

UNCHARTED TERRAINS

New Directions in Border Research
Methodology, Ethics, and Practice

EDITED BY

Anna Ochoa O'Leary, Colin M. Deeds, and

Scott Whitford



AUTHORIZED
VEHICLES
ONLY

CLOSED
AREA

and engaged in helping address
those who are less privileged. The
complex in an era of competing
providing communities the spaces
to be shared with others.

A Code of Personal Ethics for Border Researchers

I. Personal Integrity

A. Clarity and Disclosure

I will act with clarity, transparency, honesty, integrity, and consistency, and with full disclosure of the goals and intentions of our work with all involved.

B. Access to Findings

I will share research findings with stakeholder communities and make the necessary adjustments so that they are truly accessible.

C. Commitment

I will abide by the principle of continuous reexamination of all the components of our research to make sure that we recognize our commitments, and be clear and honest with ourselves and others (process over product).

D. Privilege

I will be conscious of our privilege and role as researchers and understand that our careers are partly being built on a vulnerable population.

E. Respect

I will respect and demonstrate receptiveness for the dignity and humanity of our subjects.

II. To Value Research Participants

A. I will be respectful and vigilant of the rights and needs of my subjects, even at the expense of my research.

B. I will represent subjects objectively, and capture their voices as objectively as possible.

C. I will protect data from being misused.

D. I will recognize risks, interests, vulnerabilities, and benefits, and consider them throughout my entire research process.

III. To Respect the Norms/Principles of Research

- A. I will defend the ideals of human rights and social justice without losing the rigor of science.
- B. I will promote the flexibility of the research process while considering research norms.
- C. I will be conscious of the limitations of theory, hypotheses, and methodology, and be as transparent as possible during the whole process of the research.
- D. I will maintain integrity in all research components, being conscious of the differences between research participant, investigator, third party, and funders.

IV. Maintaining Excellence in Research

- A. I will maintain the rigor and thoroughness of the research.
- B. I will work to ensure binational collaborations through the following:
 - Binational literature reviews
 - Multilingual publications
 - Binational peer-review processes
- C. I will maintain a research process that is flexible and remain mindful that the process is continuous and reflective.
- D. I will collaborate with research communities during all phases of the research project, including sharing findings with subjects and with those outside of the academic community.
- E. I will challenge myself to include a heterogeneous sample of voices.
- F. I will make research relevant to the issue of human rights.