

# Ethics

## Part 1, Part 2, Additions and extensions

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

Computational social scientists should care about research ethics

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- ▶ fear-based reasons

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- ▶ hope-based reasons

Computational social scientists should care about research ethics

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

I want you to be able to:

- ▶ design ethically thoughtful research

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- ▶ explain your decisions to others



Two existing approaches:

- ▶ Rules-based approach

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- ▶ Ad hoc approach

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- ▶ Rules-based approach
- ▶ Ad hoc approach

My preferred approach:

- ▶ Principles-based approach

## Three examples

Examples:

- ▶ Emotional contagion

# Experimental evidence of massive-scale emotional contagion through social networks

Adam D. I. Kramer<sup>a,1</sup>, Jamie E. Guillory<sup>b,2</sup>, and Jeffrey T. Hancock<sup>b,c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Core Data Science Team, Facebook, Inc., Menlo Park, CA 94025; and Departments of <sup>b</sup>Communication and <sup>c</sup>Information Science, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853

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

Examples:

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

# Tastes, ties, and time: A new social network dataset using Facebook.com

Kevin Lewis<sup>a,\*</sup>, Jason Kaufman<sup>a</sup>, Marco Gonzalez<sup>a</sup>, Andreas Wimmer<sup>b</sup>, Nicholas Christakis<sup>a</sup>

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<sup>b</sup> *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-Origin Requests

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

What's the problem?

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  - ▶ Rules are slow to change
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  - ▶ Blending of contexts

## 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

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

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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 (focus on ends)
- ▶ Deontology (focus on means)

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A few things to keep in mind:

- ▶ Both of these approaches can be taken to extremes
- ▶ Most disagreements are between people taking different approaches

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Consequentialism  
Deontology



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Beneficence  
Justice  
Respect for Law and Public Interest



## Rules

Common Rule

Applying these ideas can be tricky, in part 2 I will:

- ▶ discuss 4 areas of difficulty
- ▶ offer 3 practical suggestions



Thank you