SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY: ETHICAL ISSUES

PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH FREQUENTLY RAISES QUESTIONS OF **ETHICAL** ACCEPTABILITY.

WHY?

PSYCHOLOGISTS STUDY **PEOPLE**. THIS RAISES MORAL QUESTIONS THAT DON'T OCCUR WHEN YOU STUDY INANIMATE THINGS.

COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS HELPS US AVOID OR MINIMISE ETHICAL ISSUES.

BY WEIGHING UP THE COSTS AGAINST THE BENEFITS WE CAN MAKE JUDGEMENTS ABOUT WHETHER SPECIFIC STUDIES ARE **JUSTIFIABLE**.

HOW?

ETHICAL PROBLEMS ARISE WHEN OUR VALUES AS SCIENTISTS CONFLICT WITH OUR VALUES AS MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.

A NUMBER OF **RESEARCH PRACTICES** RAISE ETHICAL ISSUES.

	SCIENTIFIC VALUES	SOCIETAL VALUES
	OBTAINING **KNOWLEDGE** IS MOST IMPORTANT. WE MUST ENSURE THAT WE CONDUCT RESEARCH TO MAXIMISE **VALIDITY** AT ALL TIMES.	PRESERVING PEOPLE'S **WELL-BEING** IS MOST IMPORTANT. WE MUST TREAT PEOPLE PROPERLY AND RESPECT THEIR **HUMAN RIGHTS** AT ALL TIMES.
PUTTING PARTICIPANTS AT INCREASED **RISK OF HARM.**	A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF PEOPLE REQUIRES US TO STUDY THEM UNDER STRESS ETC.	WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO HARM THEM, AND THEY HAVE A RIGHT NOT TO BE HARMED.
NOT OBTAINING FULLY **INFORMED CONSENT** FROM PARTICIPANTS.	PEOPLE WHO KNOW THEY ARE BEING STUDIED MAY CHANGE THEIR BEHAVIOUR.	PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE WHETHER OR NOT THEY TAKE PART.
DECEIVING PARTICIPANTS ABOUT SOME ASPECT OF THE STUDY.	BELIEFS INFLUENCE BEHAVIOUR SO WE MUST SOMETIMES LIE TO MANIPULATE BEHAVIOUR.	DELIBERATE DECEPTION VIOLATES THE BASIC SOCIAL CONTRACT.

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