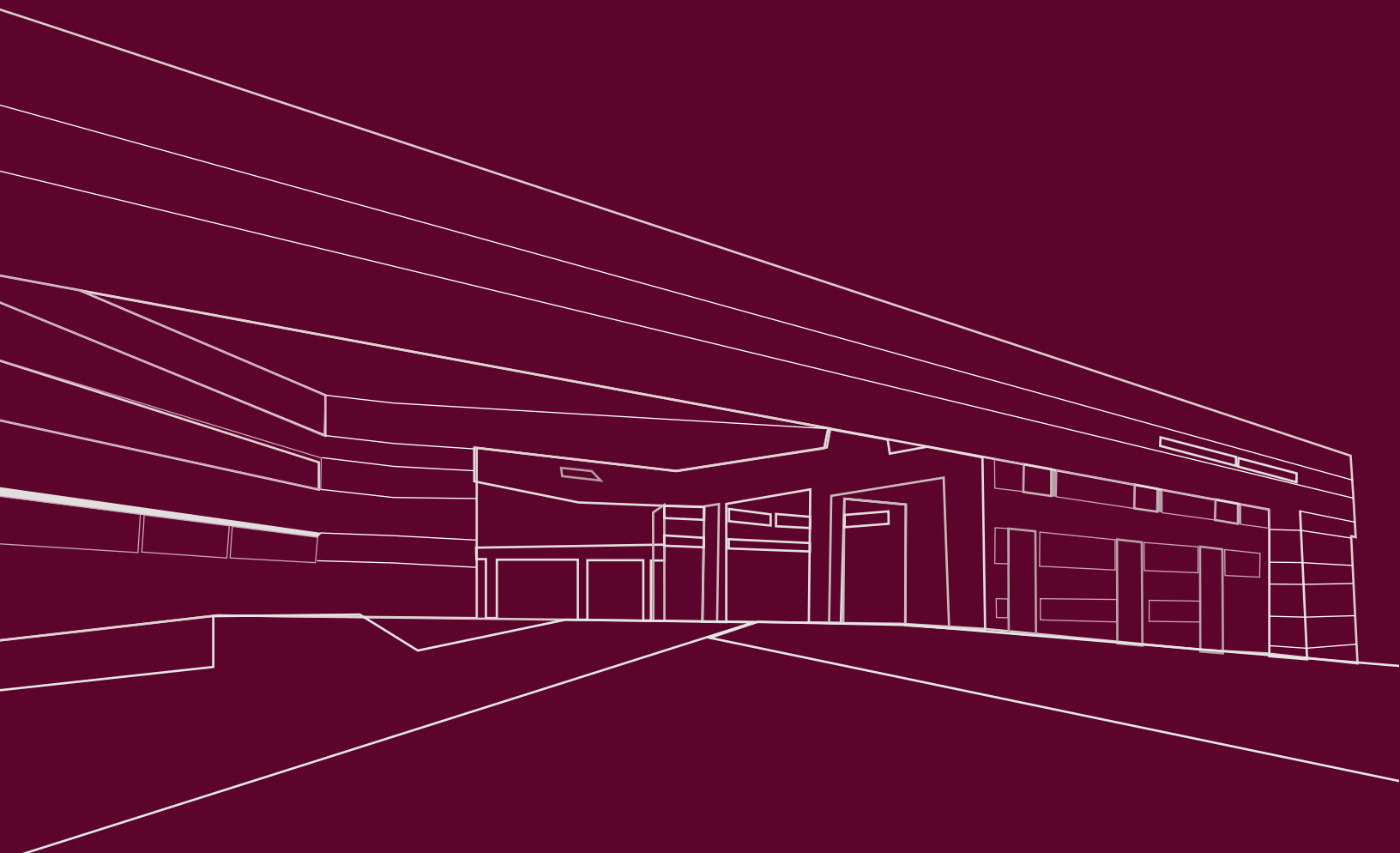




El Colegio de México's Principles for Ethical Research

Document approved by the Academic Board on October 28, 2020



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I. Preamble

As scholars in social and humanistic disciplines, researchers at El Colegio de México are committed to advancing scientific knowledge and understanding; they also have a responsibility to the individuals and communities that provide the data and evidence on which their research is based. Given the possible imbalances in the relationship between researchers and the subjects of their work, with the former enjoying more advantages and benefits, researchers should abide by standards of conduct and principles that ensure, as far as possible, fairness, inclusion, reciprocity, and respect for all participants.

In addition to their responsibilities to the participants in their work, researchers also have obligations to their academic colleagues, to the research disciplines, to the ethical use of information (including the use of documentary sources), and to the advancement of knowledge in the field of study. Therefore, researchers must maintain an honest, respectful, and cooperative relationship with their colleagues.

As members of a public institution, researchers at El Colegio de México have an obligation to the society that helps fund their work. Therefore, they must openly promote an intellectual and academic discourse in their activities and, whenever possible, seek ways for people to appropriate the knowledge generated by their work. Although all knowledge generated by the social sciences and humanities is considered useful to society in principle, those responsible for research must strive to ensure that this knowledge is not used in ways that could be harmful to vulnerable social groups.

II. Purpose

These principles are intended to serve as a code of conduct for research, taking into account the responsibilities to participants, the academic community, and society. Although it is impossible to foresee the consequences of their work, researchers are responsible for avoiding, as much as possible, harm to individuals, communities, natural resources, cultural heritage, or institutions.

El Colegio de México's members shall abide by these ethical principles by virtue of their position.

III. Research Principles and Responsibilities

The ethical principles that govern research, and the specific guidelines that help researchers comply with these principles, can be divided into three main groups, according to the nature of the responsibilities. Therefore, the principles in this code are classified as follows:

1. Responsibility to individuals and communities participating in the research
2. Responsibility to the academic community
3. Responsibility to society and the general public

1. Responsibility to individuals and communities participating in the research

- a. Respect for individual participants

Researchers must be respectful in all their interactions with individual participants, especially those who have limited autonomy or live in a marginalized or vulnerable situation. Special procedures apply to research involving indigenous communities.

- b. Informed consent

Participation must be voluntary and be based on sufficient information, and a proper understanding of the research and the consequences of participating in it.

- c. Voluntary participation, non-coercion, and the right to withdraw from the research

Participation must not be compulsory or be subject to any coercion, threats, abuse, or excessive incentives.

2. Responsibility to learning and science

- a. Adherence to general ethical codes of scientific conduct: researchers should not engage in dishonest conduct, cover-up the bad practices of colleagues, or interfere with others' research.
- b. Non-discrimination of colleagues with prejudices based on gender, religion, nationality, ethnic background skin color, age, socioeconomic profile, political sympathies, sexual preference, or mental or physical disability.

- c. Researchers must be transparent about the sources of funding for their research, and provide details in public documents derived from their work. They must also ensure that the data and results can be used, with proper attribution, by other researchers or in other projects.
- d. They must also fully disclose the methods and data used, in order to facilitate reproducibility, peer review, and the ethical integrity of the research.
- e. They must always properly cite and acknowledge sources, to give credit to those people whose ideas, works, contributions, and investigations have been relevant for the work.

3. Responsibility to society and the general public

- a. Researchers must ensure that the results of their research are as accessible as possible for students, decision-makers, other researchers, funding partners, and in general anyone interested. Every necessary step must be taken for the information to be clearly understandable, properly contextualized, and responsibly used.
- b. Different mechanisms of appropriation must also be considered so that the general public can use the knowledge generated. A particular focus will be placed on promoting open access and integrating research results into the institutional archive as a means of access.