

Can ethics be codified?

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Can ethics be codified? There are two ways to respond to that. The first is the easy way which is part of the conventions for example of British broadcasting which is that there'd be a prepared consent form which outlines the project and you would make sure that the contributor has signed that and you've got evidence of that happening in the case of *Justine* in the film that happened anyway we made sure that her parents, guardians had signed that and were happy but the conversation only starts to become interesting at the point that the consent form is signed. Say for many practitioners the moment you've got the consent form signed on the dotted line you're done you're legally covered. In most cases what I'm arguing is that yes that's fine to have that legal framework, but it starts getting much more interesting when we push the question about what the person is consenting to and stay close to that question. So it's not that the signing of the form is the end of the matter but the relationship must take over, so even though you might have signed a form there might be moments when you decide you want it to be otherwise to be different to be explored in a different way and that's very important in work which has a collaborative dimension.