, this policy orientation stems from our subjects, whose experience of violent conflict, displacement and human rights violations inhibits us from treating them simply as objects for research. Many of us take seriously David Turton's admonishment that research into other's suffering can only be justified if alleviating that suffering is an explicit objective (Turton 1996: 96). A large subset of the refugee research literature consists of reports by human rights organizations like Amnesty International or Human Rights Watch, which document and expose human rights abuses with the intention of pressuring governments to protect refugees and promote their well being (e.g. Lawyers Committee for Human Rights 2002, Human Rights Watch 2002).

At the same time that our work seeks to reduce suffering, refugee-related social science aspires to satisfy high academic standards, both to justify its place in the academy and to attract scarce funding for social research. But as our work becomes more academically sophisticated, many of us have the nagging suspicion that our research is becoming ever more irrelevant for practitioners and policy makers. We fear that our analysis does not address current crises, that the language and concepts we use are too arcane or jargonistic, and that the questions we ask (and purport to answer) are interesting only to other academics, not to the whose who work in the field, or to those refugees and IDPs and war-affected people who live the situations we study.

[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900sid/JBRN-6XBKU8/\\$file/UNHCR%20June%202003.pdf?openelement](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900sid/JBRN-6XBKU8/$file/UNHCR%20June%202003.pdf?openelement)

Jacobsen, K., & Landau, L.B. (2003). The dual Imperative in refugee research: Some methodological and ethical considerations in social science research on forced migration. *Disasters*, 27, 185-206.

Social scientists doing fieldwork in humanitarian situations often face a dual imperative: research should be both academically sound and policy relevant. We argue that much of the current research on forced migration is based on unsound methodology, and that the data and subsequent policy conclusions are often flawed or ethically suspect. The paper identifies some key methodological and ethical problems confronting social scientists studying forced migrants or their hosts. These problems include non-representativeness and bias, issues arising from working in unfamiliar contexts including translation and the use of local researchers, and ethical dilemmas including security and confidentiality issues and whether researchers are doing enough to 'do no harm'. The second part of the paper reviews the authors' own efforts to conduct research on urban refugees in Johannesburg. It concludes that while there is no single 'best practice' for refugee research, refugee studies would advance their academic and policy relevance by more seriously considering methodological and ethical concerns.

Can be downloaded at no cost from:

http://web.mit.edu/cis/www/migration/pubs/rrwp/19_jacobsen.html

Kumsa, M.K. (2006). No! I'm Not a Refugee!' The Poetics of Be-Longing among Young Oromos in Toronto. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 19, 230-255.

This paper presents some findings from an empirical study carried out with young Oromos living in Toronto. To capture the complexities of negotiating belonging, the paper offers *dispersal-affinity*—a new conceptual framework empirically grounded in an innovative methodological design. Using participants' narratives in the empirical material, the paper contests the dualism created between essentialist and constructionist perspectives. It employs *dispersal-affinity* to explore participants' understandings of 'the refugee' and the wider processes of refugeeization and refugee be-longing. Findings suggest that be-longing is a project of selfhood that is both fixed and

constantly shifting. It is argued that be-longing is constructed from the same movements of selfhood within and through social relationships. Young Oromos employ both essentialist and constructionist discourses to weave multiple layers of fixed and mobile be-longing. Implications for refugee studies are discussed wherein *dispersal–affinity* is offered to critically engage the recent debate on ‘deceit and trickery’ among refugees.

[Access to this article requires a subscription.](#)

Leaning, J. (2001). Ethics of research in refugee populations. *The Lancet*, 357, 1432-1433.

[Access to this article requires a subscription.](#)

Mackenzie, C., McDowell, C., & Pittaway, E. (2007). Beyond ‘Do no harm’: The challenge of constructing ethical relationships in refugee research. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 20, 299-319.

This paper highlights some of the central ethical challenges involved in undertaking social science research with refugees in conflict and crisis situations. It focuses on two main sets of challenges: first, the difficulties of constructing an ethical consent process and obtaining genuinely informed consent; and second, taking fully into account and responding to refugee participants' capacities for autonomy. The authors also discuss the challenges involved in applying the central normative principles governing ethics review processes—the principles of beneficence, integrity, respect for persons, autonomy and justice—to the context of refugee research. It is argued that researchers should seek ways to move beyond harm minimization as a standard for ethical research and recognize an obligation to design and conduct research projects that aim to bring about reciprocal benefits for refugee participants and/or communities. Some of the methodological issues raised by this analysis are discussed in the conclusion.

[Access to this article requires a subscription.](#)

Rodgers, G. (2004) “Hanging out” with forced migrants: Methodological and ethical challenges, *Forced Migration Review*, 21, 48-49.

[Can be downloaded at no cost from](#)
<http://www.fmreview.org/FMRpdfs/FMR21/FMR2119.pdf>

Rousseau, C., & Kirmayer, L.J. (2010). From complicity to advocacy: The necessity of refugee research. *The American Journal of Bioethics*, 10, 65 – 67.

[No abstract is available.](#)

[Access to this article requires a subscription.](#)

Seedat, S., Pienaar, W.P., Williams, D., Stein, D.J. (2004). Ethics of research on survivors of trauma. *Current Psychiatry Reports*, 6, 262-7.

Essential elements of all research include balance of risks and benefits, unbiased selection of research samples, and assurance of the rights of individual participants. This paper highlights some key ethical issues and summarizes recent evidence relating to participation in, and conduct of, trauma-focused studies with special reference to vulnerable populations (e.g., women and children, refugees, survivors of human rights violations, and survivors of trauma in the developing world). A concise ethical framework, rather than rigid guidelines (that may not be applicable to all trauma studies), may be a more useful point of reference for investigators and ethics committees or institutional review boards. Despite the increased empiric data available to inform ethical dilemmas regarding trauma research, more cost-burden analysis research in varying trauma populations and careful investigation of factors that contribute to risk and benefit is required.

[Access to this article requires a subscription.](#)

Schweitzer, Robert and Steel, Zachary (2008) *Researching refugees : methodological and ethical considerations*. In: Liamputtong, Pranee, (ed.) *Doing Cross-Cultural Research : Ethical and Methodological Perspectives*. Social Indicators Research Series, 34. Springer, Netherlands, pp. 87-101.

Research with refugees involves particular conceptual, ethical and methodological issues. In this chapter, we outline a number of approaches to refugee research. The merits and limitations of the dominant trauma approach are reviewed, noting the particular tendency of this approach to exclude indigenous forms of knowledge and understanding. We review the emergence of alternative or complementary approaches which strive to integrate qualitative and quantitative methodologies and emphasise a return to human experience and a deeper eco-social and cultural understanding of the refugee experience. One such methodology, interpretative phenomenological analysis is described in greater detail. We then extend our chapter to examine some of the ethical issues which emerge in refugee-related research. This section locates the research enterprise within the broader socio-political context of engaged research.

[Can be downloaded at no cost from:](#)
<http://eprints.qut.edu.au/19402/2/19402.pdf>

van Liempt, I., & Bilger, V. (Eds.) (2009). *The ethics of migration research methodology: dealing with vulnerable immigrants*. Brighton, U.K: Sussex Academic Press.

Contents include:

Methodological issues for the study of migrant incarceration in an era of discretion in law in the southern USA by Robert F. Barsky
 Multi-perspective research on foreigners in prisons in Switzerland by Christin Achermann
 Different methods to research irregular migration by Richard Staring
 Challenges and strategies in empirical fieldwork with asylum seekers and

migrant sex workers by Janine Dahinden and Denise Efonayi-Mäder
Methodological and ethical dilemmas in research among smuggled migrants
by Veronika Bilger and Ilse van Liempt
The 'insider' position: ethical dilemmas and methodological concerns in
researching undocumented migrants with the same ethnic background by
Eugenia Markova
The fieldworker as social worker: dilemmas in research with Moroccan
unaccompanied minors by Nuria Empez.

Resources relating to specific research topics concerning refugees and migrants

Mental Health

Alvidrez, J., & Arean, P.A. (2002). Psychosocial treatment research with ethnic minority populations: ethical considerations in conducting clinical trials. *Ethics and Behavior*, 12, 103-16.

Because of historical mistreatment of ethnic minorities by research and medical institutions, it is particularly important for researchers to be mindful of ethical issues that arise when conducting research with ethnic minority populations. In this article, we focus on the ethical issues related to the inclusion of ethnic minorities in clinical trials of psychosocial treatments. We highlight 2 factors, skepticism and mistrust by ethnic minorities about research and current inequities in the mental health care system, that researchers should consider when developing psychosocial interventions studies that include ethnic minorities.

[Access to this article requires a subscription.](#)

Bailes, M.J., Minas, I.H., & Klimidis, S. (2006). Mental health research, ethics and multiculturalism. *Monash Bioethics Review*, 25, 53-63.

In this paper we examine ethical issues relevant to conducting mental health research with refugees and immigrant communities that have cultural orientations and social organisation that are substantially different to those of the broader Australian community, and we relate these issues to NH&MRC Guidelines. We describe the development and conduct of a mental health research project carried out recently in Melbourne with the Somali community, focusing on ethical principles involved, and relating these to the NH&MRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans, and the NH&MRC document Values and Ethics: Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research. The experience of conducting mental health research with the Somali community highlights the fact that the principles of inclusion and benefit enunciated in the NH&MRC document Values and Ethics are particularly pertinent when conducting research with refugees and immigrant communities that are culturally distant to those of the broader Australian community. These principles inform issues of research design and consent, as well as guiding respectful engagement with the participating community and communication of the research findings.

[Access to this article requires a subscription.](#)

Hall, G.C. (2001). Psychotherapy research with ethnic minorities: empirical, ethical, and conceptual issues. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 69, 502-10.

There is an increasing demand for psychotherapy among ethnic minority

populations. Yet, there is not adequate evidence that empirically supported therapies (ESTs) are effective with ethnic minorities. Ethical guidelines suggest that psychotherapies be modified to become culturally appropriate for ethnic minority persons. Conceptual approaches have identified interdependence, spirituality, and discrimination as considerations for culturally sensitive therapy (CST). However, there is no more empirical support for the efficacy of CSTs than there is for the efficacy of ESTs with ethnic minority populations. The chasm between EST and CST research is a function of differences between methods and researchers in these 2 traditions. Specific recommendations for research collaboration between CST and EST researchers are offered.

[Access to this article requires a subscription.](#)

Ethical issues associated with particular contexts

Refugees in countries of first asylum and humanitarian emergencies

Black, R. (2003). Ethical codes in humanitarian emergencies: From practice to research?' *Disasters*, 27(2): 95-108.

Notable strides have been made in recent years to develop codes of conduct for humanitarian intervention in conflicts on the part of international NGOs and UN organisations. Yet engagement by the academic and broader research communities with humanitarian crises and ongoing complex political emergencies remains relatively ad hoc and unregulated beyond the basic ethical guidelines and norms developed within universities for research in general, and within the governing and representative bodies of particular academic disciplines. This paper draws on a case study of research on humanitarian assistance to Liberia during that country's civil war from 1989 to 1996. The difficulties faced by humanitarian agencies in Liberia led to the development of two key sets of ethical guidelines for humanitarian intervention: the Joint Policy of Operations (JPO) and Principles and Policies of Humanitarian Operations (PPHO). This paper seeks to address what lessons, if any, these ethical guidelines, together with different experiences of conducting research in war-torn Liberia, can provide in terms of the role of academic researchers--and research itself--in humanitarian crises.

[Access to this article requires a subscription.](#)

Fábos, A. (1999) 'Ethical dilemmas of research among Sudanese in Egypt: Producing knowledge about the public and the private', in S. Shami and L. Herrera (eds.) *Between Field and Text: Emerging Voices in Egyptian Social Science*. Cairo Papers in Social Science, Special Issue: Vol. 22. Cairo: The American University in Cairo Press.

[Can be read on-line at](#)

[http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=j1NeMbLwQr8C&oi=fnd&pg=PA98&dq=Fábos,+A.+\(1999\)+%27Ethical+dilemmas+of+research+among+Sudanese+in+Egypt:&ots=SVdta7DU](http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=j1NeMbLwQr8C&oi=fnd&pg=PA98&dq=Fábos,+A.+(1999)+%27Ethical+dilemmas+of+research+among+Sudanese+in+Egypt:&ots=SVdta7DU)

[HV&sig=RsY3FPjdtazyNzYIJqFi6O4wjo#v=onepage&q&f=false](#)

Ford, N., Mills, E.J., Zachariah, R. & Upshur, R. (2009). Ethics of conducting research in conflict settings, *Conflict and Health*, 3, 7.

Humanitarian agencies are increasingly engaged in research in conflict and post-conflict settings. This is justified by the need to improve the quality of assistance provided in these settings and to collect evidence of the highest standard to inform advocacy and policy change. The instability of conflict-affected areas, and the heightened vulnerability of populations caught in conflict, calls for careful consideration of the research methods employed, the levels of evidence sought, and ethical requirements. Special attention needs to be placed on the feasibility and necessity of doing research in conflict-settings, and the harm-benefit ratio for potential research participants.

Can be downloaded at no cost from

<http://www.conflictandhealth.com/content/3/1/7>

Goodhand, J. Research in conflict zones: Ethics and accountability, *Forced Migration Review*, 8, 12-15.

Can be downloaded at no cost from

<http://law.wustl.edu/Library/cdroms/refugee/data/FMR%5CEnglish%5CFMR08%5Cfmr8.4.pdf>

Hart, J., & Tyrer, B. (2006). Research with children living in situations of armed conflict: Concepts, ethics and methods. RSC Working Paper No. 30

Can be downloaded at no cost from

<http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/PDFs/RSCworkingpaper30.pdf>

Pringle, D.J., & Cole, D.C. (2009). Health research in complex emergencies: A humanitarian imperative, *Journal of Academic Ethics*, 7, 115-123.

Health researchers, research trainees, and ethics reviewers should be prepared for the special application of research ethics within complex humanitarian emergencies. This paper argues that as a precursor to published ethical guidelines for conducting research in complex emergencies, researchers and research ethics committees should observe the following primary ethical considerations: (1) the research is not at the expense of humanitarian action; (2) the research is justified in that it is needs-driven and relevant to the affected populations; and (3) the research does not compromise the humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence. These primary considerations are in harmony with the humanitarian goals of saving lives, alleviating suffering, and *témoignage*. Furthermore, there is an important role for research in supporting humanitarian action, and the extreme vulnerability of research participants in complex emergencies demands intense research ethics scrutiny. It is important to discern which ethical considerations are essential, and which are merely desirable, as excessive research ethics requirements may impede life-saving research.

Access to this article requires a subscription.

Reed, H. (2000), *Research ethics in complex humanitarian emergencies: Summary of a workshop*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press. ISBN: 0-309-08493-8 (28 pages)

The PDF file for this report can be downloaded at no cost from:

<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10481.html>

Schopper, D., Upshur, R., Matthys, F., Singh, J.A., Bandewar, S.S., Ahmad, A., & van Dongen, E. (2009). Research ethics review in humanitarian contexts: the experience of the independent ethics review board of Médecins Sans Frontières. *PLoS Med.* Jul;6(7):e1000115. Epub 2009 Jul 28.

In 2001, the international humanitarian aid organisation Medecins Sans Frontie`res decided to institute an independent ethics review board to ensure that the increasing amount of operational and clinical research it undertakes is scientifically valid and ethical. This article describes the functioning of this ethics review board and the challenging ethical issues that it has discussed since its inception.

The PDF file for this report can be downloaded at no cost from:

<http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info:doi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1000115>

Zwi, A.B., Grove, N.J., MacKenzie, C., Pittaway, E., Zion, D., Silove, D., & Tarantola, D. (2006). Placing ethics in the centre: Negotiating new spaces for ethical research in conflict situations. *Global Public Health*, 1, 264-277.

Issues of power and consent, confidentiality, trust, and benefit, risks to researchers, and potential harm to participants, are all contested when working with different cultures and within environments marked by violence and insecurity. Difficulty resolving these dilemmas may paralyse ethics committees, may fail to give the guidance sought by researchers, and will not help populations who are among the world's most vulnerable. Even where efforts are made to respond to ethical guidelines and to improve practice, considerable impediments are present in many developing countries, including lack of formal ethical review structures in unstable settings, lack of required skills, limited political and institutional recognition of ethical issues, competing interests, and limitations in clinical and research practice (Elsayed 2004, Macklin 2004). In conflict settings, these limitations are more marked, and the responsibilities of the researcher for ethical practice are greater, but the mechanisms for oversight are weaker. Moreover, the constant focus on vulnerabilities and problems, and the often almost total lack of recognition of strengths and resilience, can further disempower already exploited groups and individuals. The capacity of refugees and communities in conflict to take an active role in the research process is seldom acknowledged, and undermines the potential for more innovative research which can help generate the evidence for better policy and practice.

Can be downloaded at no cost from

www.raiseinitiative.org/library/download.php?id=354

Urban settings in countries of first asylum

American University in Cairo (2003). *Research on refugees in urban settings: Methods and ethics*, Workshop Report, April 2003

Can be downloaded at no cost from:

<http://www.aucegypt.edu/academic/fmrs/Outreach/Workshops/Urbanworkshop.pdf>

Lammers, E. (2003). *Young, urban refugees in Kampala, Uganda: Some thoughts on the ethics of fieldwork and issues of representation*, Forced Migration Working Paper Series #3, Forced Migration Studies Programme, University of the Witwatersrand.

Can be downloaded at no cost from

<http://dare.uva.nl/document/15001>

Lammers, E. (2003). *Young, Urban Refugees in Kampala, Uganda: Some Thoughts on the Ethics of Fieldwork and Issues of Representation*, 2003

Can be downloaded from

<http://migration.wits.ac.za/lammerswp.pdf>

Macchiavello, M., *Urban Forced Migrants in Kampala: Methodologies and Ethical and Psychological Issues*, 2003

Can be downloaded from

<http://migration.wits.ac.za/macchiavellowp.pdf>

Ethical issues specific to particular populations

African refugees

Tilbury, F. (2006). Ethical dilemmas: principles and practice in research with African refugees. *Monash Bioethics Review*, 25(1), 75-84.

Access to this article requires a subscription.

Irregular migrants

Duvell, F., Triandafyllidou, A., & Vollmer, B. (2008). *Ethical issues in irregular migration research*, CLANDESTINO, European Union Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-based Society.

This paper is concerned with the ethical issues arising for researchers engaged in the study of irregular migration. Irregular migration is by definition an elusive phenomenon as it takes place in violation of the law and at the margins of society. This very nature of the phenomenon raises important issues of sensitivity of the question, vulnerability of the research subjects, and a series of ethical issues to be addressed when conducting fieldwork with

irregular migrants, as well as at the stage of analysis of data, processing and disseminating the findings of the research. In the first part of this report we define research ethics and briefly outline their development during the last decades in the social sciences. We also consider the relevance of research ethics for the study of irregular migration. The following section discusses the differences between sensitivity and vulnerability and their particular implications for irregular migration research. Section three looks at the ethical challenges involved in fieldwork and discusses the sensitive issues involved in the relationship between researcher, irregular migrant and society. Ethical issues on data protection and the ethical challenges involved in the production and use of quantitative data on irregular migration are considered in the fourth section. Section five discusses the question of disseminating findings (qualitative or quantitative) to wider audiences. In conclusion, we highlight the key points that researchers should take into consideration when studying irregular migrant populations.

Can be downloaded at no cost from:

http://clandestino.eliamep.gr/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/clandestino_ethical-issues-in-irregular-migration-research_final.pdf

Duvell, F., Triandafyllidou, A., & Vollmer, B. (article available on-line ahead of print 2010). Ethical issues in irregular migration research in Europe. *Population, Place and Space*.

This paper is concerned with the ethical issues arising for researchers engaged in the study of irregular migration. Based on the authors' research experiences, the paper goes beyond analysis of ethical dilemmas and aims to provide some guidance to researchers in this field. Irregular migration is by definition an elusive phenomenon as it takes place in violation of the law and at the margins of society. The very nature of this phenomenon raises important issues, including the sensitivity and vulnerability of the research subjects and a whole series of other ethical issues to be addressed both when conducting fieldwork with irregular migrants and also at the later stage of data analysis, processing and dissemination. The paper first considers various methods in researching irregular migration and defines research ethics. It then discusses the differences between sensitivity and vulnerability and their particular implications for irregular migration research. Next, the paper looks at the ethical challenges arising from fieldwork and discusses the sensitive issues involved in the relationship between researcher, irregular migrant and society. Finally, it discusses the question of disseminating findings (both qualitative and quantitative) to wider audiences. In conclusion, we highlight the key points that we consider to be important when studying irregular migrant populations.

Access to this article requires a subscription.

Zion, D., Briskman, L., & Loff, B. (2010). Returning to History: The Ethics of Researching Asylum Seeker Health in Australia, *The American Journal of Bioethics*, 10, 48 – 56.

Australia's policy of mandatory indefinite detention of those seeking asylum and arriving without valid documents has led to terrible human rights abuses and cumulative deterioration in health for those incarcerated. We argue that there is an imperative to research and document the plight of those who have suffered at the hands of the Australian government and its agents. However, the normal tools available to those engaged in health research may further erode the rights and well being of this population, requiring a rethink of existing research ethics paradigms to approaches that foster advocacy research and drawing on the voices of those directly affected, including those bestowed with duty of care for this population.

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Migrant farm workers

Cooper, S., Heitman, E., Fox, E., Quill, B., Knudson, P., Zahm, S., MacNaughton, N., & Ryder, R. (2004). Ethical Issue in conducting migrant farmworker studies, *Journal of Immigrant Health*, 6, 1, 29-39.

Migrant farmworkers should be considered a vulnerable population because they work in a hazardous industry, are often members of an ethnic minority, have known difficulty in accessing health care, and are often of lower socioeconomic status. For these reasons, too, it is extremely important to conduct health-related research with this often-underserved group. However, because migrant farmworkers are vulnerable, investigators must be especially vigilant in protecting them from the potential harms of research and in ensuring that the special ethical issues that arise in research with this population are identified and addressed for every project. In response to the National Cancer Institute's concerns about the feasibility of conducting epidemiologic studies among migrant farmworkers, researchers undertook four feasibility studies near the Texas-Mexico border. Each study raised different, complex ethical questions that challenged the investigators, but whose resolution turned out to be crucial to the success of the studies.

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Unaccompanied children

Hopkins (2008). Ethical issues in research with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. *Children's Geographies*, 6 (1), 37 – 48.

This paper offers reflections on some of the ethical and methodological issues involved in doing research with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Drawing upon a Scottish Refugee Council funded research project with unaccompanied minors and service providers, I highlight some of the complications involved in conducting ethical research with unaccompanied children. Focusing upon issues of ethical approval and research design, access and obtaining informed consent, privacy and confidentiality and finally

dissemination, I demonstrate the ways in which conducting ethical research is often context dependant and varies according to the particular situation, needs and experiences of the children involved.

[Access to this article requires a subscription.](#)

Hopkins, P.E (2007). Positionalities and Knowledge: Negotiating Ethics in Practice, *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies*, 6 (3), 386-394

In this article, I draw upon my experience of working on two research projects – one with young Muslim men (Hopkins, 2006) and one with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (Hopkins and Hill, 2006; Hopkins, in press) – in order to reflect critically upon the negotiation of ethics in practice. The paper charts two of the ethical issues which were central to these projects; concerning multiple positionalities, and different knowledges and understandings of ethical practices. Although neither of these projects constituted a fully participatory research approach, they were both designed and conducted with participatory values in mind, and the issues raised and discussed here are of particular relevance to research of this nature.

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<http://www.acme-journal.org/vol6/PEH.pdf>

Asylum seekers

Silove, S., Coello, M., Tang, K., Aroche, J., Soares, M., Lingam, R., Chaussivert, M., Manicavasagar, V., & Steel, Z. (2002). Towards a Researcher–Advocacy Model for Asylum Seekers: A Pilot Study Amongst East Timorese Living in Australia, *Transcultural Psychiatry*, 39, 452–468.

During the 24-year Indonesian occupation of East Timor, widespread human rights abuses led to the flight of political dissidents to neighboring countries. We report a pilot study assessing a ‘Researcher–Advocacy’ model among East Timorese asylum seekers residing in Australia. The aim was to combine elements of advocacy, quantitative and qualitative research, and strategic assistance in a program of engagement with this marginalized group. Thirty-three consecutive asylum-seeker clients attending a newly formed clinic participated in the study, representing a quarter of the known population of asylum seekers from East Timor living in Sydney at the time. High levels of trauma including torture and other human rights abuses were recorded. Respondents also reported a wide range of resettlement and adaptational difficulties, particularly relating to their uncertain residency status. Eighty percent met criteria for one or more psychiatric disorder. The wider benefits of the study included the extension of services to a group that previously had shown a reluctance to seek assistance for traumatic stress, the engagement of the exile community as a whole, and building the capacity to respond both in Australia and in East Timor to the humanitarian emergency of 1999. Scientific limitations of the model included the labor-intensive nature of the program, the

small and selective sample recruited and incomplete data collection.

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Ethical issues associated with specific research methods

Ethnographic research

Krulfeld, R.M., & MacDonald, J.L. (1998) *Power, ethics, and human rights: anthropological studies of refugee research*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Refugees experience some of the most visible manifestations of human rights abuses in the world today -- and raise difficult issues for researchers and policy makers alike. This book investigates a broad range of complexities that arise as ethnographers work with refugee populations from different geographic areas in research, policy formation, and legal and social assistance. But the issues raised here have application to ethical concerns in ethnographic research beyond refugees. The contributors draw on their intensive fieldwork to explore issues surrounding power and disempowerment between researcher and subject; dilemmas over the protection of research informants; and the rights and actions of refugees in representing themselves and their cultures in advocacy and policy arenas. The wealth of important insights in this book sharpen our understanding of the problems faced in any cross-cultural research or intervention. These explorations revitalize, in vivid detail drawn from case studies, recent theoretical debates on anthropology and ethnographic research and practice, while raising new issues.

Smith, V.J. (2009). Ethical and effective ethnographic research methods; A case study with Afghan refugees in California. *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics*, 4, 59-72.

Scholarly studies of refugees and other vulnerable populations carry special ethical concerns. In this invited case study of Afghan refugees in Fremont, California, I provide illustrations and recommendations of ethical research methods with refugees. I also compare and contrast some ethical issues in the U.S. with issues in Thailand. The qualitative, ethnographic methods I report here demonstrate how to conduct culturally sensitive investigations by ethically approaching gatekeepers and other community members to preserve autonomy, ensure confidentiality, build trust, and improve the accuracy of interpretations and results. Six groups at risk for being marginalized in multiple ways within refugee populations are described. Ten best practices are recommended for ethically acquiring an in-depth understanding of the refugees, their community, and appropriate research methods.

Access to this article requires a subscription.

Community Participatory Methods

Ellis, B.H., Kia-Keating, M., Yusuf, S.A., Lincoln, A., Nur, A. (2007). Ethical research in refugee communities and the use of community participatory methods, *Transcultural Psychiatry*, 44, 459-481

This article describes the distinct challenges associated with conducting ethical research with refugees. A case example of an ongoing study of stigma and access to mental health treatment among Somali refugee adolescents resettled in the USA is presented. In developing the study, standard research paradigms were critically examined in order to take account of the unique aspects of Somali culture and experience. Community participatory methods were adopted to uphold both ethical and methodological rigor in the research. A participatory approach for developing ethical protocols within different refugee communities is recommended.

[Access to this article requires a subscription.](#)

Pittaway, E., Bartolomei, L., & Hugman, R. (2010). 'Stop stealing our stories': The ethics of research with vulnerable groups, *Journal of Human Rights Practice*, 2(2), 229-251.

The article discusses the challenges and opportunities faced when integrating participatory methods into human rights-based research. It describes the development of a participatory action research approach designed to fulfil the aim of undertaking advocacy-focused research grounded in human rights and community participation. It reflects the principles of anti-oppressive social work and the ethics of undertaking research with vulnerable populations. In line with other contributions to this special issue, the article explores questions such as: 'Where does knowledge about the story come from and how is it passed on?'; 'What spurs ethical thinking at an individual and organizational level?'; and 'How can ethical sensitivity and strategic effectiveness be combined?'

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Empirical evidence on outcomes for refugees who participate in research

Dyregrov, K., Dyregrov, A. & Raundalen, M. Refugee families' experience of research participation *Journal of Traumatic Stress*, 13, 413-426.

Because refugees can experience crisis, bereavement, and traumatization, there has been a rapid increase of research carried out with refugees. This study investigated how refugee families respond to participation in research. A previous study explored how adults and children had communicated about the difficult question of repatriation after arriving in a new country. Did the in-depth interviews harm or benefit them? Are there any ethical risks in research on traumatized refugees? From an original sample of 74 Bosnian refugees (5-73 years), 30 family members from 9 families including 14 children aged 6 to 19, were re-interviewed. The refugees rated participation as positive. A few parents lacked information that could have enabled them to inform the children better before the interviews. The study shows that studies on traumatized/bereaved populations can have beneficial effects.

[Access to this article requires a subscription.](#)

Newman, E., & Kaloupek, D.G. (2004). The risks and benefits of participating in trauma-focused research studies. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*, 17, 383-94.

Concern about minimizing harm and maximizing benefit has been particularly acute with regard to the scientific study of individuals exposed to potentially traumatic events such as terrorist attack or disaster. This review outlines conceptual and practical issues and summarizes available evidence regarding potential risks and benefits of participation in trauma-related research. Current, limited evidence suggests that most individuals make favorable cost-benefit appraisals regarding their participation. Although a subset of participants report strong negative emotions or unanticipated distress, the majority of these do not regret or negatively evaluate the overall experience. Continuing efforts are needed to identify individuals at risk for unfavorable reactions to research participation. A systematic empirical approach to evaluating participant experience in all human research is recommended.

[Access to this article requires a subscription.](#)

Newman, E., & Risch. (2006). Ethical issues in trauma-related research: A review. *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics*, 1(3), 29-46.

Ethical decision-making about trauma-related studies requires a flexible approach that counters assumptions and biases about victims, assures a favorable ethical cost-benefit ratio, and promotes advancement of knowledge that can benefit survivors of traumatic stress. This paper reviews several ethical issues in the field of traumatic stress: benefit and risks in trauma-related research, whether trauma-related research poses unique risks and if so what those might be, informed consent and

mandatory reporting, and supervision of trauma-related research. For each topic, we review potential ethical issues, summarize the research conducted thus far to inform ethical practice, and recommend future practice, research questions and policies to advance the field so that research on trauma can continue to be a win-win situation for all stakeholders in the research enterprise.

[Access to this article requires a subscription.](#)

Related populations

Chaitin, J. (2003). "I wish he hadn't told me that": Methodological and ethical issues in social trauma and conflict research, *Qualitative Health Research*, 13(8), 1145-1154.

Undertaking research on individuals who have experienced social traumas, such as being a victim or perpetrator of genocides and wars, presents difficult decisions for qualitative researchers. Deciding how to deal with these issues becomes more problematic when the researcher is a member of the society in conflict. To do this work, and to work collaboratively with researchers from the other side, sensitive ways to collect data have to be chosen. Interpretations of the materials can be no less difficult: Analyses often lead to information and understandings that may be difficult for the researcher to deal with from ethical, moral, and personal standpoints, especially when he or she is a member of the society and culture under study. In this keynote address, the author explores methodological and ethical issues connected to these topics. She brings examples from her work on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and focuses on use of the life story methodology.

[Access to this article requires a subscription.](#)

Griffin, M.G., Resick PA, Waldrop AE, Mechanic MB. (2003). Participation in trauma research: is there evidence of harm? *Journal of Traumatic Stress*, 16, 221-7.

Few studies have examined the impact of trauma research participation upon trauma survivors. Empirical data regarding reactions to research participation would be very useful to address the question of whether it is harmful for trauma survivors to participate in trauma studies. We examined participant reactions to different trauma assessment procedures in domestic violence (N = 260), rape (N = 108), and physical assault (N = 62) samples. Results indicated that participation was very well tolerated by the vast majority of the trauma survivors. Participants generally found that the assessment experience was not distressing and was, in fact, viewed as an interesting and valuable experience. The findings suggest that trauma survivors are not too fragile to participate in trauma research even in the acute aftermath of a traumatic experience.

[Access to this article requires a subscription.](#)

Resources on ethical issues in providing services for migrants and refugees

ChangeMakers Refugee Forum (2008). *Standards for engagement: Guidelines for central and local government, and NGOs working with refugee background communities*. Wellington, NZ: Author.

ChangeMakers is a New Zealand non-government organization that seeks to positively influence the way government agencies and NGOs engage with refugee-background communities. It has produced guidelines based on members' experiences and learnings from successful, and not so successful, interactions with a wide range of agencies working in the resettlement area. Underpinning the Standards for Engagement is the need to acknowledge and address the 'power imbalance' that exists in any engagement between refugee-background communities, NGOs and government agencies. In particular this refers to the resources, networks and knowledge that each party has access to.

Can be downloaded at no cost from <http://www.crf.org.nz/StandardsForEngagement>

Specific topics

Service provision for refugees in countries of first asylum and in humanitarian emergencies

Sommers-Flanagan, R. (2007). Ethical considerations in crisis and humanitarian interventions: The view from home. *Ethics and Behaviour*, 17, 187-202.

The need for professionals to volunteer their time in crisis situations and to reach across time and culture in the service of humanitarian interventions will likely not abate in the near future. This article provides readers with multiple venues for considering the ethical dimensions present in crisis and humanitarian interventions. Core ethical concerns common to helping situations are magnified in crisis work. In addition, issues unique to the nature of volunteer and crisis work must also be considered. Using hypothetical case examples, bioethical principles, and ethical decision-making models, helping professionals are encouraged to go beyond their particular ethical codes in contemplating ethically and clinically sensitive volunteering.

Matthew R. Hunt (2008). Ethics beyond borders: How health professionals experience ethics in humanitarian assistance and development work. *Developing World Bioethics*, 8(2), 59-69.

Health professionals are involved in humanitarian assistance and development work in many regions of the world. They participate in primary health care, immunization campaigns, clinic- and hospital-based care, rehabilitation and feeding programs. In the course of this work, clinicians are frequently exposed

to complex ethical issues. This paper examines how health workers experience ethics in the course of humanitarian assistance and development work. A qualitative study was conducted to consider this question. Five core themes emerged from the data, including: tension between respecting local customs and imposing values; obstacles to providing adequate care; differing understandings of health and illness; questions of identity for health workers; and issues of trust and distrust. Recommendations are made for organizational strategies that could help aid agencies support and equip their staff as they respond to ethical issues.

Joshi, P., Dalton, M., & O'Donnell, D. (2008). Ethical issues in local, national, and international disaster psychiatry *Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America*, 17, 165-185

The world as we know it is plagued with conflict, yet little attention is paid to the inherent ethical issues and challenges related to trauma work. It is important to be aware of these issues because they are bound to raise questions about how medical practitioners confer neutrality in the face of political agendas and war on one hand and maintain a commitment to a person's well-being on the other. When engaged in local, national, or international trauma work, cultural, ethnic, and political literacy is crucial, and an acknowledgment of one's subjectivity is paramount. There are contradictory points of view about practicing value-free psychiatry. Psychosocial programs should examine the long-term political consequences of their work as well as the short- and long-term humanitarian impact.

Health and mental health services for asylum seekers

Coffey, G. (2006) 'Locked up without guilt or sin: The ethics of mental health service delivery in immigration detention', *Psychiatry, Psychiatry, and Law*, 13(1): 67-90.

Immigration Detention Centres are a historically recent phenomenon in Australia, but they possess many of the characteristics of older closed institutions of incarceration. Modern principles of administrative law and government service delivery have not informed the manner in which the centres have operated. This has had many consequences, not the least being manifest inadequacies in detention centre mental health services. The Commonwealth's failure to create agreements with the states in order to ensure access to state mental health services, the isolation of immigration detention health services from state health legislation and policy, and the delivery of detention health care by means of private contractual arrangements have in combination resulted in highly unregulated mental health services for detainees. Mental health clinicians working with detainees have been confronted by ethical challenges less commonly encountered in orthodox treatment settings. This article describes such challenges as they have arisen during the 8 years in which detention centres have been privately managed.

Access to this article requires a subscription.

Francois, G., Harnbach, van Sprundel, M., Deville, W., & van Hal, G. (2008). Inspecting asylum seekers upon entry—a medico–ethical complex. *The European Journal of Public Health*, 18, 552-553.

This is a brief commentary on the situation in the European Union.
Can be downloaded at no cost from
<http://eurpub.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/full/18/6/552>

Mental health services for refugees

Bjorn, G.J., & Bjorn, A. (2004). Ethical aspects when treating traumatized refugee children and their families. *Nordic Journal of Psychiatry*, 58, 193-198.

Basic ethical principles are worth analysing step by step when dealing with refugee children and their families. Three issues where potential ethical conflicts might arise for healthcare professionals in treating refugees with different cultural background are pointed out-traumatic life events, hierarchy and repatriation. An ethical analysis of the decision to admit a traumatized teenage refugee to a psychiatric ward is discussed with respect for the ethical principles autonomy, non-maleficence, beneficence and justice. There are both gains and losses, which are valued differently depending on the actors involved.

Bjorn, G.J. (2005). Ethics and interpreting in psychotherapy with refugee children and families, *Nordic Journal of Psychiatry*, 59, 516-521.

Basic ethical principles like autonomy, non-maleficence, beneficence and justice should be taken into consideration step by step when treating refugee children and their families. These principles may be considered from the point of view of each of the actors involved – patient, therapist and interpreter. This paper is focused on the role of the interpreter and on different aspects to be considered by the therapist when working with interpreters in psychotherapeutic treatment of refugee children and families. Elements of case histories are used to illustrate situations faced in working with an interpreter. An ethical analysis of a case where a teenage refugee received therapeutic treatment using an interpreter is made.

Mahtani, A. (2003). The right of refugee clients to an appropriate and ethical psychological service. *The International Journal of Human Rights*, 7(1), 40-57.

This article discusses the provision of a psychological service to refugee clients. It describes how Western psychological models are embedded with Western cultural values and beliefs, and how unfamiliar these can be for refugee clients. It aims to help psychologists and other related professionals consider how to work across these differences and provide interventions that

are relevant and effective. The article also addresses how to work therapeutically with interpreters, particularly when there may be no equivalent words in the client's language to express various psychological concepts.

McInerney, D., & Kaye, .D. (2005). Asylum seekers, therapy and ethics. *Critical Psychology: The International Journal of Critical Psychology*, 16,166-185.

Methods for refugee research

Goodkind, J.R., & Deacon, Z. (2004). Methodological issues in conducting research with refugee women: Principles for recognizing and re-centering the multiply marginalized. *Journal of Community Psychology, 32*, 721-739.

Many recent efforts in the field of community psychology have been dedicated to moving from values to action in incorporating diversity into our work. An essential aspect of this goal is designing research that provides opportunities for underrepresented perspectives to be heard. The voices of refugee women, in particular, are not typically incorporated in research, planning for service provision, and policy design. This article explores methodological challenges involved in conducting research with refugee women who are marginalized both within broader U.S. contexts and within their own communities. Six guiding principles are presented: 1) develop strategies for involving marginalized refugee women; 2) consider the advantages and limitations of quantitative and qualitative methodologies and be innovative about combining them; 3) prepare for extensive time and effort for quantitative measure construction; 4) consider gendered decision-making structures in the lives of refugee women and their potential impact on the research process; 5) plan for refugee women's common triple burden of working outside of the home, managing their households, and adjusting to life in a new country; and 6) attend to refugee women's cultural norms about and unfamiliarity with the interview process.

[Access to this article requires a subscription.](#)

Guerin, P., & Guerin, B. (2007). Research with refugee communities: Going around in circles with methodology. *The Australian Community Psychologist, 19*(1). 150-162.

Doing long-term participatory research with refugee communities has changed our views on methodology for community research. For this paper, we draw on our experiences, rather than the community psychology literature, to show ways in which community researchers could productively change or supplement their typical methods and gain flexibility. In particular, we have learned to expect new "stories" to appear at regular intervals and to not place any final value on early understandings. We have found that intensive, participatory methodologies should be used wherever and whenever possible. Finally, we have learned to not expect research 'topics' to divide neatly into compartments when in the field even if those categories are used for funding purposes. After discussing a few more specific methodological issues and problems, we discuss two examples of our research to illustrate how these issues and problems arose and were handled.

[Can be downloaded at no cost from the world wide web.](#)

Omidian, P.A. (2000). Qualitative measures in refugee research. In F.L. Ahearn, Jr. (Ed.), *Psychological wellness of refugees: Issues in Qualitative and Quantitative research, Studies in Forced Migration, Vol. 7* (pp. 41-66). New York:

Berghahn Books.

Rogler, L.H. (1999). Methodological sources of cultural insensitivity in mental health research, *American Psychologist*, 54, 424-433.

Thompson, J. (1991). Exploring gender and culture with Khmer refugee women: Reflections on participatory feminist research. *Advances in Nursing Science*, 13 (3), 30-48.

This article discusses the process and findings from a study based on the paradigm of feminist participatory research. The research is first discussed in relation to contemporary feminist scholarship. The project combined elements of community health nursing practice and feminist research in a support group with Khmer refugee women. The research explored psychosocial adjustment and the construction of gender among Khmer women. Methods of data collection included life history and trauma history interviews, discussion of dream narratives and Cambodian myths, and participant observation. Findings included four recurring themes identified in the women's stories. The research process is discussed in terms of its implications for nursing praxis.

Voutira, E., & Dona, G. (2007). Refugee Research Methodologies: Consolidation and Transformation of a Field, *Journal of Refugee Research*, 20, 163-171.

Extract: It may seem paradoxical that a Special Issue on Refugee Research Methodologies is being published at a time when the very category 'refugee' is sidelined in favour of other publicized terms such as asylum seeker, irregular migrant or undocumented migrant, or is subsumed under emerging academic taxonomies such as the asylum-migration nexus (Castles and Loughna 2005). Conceptual clarification is a prerequisite for any methodological approach adopted, while doing research on any subject. For the purposes of this Issue we are choosing the concept 'refugee' as the key term to synthesize the varieties of issues relevant to forced migration research. Refugees are becoming an 'endangered species', with fewer individuals being officially recognized under the 1951 Refugee Convention (UNHCR n.d.; USCRI n.d.) and permanent protection being replaced by temporary protection. At the same time we observe a trend that fewer doctoral theses are written on refugees specifically or on specific groups

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Polzer, T. (2007). Disseminating research findings in migration studies: methodological considerations. FMSP Methodological Working Paper Series No. 6, University of the Witwatersrand

There is a surprising lack of attention to research dissemination in the social sciences, even in fields such as migration or development studies, which are explicitly policy-oriented. This is both in terms of actual practice, as well as documentation and theoretical debate on the processes of dissemination and their meaning for academic research. This paper argues that social scientists

and academic institutions should value dissemination and theorise it as an integral part of research methodology, that it fulfils a range of functions beyond the direct influencing of policy or practice, and that we need to question the effectiveness of standard 'academic' dissemination methods to fulfil these functions. I use as a case study the dissemination of research findings from a study on local government and migration management in a border area of South Africa. This illustrates several issues around research dissemination and suggests the value of tailored institutional visits as a dissemination method. Dissemination must be adapted for each kind of research, and the specific conditions of each individual project. The content of the research, its aims, and often the interests and capacities of the individual researchers, will determine what an appropriate and effective dissemination strategy will entail and who the appropriate target groups are. This discussion can therefore only flag some general issues concerning research dissemination which will apply to other projects in different ways. This is a small case study of research dissemination, illustrating a process and the immediate benefits of a process, rather than long-term outcomes. It also discusses some failures or omissions in the dissemination process.

Can be downloaded at no cost from

<http://wits.academia.edu/TaraPolzer/Papers/83822/Disseminating-research-findings-in-migration-studies--methodological-considerations>

Collet, B. (2008). Confronting the insider-outsider polemic in conducting research with diasporic communities: towards a community-based approach, *Refugee*,

Researchers focusing on diasporic contexts face the difficult task of wearing their "academic hats" while at the same time building meaningful relationships with immigrant communities. This is no more apparent (and important) than with "non-community" (i.e., outsider) researchers. Here diasporic communities, having already experienced the trauma of forced migration, must see the academic researcher as one they can trust and who is invested in their long-term well being. In this paper I address methodological and philosophical concerns related to the insider-outsider researcher distinction and to conducting research as an "outsider." The principle aims of the paper are to critically examine the distinctions that create and perpetuate the insider-outsider polemic explore what this polemic "looks like" within diasporic contexts, and consider community-based participatory research as one "vehicle" that might effectively address some of the thorniest problems associated with the insider-outsider distinction.

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<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Confronting+the+insider-outsider+polemic+in+conducting+research+with...-a0180553146>

Temple, B., & Moran, R. (2006). *Doing research with refugees: Issues and guidelines*. Bristol: The Policy Press.

Harris, J. & Roberts, K. (2003). *Challenging barriers to participation in qualitative*

research: Involving disabled refugees. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 2 (2).

In this article, the authors discuss the need to consider the potential barriers faced by both interviewers and respondents who wish to participate in qualitative research. Drawing on their experience of enabling disabled refugees to interview other disabled refugees, they discuss their conceptual basis for challenging barriers, and the practical measures they took to address the health, impairment and linguistic needs of both interviewers and respondents participating in the 'Disabled Refugees in Britain' research project. They conclude by encouraging other researchers to identify and challenge the barriers faced by all potential participants in qualitative research.

Can be downloaded at no cost from:

http://www.ualberta.ca/~iiqm/backissues/2_2/pdf/harrisetal.pdf

Goodkind, J.R., & Deacon, Z. (2004). Methodological issues in conducting research with refugee women: Principles for recognizing and re-centering the multiply marginalized. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 32, 721 - 739

Many recent efforts in the field of community psychology have been dedicated to moving from values to action in incorporating diversity into our work. An essential aspect of this goal is designing research that provides opportunities for underrepresented perspectives to be heard. The voices of refugee women, in particular, are not typically incorporated in research, planning for service provision, and policy design. This article explores methodological challenges involved in conducting research with refugee women who are marginalized both within broader U.S. contexts and within their own communities. Six guiding principles are presented: 1) develop strategies for involving marginalized refugee women; 2) consider the advantages and limitations of quantitative and qualitative methodologies and be innovative about combining them; 3) prepare for extensive time and effort for quantitative measure construction; 4) consider gendered decision-making structures in the lives of refugee women and their potential impact on the research process; 5) plan for refugee women's common triple burden of working outside of the home, managing their households, and adjusting to life in a new country; and 6) attend to refugee women's cultural norms about and unfamiliarity with the interview process.

Access to this article requires a subscription.

Ruppenthal, L., Tuck, J., & Gagnon, A.J. (2005). Enhancing Research With Migrant Women Through Focus Groups, *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, 27(6), 735-754.

Recent systematic reviews of measurement strategies have identified a striking lack of data to support the validity of most questionnaires used with multiethnic, migrant populations. In the context of two ongoing research studies examining the reproductive health needs of migrant women in Canada, cultural validation was required for proposed study questionnaires and protocols in a total of 13 languages. Multilingual, multiethnic women with

various migrant profiles were recruited from the community to review research materials in a series of focus groups. Recommendations by these women were made in relation to consent and interpretation procedures, development of trust in research, home visits after birth, approaches to sensitive topics, inclusion of discrimination as a research variable, and reimbursement of participants. Preliminary work applying focus-group methods to mixed ethno-cultural groups yielded valuable information on appropriateness of planned research.

