Practices of Ethics
Practices of Ethics:
An Empirical Approach to Ethics in Social Sciences Research

Edited by

Isabella Paoletti, Maria Isabel Tomás and Fernanda Menéndez
To Fernanda and her joy of life, no matter what
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter One ................................................................................................. 1
Introduction: Problematizing a Normative Approach to Ethics
Isabella Paoletti, Maria Isabel Tomás and Fernanda Menéndez

Chapter Two .............................................................................................. 21
Ethics on the Move: Methodological Dilemmas on the Qualitative
Scientific Writing Process
Rosalina Pisco Costa

Chapter Three ............................................................................................ 43
At the “Ethical Crossroads” of Ethnography: Observing the “Care
Encounter” at the Elderly Person’s Home
José de São José and Ana Rita Teixeira

Chapter Four .............................................................................................. 65
Inviting the Assent of Children Described as Functionally Non-Verbal
Jessica Nina Lester and Abraham Barouch

Chapter Five .............................................................................................. 85
Ethical and Methodological Issues in Violence against Elderly People
in Portugal: An Intersection between Sociological and Epidemiological
Research
Ana Paula Gil, Ana João Santos and César Santos

Chapter Six .............................................................................................. 115
Ethical and Methodological Dilemmas in Researching Vulnerable Groups
in Romania
Georgiana Anton and Marian Preda

Chapter Seven............................................................................................. 137
The Researcher in the Field: Navigating Networks of Relationships
Larisa Kosygina
# Table of Contents

Chapter Eight ........................................................................................... 155  
Working with Adolescents: Identity, Power and Responsibility in Sociolinguistic Ethnography  
Dominika Baran

Chapter Nine ............................................................................................ 177  
Exploitation versus “Going Back” to the Field: The Ethics of Doing Participatory Research in India’s Urban Slums  
Yutaka Sato

Epilogue ................................................................................................... 197  
Promoting Awareness on Ethical Issues in Social Sciences Research  
Isabella Paoletti

Contributors ............................................................................................. 209

Index ........................................................................................................ 213
There are many historical explanations (and examples) that justify current interest in ethics research. The new millennium has brought with it a wave of ethical challenges, as methods of data collection, analysis and dissemination have become more and more sophisticated and widespread in recent years (e.g. software development, internet-based research, and data dissemination via ICTs). The words of Mirvis & Seashore, the motto of this text, are not only as true as ever; they also invite us to rethink ethics as crosscutting and a global issue in the twenty-first century (Tilley & Woodthorpe 2011).

Ethical issues are pervasive along all dimensions of scientific practice. Since the very beginning of any research project, from the choice of a topic until the publication of research findings, ethical issues are a matter of constant thought, discussion and, finally, decision. Just as it is understood that scientific research truly engaged with social responsibility cannot overlook the ethical implications of its practice, so widespread is the understanding that any complete research proposal will have exhaustively anticipated the ethical issues involved, as well as shown ways to deal with them (Creswell 1994; Denzin and Lincoln 2000; Denscombe 1998; Patton 2002).