

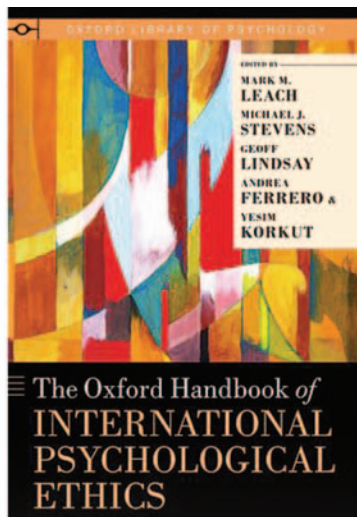


Psychologists Go International on Ethics

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The most recent book to address the continuing evolution of professional ethics from its early development to today's search for international relevance and universality is *The Oxford Handbook of International Psychological Ethics* (2012), published by Oxford University Press. To quote Michael Knowles, past-president of the International Association of Applied Psychology, "Never before has there been such a comprehensive coverage of the field, ranging from the origin and evolution of ethical thought to present day challenges presented by factors ranging from the internet to globalization, while at the same time fully discussing cultural variations between and within the major regions of the world."

The book has contributions from psychologists around the world and is divided into five parts, namely, 1) Overview of In-



ternational Psychological Ethics, 2) Current and Emerging International Ethical and Professional Development Issues, 3) Psychological Ethics in Wider Contexts, 4) Psychological Ethics by Region: Convergence and Divergence, and 5) Economic, Political and Social Influences on Psychological Ethics and Ethics Code Development.

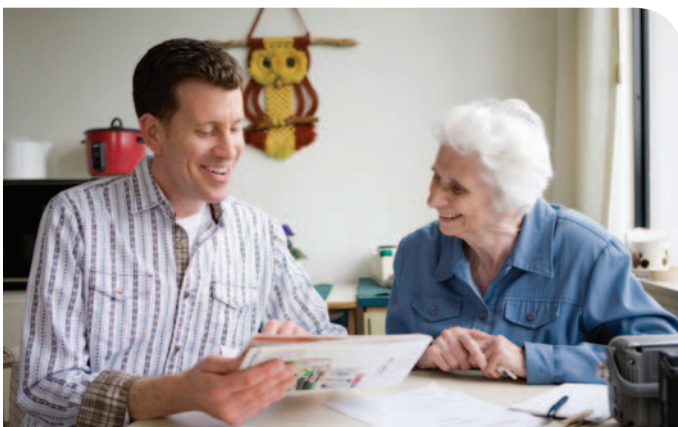
Canadian psychologists contributed to four of the 34 chapters. Carole Sinclair authors the opening chapter on *Ethical Principles, Values and Codes for Psychologists: An Historical Journey*. The journey begins in ancient times and pauses with today's perspectives. By examining laws, oaths, prayers and formal codification related to professional practice over the centuries and around the world, considerable similarity in ethical principles and values are found, although there are variations in how they are expressed.

Jean Pettifor, with Andrea Ferrero of Argentina, authors Chapter 3 on *Ethical Dilemmas, Cultural Differences and the Globalization of Psychology*. Focusing primarily on life-like ethical dilemmas as a practical way of addressing issues in coping with the drive toward globalization, they demonstrate that codification undertaken in one culture may not be responsive to beliefs in another culture, and emphasize the importance of placing the well-being of the client as the first priority in making ethical choices in such situations.

Janel Gauthier and Jean Pettifor author Chapter 9, *A Tale of Two Universal Declarations: Ethics and Human Rights*. They clarify the differences in purpose and function between the *United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) and the *Universal Declaration of Ethical Principles for Psychologists* (2008), while at the same time recognize the common base of humanitarian values and the role of such values in meeting today's global challenges.

Thomas Hadjistavropoulos, with Gerald Koocher of the USA, authors *North America: Canada and the United States* under Part Four on Psychological Ethics by Region: Convergence and Divergence. They identify the major similarities and differences in Canada and the United States in the legal status of the discipline, the national professional associations, ethics committees, ethics training, and in research on ethics, as well as discuss the ethical challenges for both countries resulting from technological advances.

This *Oxford Handbook* has been created against a backdrop of societal changes toward globalization and a steadily increasing stream of ethics presentations at international psychology congresses over the past 15 to 20 years. Thanks goes to the editors for their insight in producing such an exciting, stimulating and thought-provoking book.



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