

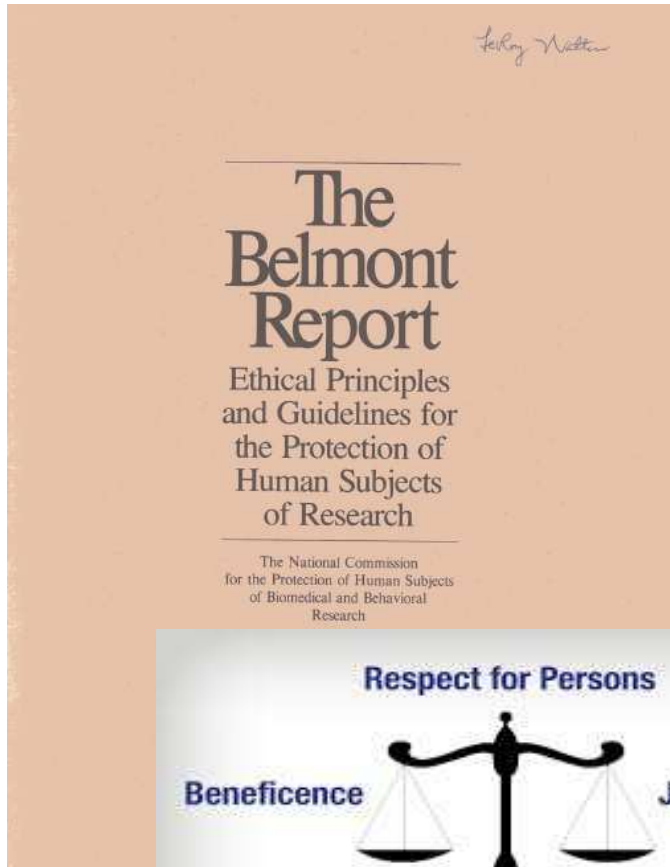


**GHENT
UNIVERSITY**

DOING RESEARCH ETHICALLY

Sami ZEMNI – Research Director Faculty of Political and Social Sciences

ETHICAL REQUIREMENTS



Nuremberg Code

1. Voluntary human consent is essential
2. Experimental results should results in good for society
3. Anticipated results should justify the experiment
4. Avoid all unnecessary physical and mental suffering
5. No experiment if there is a chance of death/disability
6. Minimize risk of subjects
7. Proper preparations and facilities to protect subjects
8. Experiments conducted only by qualified persons
9. Subjects can withdraw at anytime
10. Terminate experiment if results are known or with best judgement



THE “PROBLEM” OF ETHICS?

- Paperwork versus trust?
- Risk-averse universities
- Methods and ethics
- The ‘engaged’ researcher?



THE “PROBLEM” OF ETHICS? (2)

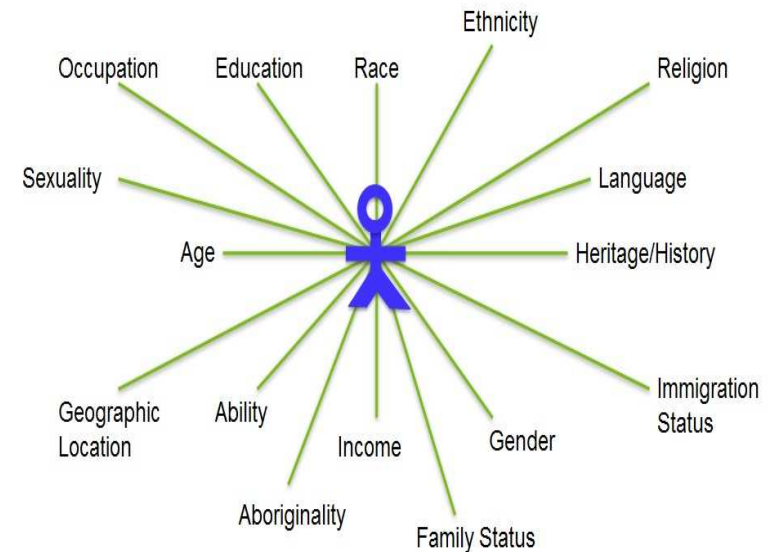
- Disjunction between procedural imperatives and the concrete implementation of ethical decision making in the field.
- Ethical dilemmas



"I'm afraid there's a big difference between Doctors Without Borders and Doctors Without Boundaries."

SOME REFLECTIONS

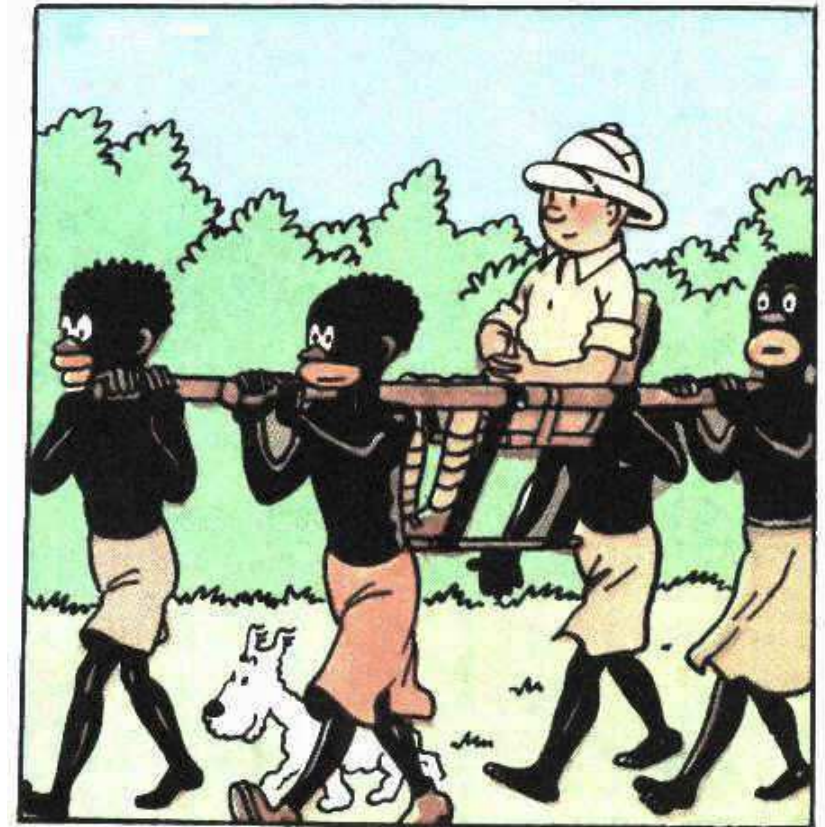
1. Address ethical requirements & RE-negotiate
2. Positionality of researchers - distance and/or proximity to the field
3. Insecurities and risks
 - a) Authoritarian/violent contexts → Obligations and ethical concerns to ensure transparency might hollow out another ethical imperative namely the protection of research respondents or participants.
 - b) How to leave the field?



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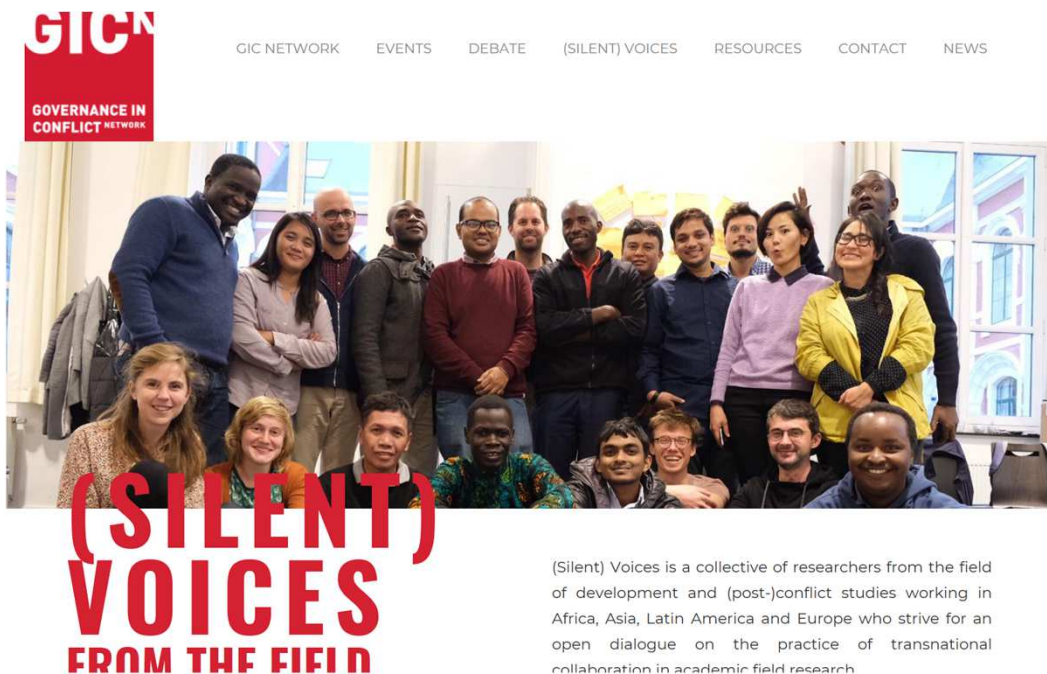
SOME REFLECTIONS (2)

1. Collaborative reflection on how to best behave in the field (especially in sensitive contexts) AND after we leave 'the field' ... what exactly are we giving back?
2. Who's data?
3. Empowering research subjects: Rethink our relations towards our local research assistants, translators, fixers or facilitators and empowerment.



TOWARDS SOME RECOMMENDATIONS (2)

– Empowerment



The screenshot shows the website for (SILENT) VOICES. At the top left is the GICN logo (GOVERNANCE IN CONFLICT NETWORK). A navigation menu includes: GIC NETWORK, EVENTS, DEBATE, (SILENT) VOICES, RESOURCES, CONTACT, NEWS. Below the menu is a large group photo of diverse researchers. Overlaid on the bottom left of the photo is the text: **(SILENT) VOICES FROM THE FIELD**. To the right of the photo, a paragraph reads: "(Silent) Voices is a collective of researchers from the field of development and (post-)conflict studies working in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe who strive for an open dialogue on the practice of transnational collaboration in academic field research."



Respect & Honesty



Justice & Fairness



The image shows the cover of the 'SAN CODE OF RESEARCH ETHICS'. The top half features a landscape with a large, reddish-brown rock formation under a blue sky. The word 'Process' is on the left and 'Care' is on the right. The bottom half is a dark blue banner with the text 'SAN CODE OF RESEARCH ETHICS' in white. Below the banner, it says 'South African Society for International Law 2017'.

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