

CODE OF ETHICS FOR FILIPINO SOCIAL SCIENTISTS

We, Filipino social scientists, in our unceasing endeavor to attain the highest level of professional knowledge and competence, and in our commitment to the norms of objectivity, rational skepticism and critical judgment, uphold the search for truth, wherever it may lead. We shall enhance the understanding of the nature and behavior of human beings in their multifaceted interrelationships. We shall defend the integrity of the intellectual enterprise, responsibility for human life and love of country. We shall never allow self-serving values to interfere with our service to science, society and the nation.

I. Social Scientists as Professionals

1. The term "social scientist" as used in this Code shall mean a person who possesses a graduate degree and specialized training in any of the disciplines of anthropology, communication, demography, economics, geography, history, linguistics, political science, psychology, public administration, social work, sociology, statistics and other recognized areas of social science. The discipline must continue to develop a body of systematized knowledge that can be applied in the discovery of new knowledge and in the use of such knowledge for the welfare of human beings and society. In addition to advanced studies, social scientists must ideally have some experience in teaching, research, or extension work in the practice of their profession. They gain recognition as a professional after long years of dedicated service, practice, and study in their specialized field and not by passing a licensure examination.

2. As social scientists, they shall perform and discharge their duties with the highest degree of excellence, professionalism, and integrity. They shall strive to broaden their cultural and professional interests to improve their efficiency and enhance the prestige of their profession. In their relationship with other professionals, they shall facilitate intellectual interaction and the sharing of information to promote mutual respect and cooperation.

3. In dealing with different publics, social scientists shall at all times respect the rights of others and shall refrain from acts contrary to good morals, good customs, public safety, and public interest. They shall commit themselves to the ideals of freedom, democracy and love of country. They shall keep themselves morally upright, and shall place

high value on justice, truth, and honesty. They shall contribute to the training of younger scientists and shall be generous in sharing their expertise with the next generation of scientists to ensure professional succession. They shall observe faithfully the canons of professional ethics and contribute to the development of a just and humane society.

II. Responsibilities of Social Scientists

1. Social scientists are responsible to society which is their client. They apply their expertise primarily for the continuous improvement of humanity. In this regard, they perform the functions of social critics.

2. They uphold the values of society and the interest of the nation. Towards this end, they are obliged to avoid conducting and participating in activities that harm the common good.

3. In a society where the poor constitute the majority, they have a special responsibility to the poor and the powerless. Towards this end, they advocate the causes of the poor and assist in improving their lives.

4. They seek and uphold the truth at all times. They do not compromise their profession by manipulating the truth to serve private ends.

5. They uphold intellectual honesty. They do not claim credit for knowledge or innovations generated by others.

6. They are responsible for the integrity of their research. They ensure that the norms of scholarship are strictly observed in their work.

7. They have a responsibility to take positions in areas of debate where they have an expertise. By doing so, they contribute to the clarification of social issues through reasoned knowledge.

III. Areas of Concern

Social scientists shall be committed to the development of the profession, the promotion of public welfare, as well as their own professional advancement.

A. *Professional Development*

1. Social scientists shall strengthen the capabilities of their disciplines through professional and intellectual interaction among social science institutions and organizations.

2. They shall promote the rights, welfare and development of other social scientists by contributing to the dynamism and advancement of their profession. This includes the encouragement and education of future scientists, the strengthening of the capabilities of universities and colleges, and collaboration with other social scientists in solving problems.

3. They shall critically evaluate and interpret different ideological and philosophical orientations, and maintain an open mind to alternative models of social research derived from these. They shall explicitly state the assumptions of their selected theories and research models, and work for the indigenization of their disciplines.

B. Research

Social scientists shall help in intensifying the need for a deeper appreciation of social science inquiries. They shall take the initiative in conducting multidisciplinary and participatory research of scientific significance within the limits of their expertise, and maintain academic freedom and objectivity with the view of achieving research-related goals.

C. Publication

1. Social scientists shall give due acknowledgment to all persons who have contributed in a group research by clearly stating the nature of their contributions.

2. They shall report objectively on controversial issues regardless of their own personal stand and maintain a reasonable tolerance for divergent opinions from reputable sources.

3. They shall disclose the funding agencies that supported their research and must not be inhibited by the orientation and priorities of these funding agencies when they publish their research findings.

D. Relationship with Clients

1. Because social scientists function in the community, they shall establish a professional relationship between the community and themselves and generate and share knowledge related to pressing social, economic, and political issues.

2. They shall strive to create an atmosphere of candor and mutual respect with all their clients, recognizing both their common interests and divergent needs, and clarifying how conflicts among them may be resolved.

IV. Remuneration

As befits professionals, social scientists shall charge respectable fees. In determining the fee, they shall consider carefully the client's ability to pay, the customary charges for similar services or the fees charged by other professionals engaged in comparable work, the time spent and extent of services rendered, the skill and expertise required and their professional standing.

V. Sanctions

1. "Sanction" in this code shall mean either (a) penalty for infraction of ethical practice that tends to downgrade social science and/or social scientists or (b) reward for exemplary work or accomplishment that elevates the social science disciplines among social scientists and the community or society. Emphasis is on rewards rather than on penalties as befits true professionals.

2. Sanction on social scientists shall be the main responsibility of those in their respective disciplines. The recognition of works or accomplishments that need to be rewarded must first come from the colleagues and peers of social scientists in their organizations.

3. Any work or conduct requiring a negative sanction must likewise be determined and administered by an appropriate body of their peers.

Adopted:

8 November 1989

PSSC Ethics Committee

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