The Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists

- The Saskatchewan College of Psychologists has adopted the Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists.
- One of the main features of this Code is the organization of all ethical standards around clearly identified ethical principles and values.

Something to be proud of as Canadians

- The idea of articulating ethical principles as a moral framework or foundation for more specific standards of behaviour is increasingly adopted by other countries and other disciplines.

The Canadian Code – A major Canadian contribution

- A model for reviewing or developing codes for national and international psychology organizations:
  - European Federation of Psychologists’ Associations (EFPA)
  - New Zealand
  - Ireland
  - Mexico
- A model for developing codes in other disciplines:
  - The Canadian Coaching Association
  - The Canadian Association for Music Therapy
  - The Canadian Association of Rehabilitation Professionals
- A model for the development of a universal declaration of ethical principles for psychologists.

Today’s clientele and the Canadian Code of Ethics

As our clientele at home becomes more multicultural, we must think more clearly how to ensure that our professional services are provided with respect and beneficence.

Questions

- Does the Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists provide adequate guidance to psychologists in behaving respectfully and appropriately when engaged in professional activities with multicultural clientele?
- How universal are the principles and values underlying the Canadian Code?
Goal

- To show that there is a meeting ground in terms of respect, caring, integrity, and the collective well-being of society. This will be done by:
  - Exploring the commonalities in professional values across countries, continents, and over time; and
  - Exploring the universality of the ethical principles most commonly used in psychology to develop codes of ethics.

Outline

- Overview of structure and content of the Universal Declaration of Ethical Principles for Psychologists
- Why a universal declaration
- Comparative analyses and integration
- Consultation and responses of sponsors
- Meaning of the Declaration for Canadians
- Questions – comments – discussion

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF ETHICAL PRINCIPLES FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS

Structure of the Draft Universal Declaration

- It has a preamble followed by 4 sections, each relating to a different ethical principle.
- Each section includes:
  - A statement outlining the fundamental moral values contained in the principle
  - Articles that relate directly to these moral values.

Universal Declaration of Ethical Principles for Psychologists

The framework of the Universal Declaration of Ethical Principles

- Principle 1: Respect for the dignity of all human beings
  - Values: Accuracy, Honesty, Objectivity, Understanding, Managing biases
  - Tasks: Development of Knowledge, Respect for society, Duties to society

- Principle 2: Competent caring for the well-being of others
  - Values: Competence, Integrity
  - Tasks: Avoidance of incomplete disclosure, Assistance of conflict of interest

- Principle 3: Integrity
  - Values: Competence, Integrity, Development of knowledge, Respect for society, Duties to society

- Principle 4: Professional and scientific responsibility to society
  - Values: Competence, Integrity, Development of knowledge, Respect for society, Duties to society
PREAMBLE
- Context of the Universal Declaration (what it speaks to)
- Objectives of the Universal Declaration
- Description of the Universal Declaration
- Contribution of the Declaration and its meaning

PRINCIPLE I – Respect for the Dignity of All Human Beings

Article 1
Psychologists recognize and respect the unique worth and inherent dignity of all human beings.

Article 2
Psychologists recognize and respect the diversity among human beings.

Article 3
Psychologists respect the customs and beliefs of cultures, limited only when a custom or belief seriously contravenes the principle of respect for the dignity of human beings or causes serious harm to their well-being.

Article 4
Psychologists uphold the value of free and informed consent.

Article 5
Psychologists uphold the value of privacy of individuals, families, groups, and communities.

Article 6
Psychologists uphold the value of confidentiality of personal information.

Article 7
Psychologists uphold the value of fairness and justice in the treatment of others.

PRINCIPLE II – Competent Caring for the Well-Being of Others

Article 8
Psychologists demonstrate an active concern for the well-being of individuals, families, groups, and communities.

Article 9
Psychologists uphold the value of taking care to do no harm to individuals, families, groups, and communities.

Article 10
Psychologists uphold the value of maximizing benefits and minimizing potential harms to individuals, families, groups, and communities.

Article 11
Psychologists uphold the value of taking responsibility for correcting or offsetting harmful effects that have occurred as a result of their activities.

Article 12
Psychologists uphold the value of developing and maintaining competence.

Article 13
Psychologists uphold the value of self-knowledge regarding how their own values, attitudes, experiences, and social context influence their actions, interpretations, choices, and recommendations.

Article 14
Psychologists recognize and respect the ability of individuals, families, groups, and communities to make decisions for themselves and to care for themselves and each other.

PRINCIPLE III – Integrity

Article 15
Psychologists uphold the value of truthfulness, and honest, accurate and open communications.

Article 16
Psychologists avoid incomplete disclosure of information unless complete disclosure is culturally inappropriate, or violates the confidentiality of others, or carries the potential to do serious harm to individuals, families, groups, or communities.

Article 17
Psychologists uphold the value of maximizing impartiality and minimizing biases.

Article 18
Psychologists uphold the value of not exploiting others for personal, professional, or financial gain.

Article 19
Psychologists avoid conflicts of interest and declare them when such situations cannot be avoided or are inappropriate to avoid.

Why a Universal Declaration
- There are tremendous variations in the form, content, usefulness and rate of development of codes of ethics in the world.
- The development and the proclamation of a Universal Declaration would provide a generic set of moral principles to be used as a template by psychology organizations worldwide to develop or revise their ethical codes and standards.
A Universal Declaration would also provide...

- A universal standard against which the psychology community worldwide can assess progress in the ethical and moral relevancy of its codes of ethics;
- A shared moral framework for representatives of the psychology community to speak with a collective voice on matters of ethical concern;
- A common basis for psychology as a discipline to evaluate alleged unethical behavior by its members.

NOT to be confounded with...

- A worldwide code of ethics or a code of conduct that would be agreed upon and adhered to in all countries.

REMINDER

- Codes of conduct define the bottom lines of professional conduct (i.e., what you must or must not do)
- Codes of ethics tend to be more aspirational, articulating standards according to underlying principles and values.
- Declaration of ethical principles reflects the principles and values that would be expected of a code of ethics or a code of conduct.

How it began...

- Submission for a symposium at the IAAP Congress in Singapore (2002)
- Presentation of the paper at the IAAP Congress
- The need to support, facilitate and promote the development of ethics in the world was discussed at the biennial World Forum of Psychology during the ICAP in 2002.
- Both IUPsyS and IAAP recognized at the meeting that something had to be done.

In 2002...

- The International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS) approved a motion to create a working group to develop a universal declaration of ethical principles for psychologists.
- The initiative was to involve the IUPsyS and the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP) and, hopefully, the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP).

Current members

- Janel Gauthier (Canada), Chair
- Rubén Ardila (Colombia)
- Nasrin Jazani (Iran)
- Catherine Love (New Zealand)
- Elizabeth Nair (Singapore)
- Kwadzi Nyanungo (Zimbabwe)
- Paul B. Pederson (United States)
- Tuomo Tikkanen (Finland)
- Kan Zhang (China)
Personal senior advisors

- Dr. Jean Pettifor (Calgary, Canada)
- Dr. Carole Sinclair (Toronto, Canada)

Sponsoring organizations

- International Union of Psychological Science
- International Association of Applied Psychology
- International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology

A challenging goal

How to develop a framework for a Universal Declaration of Ethical Principles that could work for everyone?

Developing a framework

- Comparison between codes of ethics in psychology to identify commonalties in the ethical principles used to develop them.
- Comparison across domains and throughout history to assess the universality of the ethical principles used to develop codes of ethics in psychology.
- Integration of principles and values having the greatest commonality and universality into a framework.
- Consultation by presenting the framework at international meetings to gather comments and suggestions (e.g., symposia, focus-group discussions).

Assessing commonalties

- Review of some of the codes of ethics that identify the ethical principles used to develop them:
  - American Psychological Association (APA)
  - Australian Psychological Society
  - Canadian Psychological Association (CPA)
  - Colegio de Psicólogos de Chile
  - European Federation of Psychologists Association
  - Federación de Psicólogos de la República Argentina
  - Finnish Psychological Association
  - New Zealand Psychological Society
  - Psychological Society of Ireland
  - Sociedad Colombiana de Psicología
  - Sociedad Mexicana de Psicología
  - South African Professional Board of Psychology

Comparative analysis of codes of ethics - Sample

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<tr>
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<td>(incl. in Princ. B)</td>
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Comparative analysis of codes of ethics - Sample

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<th>Mexico ('02)</th>
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Distilling a generic set of ethical principles

- Respect for the dignity and rights of persons/peoples
- Caring for others and concerns for their welfare
- Competence
- Integrity
- Responsibility to society (professional, scientific)

Assessing universality

- Review of internationally accepted documents such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to delineate the moral imperatives that underlie them.
- Review of codes of ethics in other disciplines to identify the ethical principles used to develop them (e.g., sports, martial arts).
- Review historical documents to identify roots of “modern” ethical principles.

Comparing codes of ethics and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration recognizes...
- Right to protection, security and social order
- Right to privacy
- Right to free and full consent
- Duties to the community
- Respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms

Codes of Ethics recognize...
- As fundamental the right to informed consent and the principle of responsible and competent caring
- As fundamental the right to privacy and confidentiality
- As fundamental the right to free and full consent
- As fundamental the principle of professional and scientific responsibility to society
- As fundamental the principle of respect for human rights

Comparing codes of ethics and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (cont’d)

Sports and Martial Arts

- The Code of Ethics of the Canadian Professional Coaches Association
- United States Olympic Committee Coaching Ethics Code
- The Code of Ethics of the National Coaching Association (UK)
- The Code of Ethics of the United States Martial Arts Federation
- The Code of Bushido
Comparative analysis of codes of ethics across domains

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<th>Psychology</th>
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Emerging framework

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Revised framework

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Tracing the historical roots of ethical principles in framework

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<td>Hippocratic Oath (Greece, circa 460 BC)</td>
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<td>Ayurvedic Oath of Asapaha the Physician (India, circa 250 – 650 AD)</td>
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<td>Code of Hammurabi (Babylon, circa 1750 – 1725 BC)</td>
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### Tracing the historical roots of ethical principles in framework

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<th>Doc/Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>Daily Book of Prayers (Pent, circa 950 AD)</td>
<td>Respect for the dignity</td>
<td>Competent caring</td>
<td>Integrity</td>
<td>Responsibility to society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Jewish Prayer (Sippur Tefillah, circa 1150 AD)</td>
<td>Respect for the dignity</td>
<td>Competent caring</td>
<td>Integrity</td>
<td>Responsibility to society</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Principle 1: Respect for the dignity
- "A physician should never use or prescribe a harmful drug." (Persia, circa 950 AD)
- "Physician must study medical science and never grow tired of research." (Persia, circa 950 AD)
- "Do not allow pride for youth; ambition for women and admirers, bring loss of dignity." (Japan, circa 1300 AD)

#### Principle 2: Competent caring
- "In the sufferer, all the ancient formulae, but may be altered to suit the patient's condition." (Japan, circa 1300 AD)
- "The secret diseases of female patients should not be revealed to anybody." (Japan, circa 1300 AD)
- "Physicians should strive to give the patient exactly what is needed to the patient to ensure a quick recovery." (Japan, circa 1300 AD)

#### Principle 3: Integrity
- "The voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential." (Nuremberg Code of Ethics in Medical Research (1948))
- "The experiment should be conducted only by scientifically qualified persons. The highest degree of skill and care should be required." (Nuremberg Code of Ethics in Medical Research (1948))

#### Principle 4: Responsibility to society
- "You should not use your patients as means to an end, or for the sake of fame." (Nuremberg Code of Ethics in Medical Research (1948))
- "A physician should only serve the patient as he or she deems necessary." (Nuremberg Code of Ethics in Medical Research (1948))
- "A physician must never recommend a harmful, or even injurious drug." (Nuremberg Code of Ethics in Medical Research (1948))

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Source: Sinclair (2005)
Conclusion

Even where there are differences in the emphasis on individualism and collectivism, science and traditional healing, secular and religious authority, and on authoritarian and democratic governance, there is a meeting ground in terms of respect, caring, integrity, and the collective well-being of society.

References


Consultations

- International Congress of Applied Psychology (Singapore, 2002)
- European Congress of Psychology (Vienna, 2003)
- International Congress on Licensure, Certification and Credentialing of Psychologists (Montreal, 2004)
- International Congress of Psychology (Beijing, 2004)
- Interamerican Congress of Psychology (Buenos Aires, 2005)
- European Congress of Psychology (Granada, 2005)
- International Congress of Applied Psychology (Athens, 2006)
- Middle East and North Africa Regional Conference of Psychology (Amman, 2007)
- European Congress of Psychology (Prague, 2007)

Focus-group discussions

- Developing a universal declaration is feasible, but difficult.
- It will require broad consultations.
- The moral principles will have to be articulated in such a way that they can be operationalized differently around different cultures and needs, but still honored.
- Respect must include both individuals and peoples, and must not be used to oppress peoples.
- Competence and serving the needs of people must be relative to culture.

It is understood that...

- To be of worldwide value, a Universal Declaration will have to be:
  - Relevant to local communities and indigenous values.
  - Sensitive to natural and cultural differences.

Responses of sponsoring organizations

- International Union of Psychological Science – General Assembly
- International Association of Applied Psychology – Board of Directors
- International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology – Executive Council
Activities planned for 2006-2008

- To refine the draft of the Universal Declaration in the light of the many consultations since its release.
- To seek feedback to determine the cultural appropriateness of the definitions, concepts and language used in any newly revised document.
- To submit the final draft to IUPsys, IAAP, and IACCP for approval at the International Congress of Psychology in Berlin in 2008.

Final comments

- The task will continue to be a challenge. However, as a discipline, we can succeed:
  - Much has been accomplished since 2002.
  - The project enjoys strong and enthusiastic support from all parts of the world.
  - Audiences have been cooperative and have provided useful feedback.
  - The members of the Ad Hoc Joint Committee are experienced and eager to contribute.

Contact

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Questions or comments?