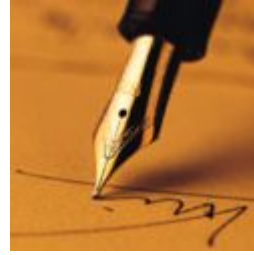


# THE SOCIAL CAPITAL FOUNDATION



## OVERALL CODE OF ETHICS

### *Preamble*

The primary goal of this Code of Ethics is to guide the conduct of the members of The Social Capital Foundation (TSCF):

- ☛ between themselves,
- ☛ toward those with whom TSCF works,
- ☛ and toward society at large,

so as to ensure that the conduct of TSCF members reflects the purpose of the organization.

Membership in TSCF commits members to adhere to it.

TSCF members are expected to interpret these principles in good faith, to abide by them and to make sure they are respected.

Each TSCF member may supplement, but does not violate, the standards outlined in this Code of Ethics.

This Code of Ethics is not exhaustive and all-embracing. The fact that a particular conduct is not addressed specifically by the Code of Ethics does not mean that this conduct is necessarily either ethical or unethical.

The TSCF Code of Ethics consists of an overall Code and four specific codes:

- ☛ TSCF members Code of Conduct,
- ☛ Mission Statement of The International Scope Review (TISR),

- ☛ TISR Editorial Board Code of Conduct,
- ☛ TISR evaluation procedure and methodology.

These four specific codes are meant to supplement the Code of Ethics. All together constitute a single statement.

### *Implications of TSCF purpose*

The purpose of TSCF is to promote social capital, social cohesion and social inclusion through the development and the dissemination of appropriate knowledge.

Every member of the organization should share the awareness of the organization objectives to the effect that, through their engagement in scientific research and dissemination, they are participating in a precious endeavour in the governmental sphere.

### *Dialogue with society*

TSCF members shall be aware of the fact that their assumptions may have an impact upon society. Hence their duty is, on the one hand, to keep unbiased attitudes as far as possible, while, on the other hand, to acknowledge the tentative and relative character of their findings and not to conceal their own ideological position(s).

TSCF members shall strive to disclose and actively explain the roles and significance of their own research, evaluate the possible effects of their research on people, society and the environment as well as the changes that this research might engender, objectively disclose the results of this evaluation, and build a constructive dialog with society.

### *Scientific excellence*

TSCF works to develop and disseminate a reliable and valid body of scientific knowledge based on research. TSCF Members are therefore expected to act on the basis of scientific correctness without recourse to irrelevant factors such as ideological activism or involvement in interest groups.

TSCF members shall make the utmost effort to scientifically and objectively demonstrate the accuracy and validity of the knowledge they create through scientific research, and shall actively participate in mutual quality assurance such as peer reviews in their common fields of expertise.

## *Continuous Professional Development*

TSCF should always strive to achieve the highest possible level of academic excellence, while producing, evaluating and discussing research findings.

In addition to endeavouring to maintain and improve their own expertise, abilities and skills, TSCF members shall constantly strive to understand the relationships between science, technology, society and the natural environment along the lines of the TISR model, and to demonstrate the best judgments and attitudes at all times.

## *Peer Reviews*

TSCF shall create an intellectual environment suitable for frank exchanges of opinions and for the operation of peer reviews. For that purpose, TSCF shall continuously strive to secure freedom of judgement, impartiality, and transparency.

Reflection should be conducted on the limits and imperfections of peer reviews as an instrument of scientific evaluation, and improvements should be brought to the evaluation methodology.

## *Team work*

Organization work, cooperation and mutual exchanges within TSCF are necessary to achieve its ends. TSCF members are expected to take part in discussions on their work as well as on the work of other TSCF members and to take responsibilities within the organization.

The principles of openness, criticism and respect for diversity in scientific perspectives shall be followed by TSCF members in their common work.

TSCF members shall act with a view to maintaining and enhancing the image and the integrity of the organization.

## *Relations with Others*

TSCF members shall constructively criticize the results or opinions of other TSCF members, listen to the criticism of others, and exchange opinions with tolerance and assertiveness.

Moreover, they shall properly give credit to other TSCF members' findings and achievements, as well as respecting the persons and the intellectual property rights of others.

This should apply also to the relationships between TSCF and authors or conference participants. A fair and transparent evaluation procedure shall be applied to authors.

### *Independence*

Community activities must often rely on private or government funding, and thus depend to a certain extent on sponsorship. Sponsors, be they private or governmental, may be interested in a specific outcome of research.

Sponsors, both private and governmental, may be interested in funding research and dissemination for the sake of their own socio-political aims. Whether or not they share such aims, TSCF shall not become subordinate to them. It shall also refrain from cooperating in the fulfilment of goals that would be directly or indirectly contradictory with the development of an inclusive global community.

Yet, TSCF shall not accept grants or contracts which specify conditions inconsistent with its scientific judgment of what are appropriate means of carrying out the research and dissemination in question, or which permit the sponsors to veto or delay academic publication because they dislike the findings.

In a situation where TSCF is bidding competitively on projects, it shall not agree to carry on research and dissemination projects which are not sufficiently funded or compete with other bidders by the use of further unfair tactics not consistent with appropriate scientific standards.

### *Gathering of data*

The security, anonymity and privacy of research subjects and informants shall be respected rigorously.

The sources of personal information shall be kept confidential, unless the informants have asked or agreed to be cited. Shall informants be easily identifiable, researchers shall remind them explicitly of the consequences that may follow from the publication of the research data and outcomes.

TSCF members who are being given access to records are expected to be aware and respect the privacy conditions under which the data were collected.

The consent of research subjects and informants shall be obtained in advance. Covert research shall be avoided in principle, unless it is the only method by which information can be gathered, and/or when access to the usual sources of information is obstructed by those in power. If covert research is the only option, the researcher must refrain from any action that may harm informants in any way.

## *Intellectual property*

The contribution of scholars, sponsors, technicians or other collaborators who have made a substantial contribution in carrying out a research and project shall be acknowledged explicitly in any subsequent publication.

Databases shall not be regarded as being in the public domain, until the researchers who have assembled them have specified the sources of their data and the methods by which they were constructed. Information about sources and methods shall be made available within reasonable time. Interim data sets shall be available for inspection of their accuracy by other scholars.

Once published, information about a research and project shall be considered to be part of the common knowledge and background of the scientific community. Therefore, it is open to comments and criticism of other researchers.

Data gathered in socioeconomic research constitute the intellectual property of the researchers, who are in principle also entitled to copyright. Shall copyright be vested in a sponsor or employer, researchers shall be entitled to fair compensation. In principle, researchers have a right to submit their work for publication, or to publish it at their own expense. Contributions submitted to TISR shall become once published by TISR intellectual property of TSCF.

## *Use of data*

TSCF members shall act with integrity according to the spirit of this Code of Conduct in drafting, planning, applying for, implementing and reporting their own research, ensure that survey data are recorded, stored and rigorously handled, and not only refrain themselves from any misconduct such as fabrication, falsification or plagiarism, but also refrain from aiding or abetting such misconduct.

TSCF members shall respect the dignity and rights of individuals who cooperate with their research, and shall safeguard and give proper consideration to their welfare.

They shall also treat animals and other research subjects with all due care and respect.

## *Avoiding Conflicts of Interest*

In their research, reviews, evaluations, judgments and other activities, TSCF members shall pay sufficient heed to the presence of conflicts of interest

between individuals and organizations, or between different organizations, and shall properly address problems paying all due attention to the governmental interest.

### *Dealing with Misconduct*

To deal with possible misconduct such as fabrication, falsification or plagiarism, a proper channel shall be set up for consultation on suspected misconduct. At the same time, particular attention shall be paid to the importance of ascertaining whether the suspicion is false. All due consideration shall be made to ensure that anyone reporting misconduct shall not suffer disadvantage as a result thereof.