

# JERHRE NOTES

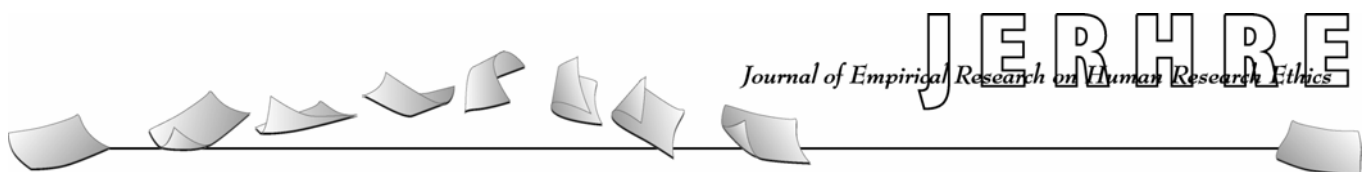
*Skills for Solving Ethical Problems in Human Research*

## **Differentiating Sensitive Participants from Sensitive Research**

Research on the nature and healing of emotional harm typically requires asking questions that may produce strong emotions. Are these emotions harmful or beneficial? Do participants regret participating and experience lasting upset, or appreciate the experience, gain insight and closure, and want to participate in further research? Investigators who do sensitive research, such as trauma researchers, find that only a small percent of subjects report lasting upset while many report gaining lasting benefit.

There is growing evidence that a small percent of research participants in *any* research report negative reactions; this response may be more related to underlying psychopathology than the nature of the research in which they participate. Are subject selection and informed consent more important than seeking to protect all subjects from participating in research that evokes lasting negative reactions from a few and positive reactions from many? The Reactions to Research Participation Questionnaire (RRPQ) is a measure of subjects' experience of research participation that may shed light on these challenging questions. The RRPQ directly assesses research participants' appraisal of the benefits and drawbacks of participation, faith in the research's team's professionalism, and emotional response to the protocol. The RRPQ and related background appears at <http://www.personal.utulsa.edu/~elana-newman/>

Newman, E., Risch, E., Kassam-Adams, N. (2006). Ethical issues in Trauma-Related Research: A Review. *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics*, 1(3), 29-46.



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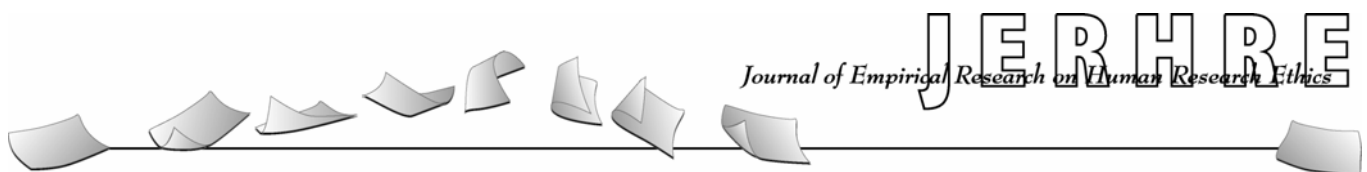
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