

ČTVRTEČNÍ SOCIOLOGICKÉ SEMINÁŘE

**4/5/2017 v 16:00 hodin
AKC, Husova 4a, Praha 1**

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Ethics in qualitative research: the morality and politics of workplace fieldwork

This paper investigates ethics and moral issues in qualitative social science research. The widespread adoption of ethics codes and frameworks internationally has sparked debates about their constraining effects on qualitative research. The author first calls into question the theoretical assumptions of mainstream ethics on the basis of materialist scholarship. Case study research in 'Transition' countries is then employed to identify and reflect on moral challenges posed by workplace politics. Confronting an unethical world the researcher has to resort to stratagems which, in retrospect, appear to violate official ethics procedures. The paper asks whether an alternative approach can be identified without surrendering to mere instrumentalism. Cases of access negotiation, participant observation and interviews with managers and workers are then employed to illustrate the potential and limitations of this approach. An 'ethics of truth' is presented as an alternative tool in research practice founded on trust, loyalty and engagement with the emancipation struggles of researched subjects and their communities.

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