

12-9-2008

# Rhetorical and Semantic Tensions in Research Ethics

M Kottow

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/lasm\\_cucs\\_en](https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/lasm_cucs_en)

---

## Recommended Citation

Kottow, M. "Rhetorical and Semantic Tensions in Research Ethics." (2008). [https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/lasm\\_cucs\\_en/130](https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/lasm_cucs_en/130)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin American Social Medicine at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in English by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [disc@unm.edu](mailto:disc@unm.edu).

## DOCUMENTO CUCS # 24B

### CSP200723(10)Kottow

**Kottow M. Tensiones retóricas y semánticas en ética de la investigación. (Rhetorical and Semantic Tensions in Research Ethics) Cadernos de Saúde Pública (Rio de Janeiro, Brasil) 2007 octubre; 23(10):2396-2402.**

**Objectives:** To identify some instances in literature of efforts or semantic distortions that have inspired bioethics research unrelated to the interests of the Third World.

**Methodology:** descriptive and analytical bibliography

**Results:** The author explains how the tendency to change the language of the field of bioethics has had a regressive effect on the interests of developing countries, as it has generated a "double standard" of ethics in research. The author provides abundant examples in which the practice of informed participation is distorted, where, among other things, this trend suggests "exceptions and variations" in order to weaken the care for the subjects involved. Similarly, the author discusses around the vulnerability, the exploitation and coercion which are used by the people executing the research, all with the pretext for a common good. These methods are clearly debatable considering that the vast majority of research resources are used for study in poor countries of a considerable number of health problems that are specific to developed countries. Furthermore, as indicated by the author, in 2002, 90% of pharmacological substances approved by the Food and Drug Administration, the FDA (an organization in the United States which controls medicines, food and medical technologies) did not constitute any therapeutic innovation. This shows that the main objective of many investigations is to obtain patents to prolong the period of protection where the drugs that were previously approved are going to lose that protection by not being truly innovative. For the author, the rhetorical distortions and manipulations of concepts are increasing and these distortions have eroded concepts that represent this intention as something harmless, morally and politically correct.

**Conclusions:** The author concludes that, given the increase in research projects transferred to Latin America, it is necessary for regional bioethics to be vigilant against attempts to weaken the protection of individuals and communities involved in studies sponsored by commercial institutions from the First World.