**IP and Research Ethics Working Group**

**Who We Are**

- **Dr. Sonya Atalay**, Indiana University: 
  A philosophy of science teacher and an ethnohistorian, Dr. Atalay researches the ethics of community-based participatory research and the relationship of Indigenous ethics to legal, political, and cultural issues. 

- **Alison Wylie**, University of Victoria: 
  An ethnohistorian with expertise in material culture, Dr. Wylie researches the ethics of traditional knowledge and Indigenous rights in the context of archaeology.

- **Sonya Atalay**, Indiana University: 
  A cultural anthropologist with a focus on Indigenous rights and intellectual property, Dr. Atalay studies the ethics of archaeological practice and Indigenous rights.

**Activities and Outputs**

**Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and Understanding (MOU)**

- **What is a MOA?**
  A document describing the terms of a cooperative agreement between two or more parties, as well as the goals of the cooperation. A MOA typically marks the beginning of a collaborative project, and is an opportunity for stakeholders to outline their visions, conduct debates, and resolve issues.

- **Why Craft a MOA for a Cultural Heritage Project?**
  All cultural heritage projects, whether they are education, research, or advocacy focused, include multiple stakeholders exchanging resources, such as time and knowledge. Crafting a MOA will promote exchanges that are fair, equitable, and culturally appropriate to all parties involved.

- **Where to Begin**
  The process of crafting, reviewing, and executing a MOA, the signal document for a collaborative project, leads to relationship building and successful collaborations. Partners involved in a collaborative project must meet, preferably face-to-face, to work together on a MOA outline. Once a community has created a Cultural Heritage MOA, it can be used as a template for future projects involving cultural resource, to be customized as needed for each project or to address different concerns.

**A Simple MOA Outline**

1. **Purpose and Background - A History of the Relationship**
2. **Definition of Terms and Parties - Who is Included?**
3. **Statement of Mutual Benefits and Potential Harms**
4. **Agreed Upon Anticipations and Responsibilities**
5. **Conditions and Termination of the MOA**
6. **Timeline for Action and Future Meetings**
7. **Signatures**

**Codes and Principles of Research Ethics**

- We collected and published to the IP in CH Knowledge Base over 70 professional codes of ethics or similar documents.
- Disciplines represented include: archaeology, anthropology, ethnobotany, history, folklore, archivists, sociology, and tourism.
- The codes reflect the visions of their authors, the times of authorship, and the degree to which various disciplines have considered Indigenous rights or collaborative research in their work.

- There are many shared values and ethics between professional codes and statements on Indigenous rights (e.g. UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007). These values and ethics influence and determine collaborative practices.

**What’s Next?**

**CRI Consultation**

A primary mission of the IP and Research Ethics Working Group has always been to build a set of useful resources for archaeologists and Indigenous peoples who grapple with IP ethics issues, with a focus on the special demands and rewards of collaborative research practice. We hope to distill from the gained wisdom of IP in CH Community-Based Initiatives (CBI) the ethical issues that arise during these projects and the ways these issues were dealt with.

Consulting with CBI participants will help our Working Group determine where effective ethical guidance is available and recognize the ethical dilemmas that arise during collaborative projects.

**Contact Us!**

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