



Climate Change, Limits to Growth and Public Health – Concerns for Global Ethics

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Ethics and Philosophy Committee

- Established in 1991 (23 years ago); always ready to welcome interested new members
- We deal with the ethical and philosophical underpinnings between environment and health
- We sponsor symposia; develop ethics guidelines; offer recommendations and definitions; provide moral support to victimized colleagues
- We attempt to be proactive about current and future ethical challenges
- We interact continually through e-mail communications, newsletter updates, conference calls, and during the annual ISEE conferences
- **Are you aware of the ISEE Ethics Guidelines for Environmental Epidemiologists - Revised April, 2012? Have you read them?**

(Kramer S, Soskolne CL, Mustapha BA, Al-Delaimy WK, 2012 Revised Ethics Guidelines for Environmental Epidemiologists. *Environ Health Perspect* 120(8): doi:10.1289/ehp.1205562 and <http://www.iseepi.org/About/ethics.htm>)

The aims of this discussion

- To facilitate dialogue about the ethical dimensions relevant to the topic and presentations heard in this session in the following areas:
 - hypothesis formulation
 - recruitment
 - design
 - methods
 - conduct
 - analysis
 - interpretation
 - dissemination of work
 - data archival and sharing
- To raise awareness and promote greater ethical transparency and accountability.
- Our purpose is **NOT** to seek retribution or to point fingers at the studies that have been presented today, but rather to learn from them to improve ethical standards in future studies in different social and geographical contexts.

Ethics - Principles

From Bioethics

- **Respect for autonomy:** respecting the right of participants to self-determine the extent of their participation
- **Beneficence:** doing good through our research
- **Non-maleficence:** doing no harm
- **Social/Distributive Justice/ Fairness:** who is deriving benefits and who is taking risks?

From Public Health and Environmental Epidemiology

- Protect the Most Vulnerable
- The Precautionary Principle
- Environmental Justice
- Scientific Integrity
- Protect the Public Interest Over Any Other Interests
- Others ...

Questions

- Those contributing most to the problem of global warming (the global "north") are suffering the least when compared with the global "south". Is the Polluter Pays principle an ethical approach for Climate Change issues?
- What about inter-generational equity- should the current deprive next generations of their future?
- For the less developed countries deprived of energy they use biomass as a source of energy creating direct health impact and climate change through global warming from blackcarbon. What would be the ethical approach in public health to address the need for fuel and the impact of the fuel they use?
- Should we carry out epidemiological/public health studies integrating all the health consequences of a product across the world and across all its stages of production?

ISEE Ethics and Philosophy Committee - Contact Information

- http://www.iseepi.org/About/ethics_cmte.htm

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- **New members are welcome!**

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ISEE Ethics Guidelines for Environmental Epidemiologists - Revised April 2012

Visit:
http://www.iseepi.org/About/Docs/ethics_guidelines_adopted_april_25_2012.pdf

