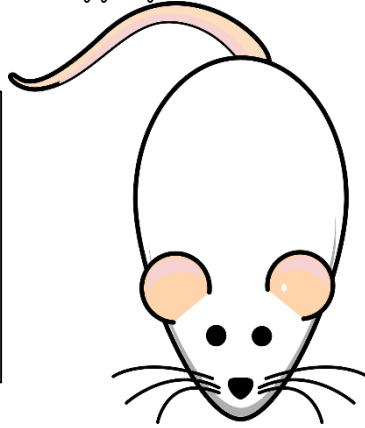


ETHICS

*Appropriate * Beneficial * Caring*

Types of Animals Typically Used:

- White rats
- Pigeons
- Mice
- Monkeys
- Sea slugs



THE INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC)

Exists at each institution where research is conducted to review every experiment involving animals for ethics and methodology. Check out your local or state university to see what they have!

Did you know? A law enacted in 1985 sets legal limitations to the scope and approval of animal testing

Why use animals?

- ✓ Simplicity of their nervous system
- ✓ Large population samples are easy to maintain
- ✓ Commonalities with human conditions and functions
- ✓ Too risky or harmful for a human

How do we justify their use?

- ✓ Requires decent living conditions for the animals
 - ✓ Food, water, air quality
 - ✓ Space and cleaning requirements
- ✓ Board weighs discomfort with the value of information sought in the research... is it "worth" it?

Famous studies in psychology using animals

- Behaviorist Ivan Pavlov studied salivation in dogs, which led to his discovery of classical conditioning. Ring a bell?
- Harry Harlow used baby monkeys to study whether babies preferred a mother because of her food or her comfort. A wire mother covered with a soft towel was preferred over the simple food-giving wire mother. Conclusion? Contact comfort.
- Allen and Beatrix Gardner raised Washoe the Chimp to learn sign language for over 250, helping psychologists understand more about language and speech. Rumor has it Washow even created original words, like "water bird" for swan.
- Kluver and Bucy discovered the role of the amygdala in regulating fear and anger by using rhesus monkeys; these normally foul-tempered creatures became more docile when their amygdala's were severed from their limbic system.

Animal Studies

ETHICS

When is it okay to keep information from someone?

The APA's "Ethical Principles" states that under most circumstances, participation in research should be voluntary and informed

Sometimes, having all the information will "ruin" the results of the experiment by causing bias or self-conscious behavior from the participants. The guidelines do provide for deception under some conditions, provided that no substantial risks are likely to happen to participants. If deception has been used in the study, researchers have a responsibility to "debrief" the participant to make sure there are no lasting ill effects.

Voluntary: done, given, or acting of one's own free will.



Informed: having or showing knowledge of a particular subject or situation.

"The purpose of debriefing is to remove any misconceptions and anxieties that the participants have about the research and to leave them with a sense of dignity, knowledge, and a perception of time not wasted" (Harris, 1998).



What is wrong with the following scenarios?

- ✓ Studying the dating habits of teens today by observing them at the mall
- ✓ Faking a terrible accident or health crisis to watch people's reactions
- ✓ Pulling school transcripts for all your employees to judge promotion potential
- ✓ Asking people to volunteer on a memory challenge without telling them the negative emotional impact it will have.
- ✓ Placing two Boy Scouts troops in the same park and creating competitions to see how their aggressiveness and cooperation results.

Deception

ETHICS

What level of discomfort is appropriate in the name of science and progress?

Protecting the Participant:

- ✓ Safe from physical harm.
- ✓ Avoid emotional distress:
 - ✓ Embarrassment
 - ✓ Fear
 - ✓ Offense
- ✓ Lasting effects

What is the limit?

"Normally, the risk of harm must be no greater than in ordinary life, i.e. participants should not be exposed to risks greater than or additional to those encountered in their normal lifestyles."

Special Participants

People who are young, old, or vulnerable (i.e. the disabled) must be given special care and consideration. Time involved, periods of rest, cognitive rigor... all must be appropriate for the level of the participant.



What do you think?

Zimbardo wanted to study how college students would behave if they were given a specific role to act. Half became prisoners, half became prison guards.

Soon, the guards were abusive, aggressive, demeaning, and demanding. The prisoners became submissive, and some even exhibited signs of guilt, anxiety and depression. One person had to be removed due to the stressful environment.

Visiting grad students observed the situation and called for the research to be stopped early. They stated that the distress being felt by the prisoners was beyond the necessary scope of the study.

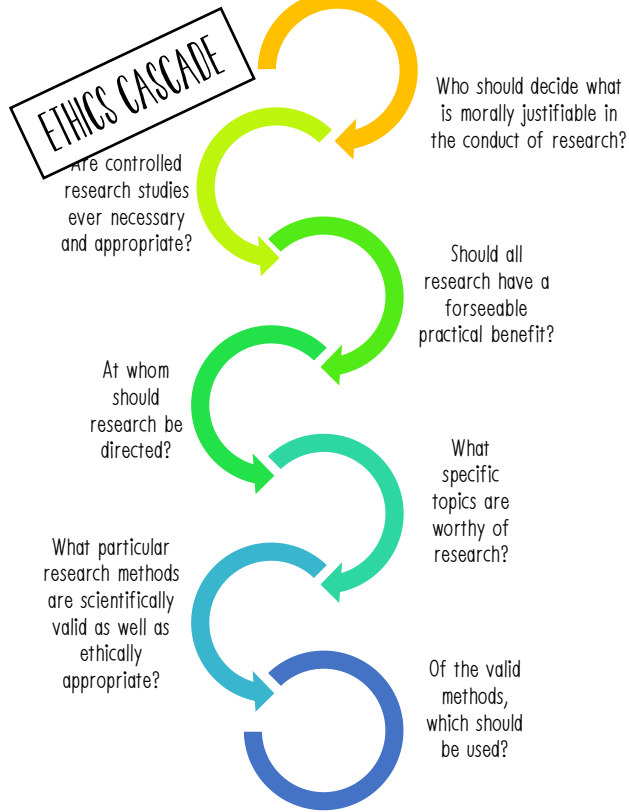
Zimbardo's conclusion? Situational factors can change a person's behavior.

Was this ground-breaking study ethical? Necessary? How could it have been done differently?

Distress

ETHICS

What are the ethical boundaries of scientific inquiries?



INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD
A committee at each institution where research is conducted to review every experiment for ethics and methodology

ETHICS

:the study of principles related to right and wrong conduct.

HUMANE

:Having compassion or benevolence toward others' wellbeing

Basic Information

FLIP BOOK: ETHICS



In psychological research

Discussion Statements

1. Animals should be used in order to better humans' lives.
2. As long as no one has lasting injuries, deception and distress don't matter in research.
3. People have the right to know the truth, and researchers have the responsibility to share all information with participants beforehand.
4. Debriefing about an experience after the study excuses any deception or distress during the study.
5. Animals have feelings just like people: fear, love, pain, comfort, etc.
6. The researcher has no responsibility to the individuals in the test.
7. Paid participation in studies can never yield unbiased results.
8. Animals that are "raised" or bred for lab testing don't matter as much as other, natural animals.
9. I would participate in a psychological study even if I didn't have all the information.
10. Progress and innovation are worth any cost.
11. "Special" people should never be used in research: children, the elderly, the disabled, etc.
12. I trust the process and choices of those on the Ethical Review Boards to ensure all research studies they approve are ethical, humane, and necessary.