Research Ethics in Qualitative Research and Mixed Method-Designs

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Contents

- Research Ethics? Research Ethis!
- Principles and Guidelines
- Controversies, Questions and Debate
- Ethics in Qualitative Research
- Conclusions
Research Ethics? Research Ethics!

- Defining the term
- More than data protection
- The situation in Germany
Principles and Guidelines

- Integrity and Objectivity
- Avoiding harm / risk assessment
- Voluntary Participation
- Informed Consent
- Confidentiality and Anonymity

(Code of Ethics, BDS/DGS 1992)
Controversies, Questions and Debate

- (No) informed consent in experimental designs
- Covert („under cover“) participant observation
- Anonymization and the internet
- Digital archiving of qualitative data for purposes of secondary analysis
Ethics in qualitative Research

- Angloamerican debate: larger ethical questions and critique of ethical review processes
- Informed consent as dialogue and process
- Defining „harm“ → seeking advice
Conclusions

• Integrate research ethics into methods training
• Consider possible challenges when conducting mixed method- research: need for ongoing reflexivity
• Ethics committees: respect the multiplicity of methodological approaches and ethical positions
Invitation

• Tagung zu Forschungsethik in qualitativer und quantitativer Forschung: 11./12. September 2014, LMU München
Thank you

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