

Ethics Dumping in Research

Mohammad Hosseini, Leila Niamir

Background

Ethics dumping refers to the practice where researchers based in high-income countries conduct ethically problematic research in low- or middle-income countries that would not have been approved in their countries. This practice is also observed in domestic collaborations where researchers based in well-resourced institutions conduct ethically problematic parts of their research in under-resourced institutions that may adopt a lenient approach towards ethics in order to attract funding or participate in collaborative research.

Research Goals

- Create a database containing ethics dumping cases to enable more research.
- Conduct a survey to be distributed among members of the Global Young Academy to collect more possible cases.

Intermediate Findings

Ethics dumping disproportionately impacts marginalized communities

- e.g., women, indigenous peoples, and sex workers

Ethics dumping involves complex or high-mortality conditions

- e.g., HIV/AIDS and cancer

Established conditions for acquiring informed consent are not observed

- e.g., incomplete information sheets

How Can You Help?

- Remain cognizant of the possibility of ethics dumping in your collaborations.
- Reach out to the project PI if you know of any ethics dumping cases:
mohammad.hosseini@northwestern.edu

Funding acknowledgements

This work is funded by the Global Young Academy's Sasha Kagansky Grant (2023).