Research Integrity and Professional Codes of Ethics: A Qualitative Comparison Across Social Sciences

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Objective

Identify the research ethics priorities and behavioral expectations for US professional organizations that are communicated in the contents of their code of ethics.
## Method: Sample

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Document</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>American Economic Association (AEA)</td>
<td>AER: Editorial Policy; Disclosure Policy (2012); Data Availability Policy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Method: Coding Scheme

The Big 9:
1. Conflict of interest
2. Human and animal subjects
3. Mentoring
4. Collaborative research
5. Peer review
6. Data
7. Research misconduct
8. Authorship and publication
9. Scientist and society

Additional topics:
10. Purpose
11. How to use
12. Guiding values
13. Target/subject
Sample Characteristics

WORD COUNT BY SUBJECT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>TOC</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>RI</th>
</tr>
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</table>
Topic Coverage

ASA | ISA | APA | AAA | AAG | AEA | APSA
---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----
9  | 3   | 8   | 7   | 9   | 4   | 8   
Anthropology (AAA)

% RESEARCH INTEGRITY TEXT BY TOPIC

- Conflict of interest
- Human and animal subjects
- Mentoring
- Collaborative research
- Peer review
- Data
- Research misconduct
- Authorship and publication
- Scientist and society
% RESEARCH INTEGRITY TEXT BY TOPIC

- Conflict of interest: 70%
- Human and animal subjects: 10%
- Mentoring: 10%
- Collaborative research: 10%
- Peer review: 10%
- Data: 10%
- Research misconduct: 10%
- Authorship and publication: 90%
- Scientist and society: 10%
Geography (AAG)

% RESEARCH INTEGRITY TEXT BY TOPIC

- Conflict of interest
- Human and animal subjects
- Mentoring
- Collaborative research
- Peer review
- Data
- Research misconduct
- Authorship and publication
- Scientist and society
International Studies (ISA)

% RESEARCH INTEGRITY TEXT BY TOPIC

- Conflict of interest
- Human and animal subjects
- Mentoring
- Collaborative research
- Peer review
- Data
- Research misconduct
- Authorship and publication
- Scientist and society
Political Science (APSA)

% RESEARCH INTEGRITY TEXT BY TOPIC

- Conflict of interest
- Human and animal subjects
- Mentoring
- Collaborative research
- Peer review
- Data
- Research misconduct
- Authorship and publication
- Scientist and society
Sociology (ASA)

% RESEARCH INTEGRITY TEXT BY TOPIC

- Conflict of interest
- Human and animal subjects
- Mentoring
- Collaborative research
- Peer review
- Data
- Research misconduct
- Authorship and publication
- Scientist and society
Comparison by Topic

- IRB approval
- Consent
- Deception
- Compensation
- Authorship guidelines
Other Interesting Findings

- Structure of normative statements
- Subject of normative statements
Subject of Normative Statements

% Research Integrity Text

- ASA
- ISA
- APA
- AAA
- AAG
- AEA
- APSA

- Funding Agencies
- Institutions
- Editors
- Practitioner
Conclusions

• Coverage of topics inconsistent
• Many of the documents are incoherent
• Need continuing review