

The Ethical and Regulatory Framework for Genetic Research on Indigenous Peoples: A Preliminary Analysis

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Abstract

In the past few years, biomedical researchers have focused their works on understanding underlying genetic links to complex diseases. These efforts have started several genetic sampling and databases projects, both on international level and individual countries. Since genetic research has very different impacts to participants than traditional medical research and indigenous peoples are always the most vulnerable to this research, this article tries to analyze the ethical framework for those genetic researches concerning indigenous peoples. For the basic presumption of this analysis, this article stands on the principles of liberal multiculturalism.

Starting from the famous biomedical research ethical statement named Belmont Report, this article reviews the principles and adapts them to genetic research. In conclusion, the recommendations stress the importance of acknowledging the obligations that sample collectors should be responsible to indigenous peoples.

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