

Empathy as a procedural value for radiation protection

Friedo Zölzer

University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice

Czech Republic

Principles of Biomedical Ethics

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Non-Maleficence
Beneficence
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These have also been used as a point of departure in other fields, such as *long-term management of contaminated areas* (Oughton et al., 2003), *firefighting* (Sandin, 2009), or *public health* (Schröder-Bäck et al., 2014).

Ethical values underlying the system of radiological protection

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Beneficence / Non-maleficence

Prudence

Justice

Dignity

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How are all these values related? Is anything missing in the system?

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Respect for autonomy	
Non-maleficence	
Beneficence	
Justice	

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Non-maleficence	Precaution
Beneficence	
Justice	

PRINCIPLES OF BIOMEDICAL ETHICS	RELATED GENERAL PRINCIPLES
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Beneficence	Solidarity
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Non-maleficence	Precaution
Beneficence	Solidarity
Justice	Sustainability

Core ethical values according to ICRP 138

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Respect for autonomy	Dignity
Non-maleficence	Prudence
Beneficence	
Justice	Sustainability

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Procedural ethical values according to ICRP 138

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Respect for autonomy	Dignity	Inclusiveness
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Beneficence	Solidarity	Empathy
Justice	Sustainability	Transparency

What is empathy?

Merriam Webster Dictionary:

Empathy is the action of understanding, being aware of, being sensitive to the feelings, thoughts, and experience of another without having the feelings, thoughts, and experience fully communicated in an objectively explicit manner; also: the capacity for this.

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Barack Obama:

Empathy is a quality of character that can change the world - one that makes you understand that your obligations to others extend beyond people who look like you and act like you and live in your neighborhood.

Where does the term come from?

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The British-American psychologist Edward B. Titchener (1909) first used the word *empathy* in order to translate *Einfühlung* in the works of Theodor Lipps. Alix and James Strachey, British psychoanalysts, did the same when they translated works of Sigmund Freud into English in the 1920s.

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While some people may be naturally better at being empathic, says Mohammadreza Hojat, a research professor of psychiatry at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, empathy can be taught. “Empathy is a cognitive attribute, not a personality trait,” says Hojat, who proposed the Jefferson Scale of Empathy, a tool used by researchers to measure it.

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Helen Riess, the director of the empathy and relational science program at Massachusetts General Hospital, developed a novel empathy training program. It was tested in an initial pilot study with evidence of significant improvement in physician empathy. A later randomized controlled trial demonstrated significant increase in patient ratings of physician empathy.

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Compassion is then described as "caring about how others feel."

Is empathy/compassion a cross-cultural concept?

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“Never criticise a man until you've walked a mile in his moccasins.” (American Indian Proverb)

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The accumulated material may include photos and handwritten notes from users, as well as storytelling, personas, mock-ups, visualisations, and storyboards. (Neysan Zölzer, *Beyond Pragmatic Reductionism: Towards Empathy-Driven Refugee Camp Design*, 2014)

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Assessment of the situation	- empathy

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People's concerns, their needs and wishes need to be taken seriously, even if they are considered unfounded or exaggerated. Otherwise, our understanding of beneficence would be oddly limited.

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