

PUBLICATION ETHICS AS A MANIFESTATION OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

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AIM

- ❑ **Provide a backdrop for other papers**
 - **Where do they fit in**
 - **With reference to the underlying principles**
- ❑ **Only an overview**

DISCLAIMER

PUBLICATION ETHICS

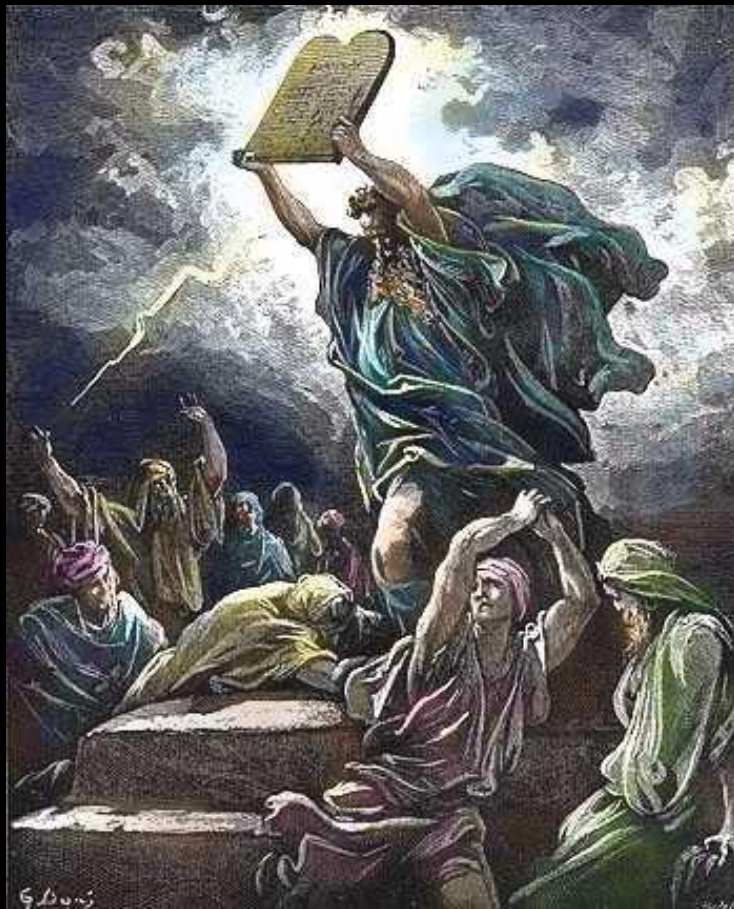
□ Not unique and esoteric

□ Based on same principles as professional ethics

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

**□ Stable, though incomplete set of norms
widely shared by members of the
profession (Beauchamp & Childress)**

- General agreement, not necessarily consensus**
- Could be implicit**
- Increasingly in writing**





Code of
Ethics

- ❑ But codes only represent part of professional ethics**
- ❑ Underlying principles are important**

HEALTH & SOCIAL SCIENCES

KANT (1724-1804)



□ Humans as rational beings

- Capable of making moral decisions
- ❖ Right and wrong
- Unique ability
- Give them an inner worth (dignity)
- Must respect this dignity of people

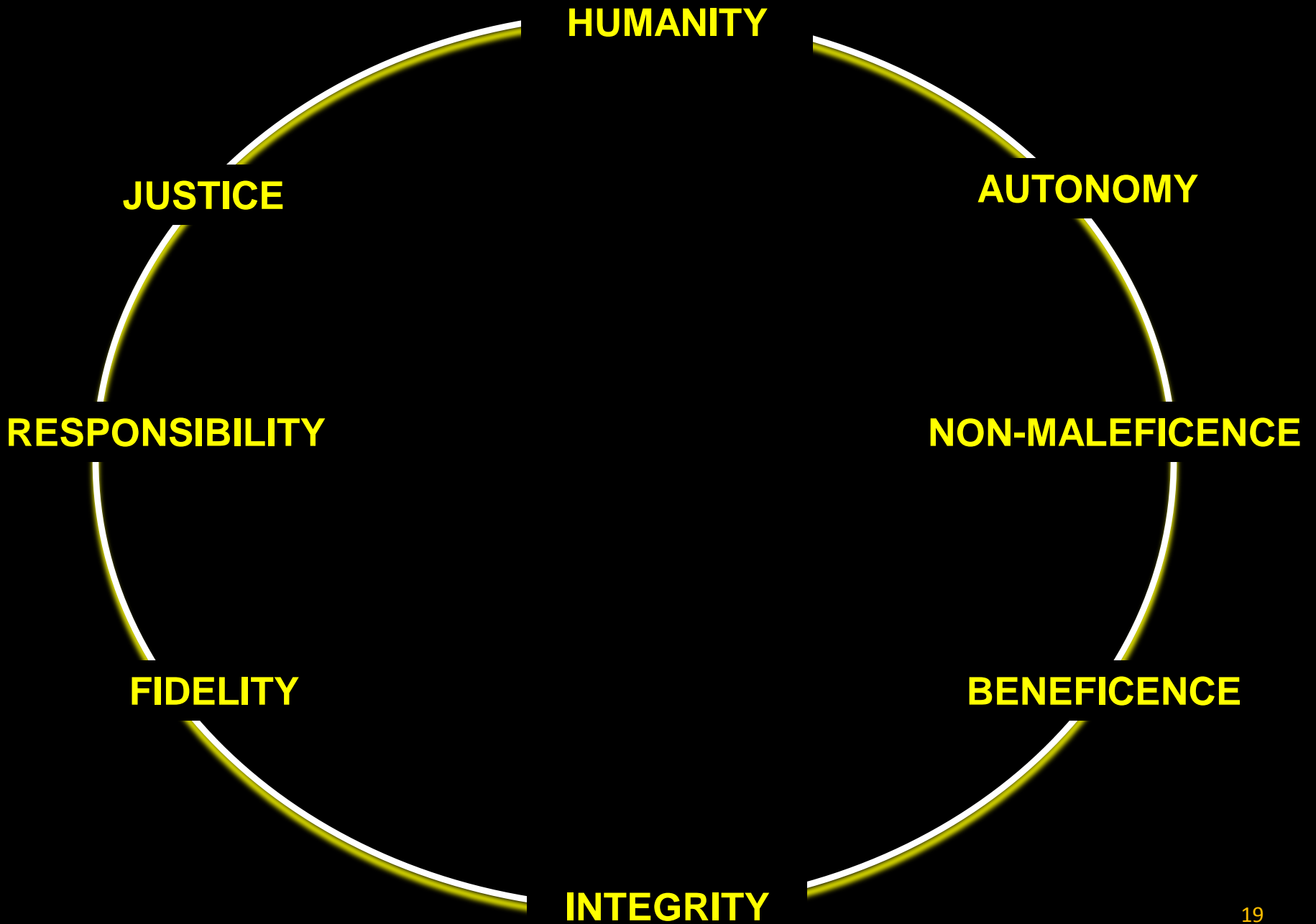
□ Implication is that

➤ we must respect all persons

➤ irrespective of how we judge them

PRINCIPLES

- ❑ Eight - arbitrary**
- ❑ Nomenclature can differ**
- ❑ Not mutually exclusive**
- ❑ Prima facie equal weight**
- ❑ Can be in conflict**
- ❑ Best balance**



RESPONSIBILITY

□ About accountability to others

□ All publication role players are accountable to

➤ greater society and

➤ discipline or profession

to advance the knowledge in the field by making knowledge available

**□ But, this may be trumped by one of
other principles**

AUTONOMY

- We must respect people's right to make decisions about things that are of importance to them

□ Ensure that all participants and role players make informed, free and voluntary decisions

- **Anonymous use of information legitimately obtained by a forensic psychiatrist (Kapoor et al.)**

RESPECT FOR HUMANITY

☐ Respect for dignity and rights of people

☐ Two elements

➤ Dignity

➤ Rights (moral and legal)

□ Rights

- Prisoner's life story
- Intellectual property
- ❖ Plagiarism*

□ Dignity

- Respect dignity of people irrespective of how we judge them**

- ❖ **Humiliate**
- ❖ **Defame or insult**
- ✓ **Pejorative language**
- ✓ **Insulting and intemperate**
- » **Debate is good**

❖ **Privacy**

✓ **Right to be left alone**

✓ **Confidentiality**

» **Hematologist writing about a person's platelets**

» **Forensic psychiatrist writing about mental status of a person who murdered another in a notorious case**

❖ **Subtle disrespect***



GETTY

- **Manner in which we interact with others**

❖ Manners

✓ Acknowledging others



The Weekend Australian Magazine
August 6-7 2011



RUTH
OSTROW

Uncommon courtesy

ONE THING THAT'S changed in this era of social media and emails is that manners have gone out the window. Is common courtesy dead?

It's so rare to get a return email from some people that you figure there is something wrong with your inbox. Maybe you've turned on spam by mistake? Nope! Joe or Jenny from work or your tenant or bank manager just simply isn't getting back to you, and possibly never will. You send another email, perhaps a text, or voicemail. And as time passes, so does your self-esteem. There's nothing quite as diminishing as being ignored, or made to feel invisible.

The whole issue is about respect. And it's one of the things that's vanished in the speed and pace of the new world order. Not that there weren't rude people before. It's just that now rudeness is acceptable because electronic media

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Punctuality



Responding promptly



Keeping people informed



Providing speedy feedback

INTEGRITY

□ Simple honesty

□ Examples mentioned above

➤ Plagiarism

□ Fraudulent research



<http://www.theworld.org/2011/11/dutch-scientist-diederik-stapel-faked-data/>

□ Preliminary report

➤ Several dozens fraudulent papers

□ *Science* of 2 April 2011

□ Facing fraud charges

□ Authors

- **“Is this material worth publishing?”
(Walter & Bloch, 2001, p. 33)**
- **Conflict of interests: Neville**
- **Nature of submission: Richard**
- **Authorship**

Overlaps with

JUSTICE

Fairness

**No unjustified discrimination or
favouritism**

□ Procedural justice

- Fairness in decision making**

❖ **Requires**

- ✓ **Take into account all relevant information**
- ✓ **Consider relevant information only**
- ✓ **Open minded – open to persuasion**
- ✓ **Unbiased**

- » **Actual and perceived bias**
- » **Perceptions are important**
- » **What would an independent, reasonable and informed observer think?**

Reviewers

-  **Blind peer review**

-  **Does not necessarily remove risk***

✓ **Unconscious**

✓ **Theoretical orientation**

FIDELITY

□ Where there is a power imbalance

➤ Those with less power (trustees)

**❖ Must trust that those in power
(trustees) will act**

✓ Competently

✓ In their best interests

□ Trustees must therefore

- Be trustworthy**
- Act in the best interests of trusters,
even if to their own detriment**

□ Editors are in powerful positions

❑ Must therefore not

- Exploit their position**
- Create a risk of exploitation**
- Create impression there may have been exploitation**

❖ **A partner's paper**

- ❑ Must appoint competent reviewers**
- ❑ Ensure that they do a competent review***

NONMALEFICENCE

❑ Do no harm

❑ Not intentionally or negligently

❑ Refrain from engaging in behaviour

where there is a reasonably foreseeable

risk of harm

□ How can we harm?

- Careers**
- Reputations**
- Self-confidence**
- Health**

□ Breuning, S. E., Davis, V. J., Matson, J. L., & Ferguson, D. G. (1982). Effects of thioridazine and withdraw dyskinesias on workshop performance of mentally retarded young adults. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 139, 1447-1454.

□ Often not malicious

□ Potential of harm when, e.g.,

- Reviewers exceed their competence**
- Editors are overburdened**



BENEFICENCE

☐ Do good

☐ Anticipate and neutralise factors that may cause harm even when there is no legal obligation

➤ Constructive feedback

CONCLUSION

□ Publication ethics

- Is part and parcel of our publication activities
- Same principles as those that underlies professional ethics

- Every role player has different ethical duties**
- Often requires finding the right balance between conflicting principles**



THANK YOU