

Ethical issues in educational research: Universal principles, local practices

Roger Barnard, University of Waikato, New Zealand

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With Japanese
Translation

Place : A200, Akamon General Research Building
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Abstract

Researchers in many countries are increasingly required to follow standardised procedures for the ethical conduct of a research projects involving other people. In applying for formal approval, they need to understand universal principles such as the prevention of harm to participants, ensuring their privacy and/or confidentiality, resolving potential conflicts of interest, etc. They are then expected to follow the procedural guidelines or regulations issued by their university when in the field. However, ethical practices are often culturally-specific: conduct considered appropriate in one context may be very different in another. This may require the researcher to modify, to a greater or lesser extent, the planned ethical procedures. Based on a series of case studies (soon to be published), this presentation considers some of the ethical dilemmas faced by international PhD students enrolled in a New Zealand university while collecting data in their home countries, or else with international participants in New Zealand. In particular, attention will be focused on their reflections after their fieldwork on some of the decision they made – often on the spur of the moment – as to whether they were ethically appropriate.

Biodata

Roger Barnard is an honorary associate professor in applied linguistics at the University of Waikato. Before taking up his post in New Zealand in 1995, he worked in England, Europe and the Middle East as teacher, teacher educator, manager and advisor to Ministries of Education. In recent years, he has accepted visiting professorships in several Asian universities, where he has taught postgraduate courses and undertaken joint research projects. His most recent co-edited books are *Language learner autonomy: Teachers' beliefs and practices in Asian contexts*. (2016) with Jinrui Li, and *Reflective practice: Voices from the field* (2017) with J. G. Ryan. He is currently working on two more books: *English Medium Instruction programmes: Perspectives from South East Asian universities* with Zuwati Hasim, and a volume of ethical issues in educational research with Rosemary De Luca –upon which this presentation is based.

