

(C)

I had trouble following a number of your arguments. Birdling 1

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Negotiating the Social Relations of Research in an International Context
(Courtesy of Professor Chris Brown, University of Kansas)

The facts of the case

- The fund is from: World Bank
- what? Goes to: Country- Brazil, Town-Rondonia, Benefiting party -Rubber tappers ??
- Main Question is: → ethical question → ? Did their voting pattern change (dependant variable)

favoring the leftist candidates at various levels of government? ... This information is available on the web, but to clearly make such a decision, the previous voting pattern for Rubber tappers prior to receiving the funds needs to be known, so that it can be compared to voting pattern after receiving fund. ?

- Amount of money given. Relevance?
- Possibility of foot dragging, bribes, and access could be denied
- Possible impact on local politics
- Is it ethical for a researcher to withhold intent in order to gain access to documents? } this is the key

the ethical issue is what you said at the bottom of the last page

Define the ethical issues

The ethical issue here ~~is that~~ ^{is} did the party in power use monies given to the country for development to buy votes from the Rubber tappers or swinging their votes to the leftist party? Which would, therefore, by receiving the votes of the Rubber tappers would give the leftist party, an unfair advantage over the other political opponents, and this is unethical.

No

Sentence?

not mentioned in this example

Identify the affected parties

The affected party, if this scenario holds to be true is: The image of the country of Brazil, the opposing party or parties, the citizens of Brazil, and the misgivings that it will create for other countries when seeking such development funds from the World Bank.

party?

Say why

is this an affected party?

Identify the consequences

The consequences are jail time for those who attached votes to, or as a condition to distribute public funds; a tarnished image of the party in power, and the country of Brazil; and the possible revocation of the program by World Bank.

votes are not really the issue here

? Say why

Identify the obligations

The government group that holds the document has an obligation to release it since it is a public document. The researcher has an obligation to tell the truth about his [?]finding. If the researcher found enough information on the web that showed clearly there was a change in the voting pattern of the Rubber tappers ^{only?} after the funds were given to them, then I do not think he has an obligation to tell his contacts why he needs the documents, since this is not a human subject case.

Consider your character and integrity

If I find myself in such a situation, my character and integrity will force me to find the truth. I feel obligated to leave this world a better place than I found it. This is a chance to reveal, and subsequently stop corrupted individuals from taking advantage of their fellow countrymen

So specifically ~~what~~ how would you handle this case?

Think creatively about potential alternative actions

A potential alternative is to go and interview the Rubber tappers themselves, promising them anonymity, and I would keep my promise to them. I would go to the World Bank to see if I can have access to the records given to them by Brazil.

but we need the documents.

Hard to follow

Check your gut

My gut feeling is I am tired of corrupt~~ed~~ public servants that only serve their own selfish interests, while the majority of the populace goes without ~~more~~, especially in the third world. If my work sends a few people to jail on behalf of many, so be it. No apologies whatsoever.

So
what
will
you
do?

Decide on the specific ethical action

The specific ethical action here, on my part, as a researcher is, whether or not it is ethical or unethical for me to withhold information on the dependant variable from the state government officials holding information on the independent variable? For me, it is ethical if my initial inquiry on the web reveals that the voting of the why only the rubber tappers Rubber tappers changed after they were given funds; in addition, if I verified from a few members of the Rubber tappers that monies were given to them in exchange for their votes, my conscience is clear to withhold my intent.