**Day 1, Ethics**

**Lesson Plan: Summer Institutes in Computational Social Science 2022**

**Prepared by SICSS-Rutgers, Based on exercise provided by SICSS-Princeton**

# Summary

In this activity, participants will split into small groups, discuss a case study, and then all come together to discuss and debrief.

# Learning objectives

- Participants will practice identifying ethical issues in research, discussing ethical issues with colleagues, and proposing changes in research design to improve ethical balance.
- Participants will get a chance to get to know each other on the first day.

# Activity

- Split into small groups.
- Introduce yourselves.
- ***Select one person*** designated to take notes and report group discussion of case study
    - Read a case study of researchers facing a decision about research ethics.
    - Discuss and answer the four questions embedded in the case study.
    - Discuss and answer a fifth question: “Would you personally use the hacked data in this situation?”
- ***Select a second person*** designated to take notes and report discussion on second topic
    - Answer one additional question: “What other pressing ethical issues does your discipline or computational social science, in general, currently face?” You can discuss general issues and/or specific examples that have occurred in your field. Discuss as a group how to confront these issues.
- Come back together as a large group and discuss the case and questions.

# Rough schedule

- 15 minutes: Introduce activity and form groups of about 4-6 people
- 60 minutes: read and discuss case study in small groups; answer the questions
- 25 minutes: guided discussion of case study among the full group

# Notes

- Talking about ethics can be difficult for some people. Please keep an open mind, and remember that reasonable people can disagree on many of these topics.

# Acknowledgments

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