

TSCF CODE OF SCIENTIFIC ETHICS

TITLE I - PURPOSE

The primary goal of this Code of Scientific Ethics is to guide the conduct of the members of The Social Capital Foundation (TSCF) between themselves, toward those with whom TSCF works, and toward society at large, so as to ensure that this conduct reflects the purpose of the institution.

This Code is not exhaustive and all-embracing. The fact that a particular conduct is not addressed specifically by this Code does not mean that this conduct is necessarily either ethical or unethical.

TITLE II - COMPONENTS

The ethical regulations of TSCF consist of six specific Codes:

- TSCF Code of Scientific Ethics,
- TSCF Members Code of Conduct,
- Mission Statement of TSCF Editions,
- TSCF Editorial Board Code of Conduct,
- TSCF Evaluation Procedure and Methodology,
- TSCF Rules of Etiquette.

These specific Codes are meant to supplement each other. All together constitute a single statement.

TITLE III - INTERPRETATION

Membership in TSCF commits members to adhere to the ethical regulations of the institution.

TSCF members are expected to interpret these principles in good faith, to abide to them and to make sure they are respected.

Each TSCF member may supplement, but does not violate, the standards outlined in the TSCF ethical regulations.

The same principles apply to the providers, partners and external collaborators of TSCF.

TITLE IV - IMPLICATIONS OF THE PURPOSE OF TSCF

It is the purpose of TSCF to promote social capital, social cohesion and social inclusion through the development and the dissemination of appropriate knowledge.

Every member of the organization should share the awareness of the organization goals to the effect that, through their engagement in scientific research and dissemination, they are participating in a precious endeavour in public policymaking and the societal sphere.

TITLE V - DIALOGUE WITH SOCIETY

TSCF members should be aware of the fact that their assumptions and behaviors may have an impact upon society.

They should be aware that socio-economic research is meant to contribute to the resolution of societal problems.

Hence their duty is, on the one hand, to keep an unbiased attitude as far as possible, while, on the other hand, to

acknowledge the tentative and relative character of their findings and approaches, and not to conceal their own ideological position(s).

TSCF members and their collaborators involved into research shall strive to disclose and actively explain the roles and significance of their own research, evaluate the possible effects of their research on people, society and the environment as well as the changes that this research might engender or suggest, objectively disclose the results of this evaluation, and build a constructive dialog with society.

TITLE VI - SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

TSCF works to develop and disseminate a reliable body of social knowledge. TSCF members are therefore expected to act on the basis of scientific correctness without recourse to irrelevant factors such as ideological activism or involvement in interest groups.

TSCF members shall make the utmost effort to objectively demonstrate the accuracy and validity of the knowledge they create or they disseminate, and shall participate in mutual quality assurance such as peer reviews in their common fields of expertise.

TITLE VII - CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TSCF shall always strive to achieve the highest possible level of academic excellence while producing, evaluating and discussing research findings.

As well as endeavouring to maintain and improve their own expertise, abilities and skills, TSCF members shall constantly strive to understand the relationships between science, technology, society and the natural environment along the lines of the TISR model, and to demonstrate the best judgments and attitudes at all times.

TITLE VIII - PEER REVIEWS

TSCF shall create an intellectual environment suitable for frank exchanges of opinions and for the operation of peer reviews. For that purpose, TSCF shall continuously strive to secure freedom of judgement, impartiality, and transparency.

Reflection shall be conducted on the limits and imperfections of peer reviews as an instrument of scientific evaluation, and improvements shall be brought to the evaluation methodology on an ongoing basis in the purpose to ensure impartiality in the process of scientific evaluation.

TITLE IX - TEAM WORK

Cooperation and mutual exchanges within TSCF are necessary to achieve its ends. The principles of openness, criticism and respect for diversity in scientific perspectives shall be followed by TSCF members while working together.

TSCF members shall act with a view to maintaining and enhancing the image and the integrity of the organization.

TITLE X - RELATIONS WITH OTHERS

TSCF members shall constructively criticize the results or opinions of others, listen to their criticism, and exchange opinions with tolerance and assertiveness.

Moreover, they shall properly give credit to others findings and achievements, as well as respecting the persons and their intellectual property rights.

A fair evaluation procedure shall apply to authors.

TITLE XI - INDEPENDENCE

Community activities must often rely on private or government funding, and thus depend to a certain extent on sponsorship. Donors may be interested in a specific outcome of research for the sake of their own socio-political aims.

Whether or not it shares such aims, TSCF shall not become subordinate to them. It shall also refrain from cooperating in the fulfilment of goals that would be directly or indirectly contradictory with the development of an inclusive community.

Yet, TSCF shall not accept grants or contracts which specify conditions inconsistent with its scientific judgment of what are appropriate means of carrying out the research and dissemination in question, or which permit the donors to veto or delay academic publication because they dislike the findings.

TSCF shall not agree to carry on research and dissemination projects which are not sufficiently funded or compete by the use of unfair tactics not consistent with appropriate scientific standards.

TITLE XII - GATHERING OF DATA

The security, anonymity and privacy of research subjects and informants must be respected rigorously.

The sources of personal information shall be kept confidential, unless the informants have asked or agreed to be cited. Shall informants be easily identifiable, researchers shall remind them explicitly of the consequences that may follow from the publication of the research data and outcomes.

Researchers who are being given access to records are expected to respect the privacy conditions under which the data were collected.

The consent of research subjects and informants shall be obtained in advance. Covert research shall be avoided in

principle, unless it is the only method by which information can be gathered, and/or when access to the usual sources of information is obstructed by those in power.

TITLE XIII - INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The contribution of scholars, sponsors, technicians or collaborators who have made a substantial contribution in carrying out a research and project shall be acknowledged fairly in any subsequent publication.

Databases shall not be regarded as being in the public domain until the researchers who have assembled them have specified the sources of their data and the methods by which they were constructed. Information about sources and methods shall be made available within reasonable time. Interim datasets shall be available for inspection of their accuracy by other scholars.

Once published, information about a research and project shall be considered to be part of the common knowledge and background of the scientific community. Therefore, it is open to comments and criticism to which researchers should be allowed to react.

TITLE XIV - USE OF DATA

Researchers shall act with integrity according to the spirit of this Code in drafting, planning, applying for, implementing and reporting their own work, ensure that survey data are recorded, stored and rigorously handled, and not only refrain themselves from any misconduct such as fabrication, falsification or plagiarism, but also from aiding or abetting such misconduct.

Researchers shall respect the dignity and rights of individuals who cooperate with their research, and shall safeguard and give proper consideration to their welfare. It shall also treat animals and other research subjects with all due care and respect.

TITLE XV - AVOIDING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

In their research, reviews, evaluations, judgments and other activities, TSCF members shall pay sufficient heed to the presence of conflicts of interest between individuals or organizations, and shall properly address problems paying all due attention to the public interest.

TITLE XVI - DEALING WITH MISCONDUCT

To deal with suspected misconduct, a proper channel shall be set up for consultation. At the same time, particular attention shall be paid to the importance of ascertaining whether the suspicion is false. All due consideration shall be made to ensure that anyone reporting misconduct shall not suffer disadvantage as a result thereof.