Reconciling Research Ethic Board requirements and community concerns
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Outline
• Research Ethic Boards across universities
• REB requirements
• The Kurripako project
• Kurripako concerns
• Negotiations

Research Ethic Boards across universities
• A body that regulates research with “Human Subjects”
• Concerned with the “Ethics” of the research
• Required for all internally and externally funded projects and even for “personally funded” projects
• May have different names: IRB (UA), REB (UWO)

Research Ethic Boards across universities
• Initially applied to medical research
• Then more widespread to non-medical research as well
• Commonly non-medical and medical boards are separate

REB at UWO
• The Office of Research Ethics, on behalf of Western’s Research Ethics Boards (REB), manages the approval and monitoring process for the use of humans in research at the University and its affiliated hospitals and research institutes. All research involving humans conducted by faculty, staff or students at Western or its affiliated hospitals or research institutes must be approved by a University-sanctioned review board.

IRB at UA
• Our process for protecting human research subjects reflects federal regulations developed in response to such cases as the Public Health Service syphilis study and the U.S. government radiation experiments. The Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) and Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) oversees the operation of the IRBs.
**REB requirements**

- Tenets are to protect the "Human research subjects"
- Fundamental pillars are
  - Informed consent
  - Confidentiality
  - Data protection
- Mostly based on and influenced by the biomedical model

**Kurripako background**

- Ca 2500 speakers in Venezuela
- Ca 2000 speakers in Colombia and 4000 in Brazil
- Kurripako-Baniwa continuum, Arawak language family
- Indetermined number of dialects (4–6?)
- Phratries
- Partly Evangelized since the 1950s
- Migration due to internal conflict (Colombia guerrilla), fluid borders and religious conflict

**The Kurripako project**

- Language documentation among the Kurripako of Venezuela
- Prior field experiences in June 200 and June-July 2001; did not require IRB
- Audio and video recordings including all sorts of speakers, various ages, various genres and not predetermined
- Year-long fieldwork 2004

**Kurripako concerns**

- A lot of variation:
  - Competence in written Spanish
  - Mistrust of written forms
  - Acknowledgment of ownership of particular genres
  - Acknowledgment of work
  - Protection of identity
  - Access and use of the data collected

**Negotiations**

- Anonymity of the subjects
- Destruction of Data
- Written consent/assent forms
- Choices

**Recommendations**

- Know the cultural protocols and what the community concerns are
- Get to know your REB
- Educate your REB about your specific situation
- Be ready to go through various iterations of Forms
- Serve on the REB