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Ethics in Linguistics

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Discussion Research ID	DPR-2026-1320
Year	2022
Field	Social Sciences
DOI	10.1146/annurev-linguistics-031120-015324
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Licence	CC-BY
Original source	Annual Review of Linguistics
Permanent link	https://discussionpublishers.com/research/dad3f130-7484-42af-a9bc-5a01bded400e
Publisher	Discussion Publishers discussionpublishers.com

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Cite as: Alexandra DArcy, Emily M. Bender (2022). Ethics in Linguistics. Discussion Publishers, DPR-2026-1320.

Abstract

In linguistics, ethics has long encompassed matters typically covered under regulatory oversight, but it is increasingly understood as relational and reciprocal, conferring responsibilities and obligations that extend beyond the work produced for other researchers. Those who study language are also coming to interrogate their professional responsibilities not only in how research is done but also in how research is conceived, framed, reported, discussed, and taught, as part of larger discussions around decolonization, intersectionality, and social justice. In this article, we review existing literature on ethics in linguistics, both as it relates to research and as it relates to broader practices, which we then situate within ongoing conversations across subfields. The overarching frame for our discussion is that ethical practice and scientific validity are aligned, and that dismantling dominant discourses and normative practices will serve to advance the work linguists do in meaningful ways.

Keywords: research ethics, professional responsibility, decolonization, intersectionality, social justice, eth

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