

Response to Week 15, Dec. 4, by Hongtao Hao

1. What are some additional ethical concerns that are not mentioned in the reading?
2. Are there some research topics that you simply cannot study with kids? Give an example or two and state why the subject matter is problematic.

1.

1) The article *The Ethics of Social Research With Children* has covered pretty much most of the associated concerns with doing research with Children. One thing that the authors did not mention is how to protect the privacy of the child participants after the study. What if the parents or teachers of the children ask the researchers about the responses or performance of their kids/students? The authors did mention bigger issues (e.g., anonymity, vulnerable children and the power relations between adults and children) that could have included this concern; nonetheless, this concerns requires specific explanations.

2) Another concern that the authors did not mention is about what should the researchers, or, often times, research assistants, pay attention to, when they are alone with the kids. For example, if the research is interviewing a kid of an opposite sex, this research should try his or her best to conduct this in a semi-public place where there is enough quietness but at the same time what you do can be noticed by other people if they happen to be there. This is a protection both for the kids and for the researchers themselves.

3) The third concern is how the children can get the rewards. Should the research give the rewards to children's parents or teachers, or children themselves?

2. Generally speaking, if the research expose children to contents that are not appropriate for children's age and contents from which children can acquire behaviors that might lead to undesired consequences, the study cannot be done on or with children. For example, you cannot study whether being exposed to explicit sexual contents or bloody images/videos of gunshots/warfare can affect child viewers' attitudes or behaviors. It will be unethical.