

Ethics

Matthew J. Salganik
Department of Sociology
Princeton University

Summer Institutes in Computational Social Science
Day 1
2020

The Summer Institutes in Computational Social Science is supported by grants from the Russell Sage Foundation, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Facebook, and the Social Science Research Council.





- 1) Introduction
- 2) Observing behavior
- 3) Asking questions
- 4) Running experiments
- 5) Mass collaboration
- 6) Ethics
- 7) The future

Why care about ethics?

Why care about ethics?

- ▶ fear-based reasons

Why care about ethics?

- ▶ fear-based reasons
- ▶ hope-based reasons

Why care about ethics?

- ▶ fear-based reasons
- ▶ hope-based reasons
- ▶ we have no choice

In the past, what we **could** do has been the limitation, increasingly what we **should** do will be the limitation.
Research ethics will become increasingly central; it will become harder and harder to avoid.

I want you to be able to:

- ▶ design ethically thoughtful research
- ▶ explain your decisions to others

Three approaches:

- ▶ Rules-based approach

Three approaches:

- ▶ Rules-based approach
- ▶ Ad hoc approach

Three approaches:

- ▶ Rules-based approach
- ▶ Ad hoc approach
- ▶ Principles-based approach

Examples:

- ▶ Emotional contagion

Experimental evidence contagion through so

Adam D. I. Kramer^{a,1}, Jamie E. Guillory^{b,2}, and

^aCore Data Science Team, Facebook, Inc., Menlo Park, CA 94
NY 14853

<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1320040111>

Examples:

- ▶ Emotional contagion
- ▶ Tastes, Ties, and Time

Tastes, ties, and time: A new social n

Kevin Lewis^{a,*}, Jason Kaufman^a, Marco Gonzal

^a *Department of Sociology, Harvard University, United States*

^b *Department of Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles, United States*

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socnet.2008.07.002>

Examples:

- ▶ Emotional contagion
- ▶ Tastes, Ties, and Time
- ▶ Encore

Encore: Lightweight Measurement of Web Censorship with Cross-Correlation

Sam Burnett

School of Computer Science, Georgia Tech
sam.burnett@gatech.edu

Department of Computer Science
fear

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1145/2785956.2787485>

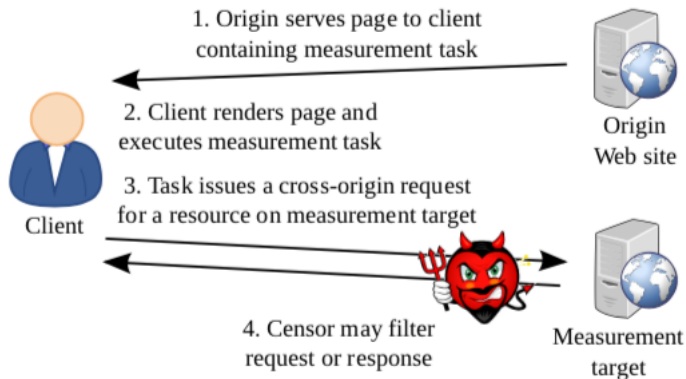


Figure 1: *Encore induces browsers to collect Web filtering measurements by bundling measurement tasks inside pages served by an origin Web site.*

What's the problem?

- ▶ increasing power

What's the problem?

- ▶ increasing power
- ▶ inconsistent and overlapping rules, norms, and expectations

Ethical Frameworks

Consequentialism
Deontology



Principles

Respect for Persons
Beneficence
Justice
Respect for Law and Public Interest



Rules

Common Rule

► Respect for persons

Respect for persons:
Participants decide not you

- ▶ Respect for persons
- ▶ Beneficence

Beneficence:

Minimize risk, maximize benefits, then decide

- ▶ Respect for persons
- ▶ Beneficence
- ▶ Justice

Justice:
distribution of burdens and benefits of research

Justice:

distribution of burdens and benefits of research

- ▶ poorly education and disenfranchised citizens
- ▶ prisoners
- ▶ institutionalized and mentally disabled children
- ▶ old and debilitated hospital patients

Justice:

distribution of burdens and benefits of research

- ▶ poorly education and disenfranchised citizens
- ▶ prisoners
- ▶ institutionalized and mentally disabled children
- ▶ old and debilitated hospital patients

Also includes access to benefits of research

- ▶ Respect for persons
- ▶ Beneficence
- ▶ Justice
- ▶ Respect for Law and Public Interest

Respect for Law and Public Interest:

- ▶ compliance
- ▶ transparency-based accountability

- ▶ Respect for persons
- ▶ Beneficence
- ▶ Justice
- ▶ Respect for Law and Public Interest

How do you balance these four principles?

- ▶ Consequentialism
- ▶ Deontology

Ethical Frameworks

Consequentialism
Deontology



Principles

Respect for Persons
Beneficence
Justice
Respect for Law and Public Interest



Rules

Common Rule

Applying these ideas can be tricky, and there are 4 areas of particular difficulty

Thank you