What constitutes "good" SIMM research?

The ethics of studying Social Action through Music

Geoff Baker

Royal Holloway, University of London

Agrigento Music

- Jason Bantjes and Leslie Swartz, "When Ethical Procedures Can't Do the Job: Ethical Dilemmas of Undertaking Critical Organisational Ethnographies in Social and Health Research," *Palgrave Handbook of Ethics in Critical Research*

- Do no harm

- Accurate representation

- Exposing injustices, disrupting harmful practices

- Critical researchers "may have social and political advocacy responsibilities that extend beyond the individual rights of research participants. Social science researchers, as agents of social change, have a moral responsibility to explore, describe, and theorise about the nature and function of organisations. This is a responsibility that may entail exposing practices and injustices for a greater social good that extends beyond the narrow self-interests of the institutions being studied."

- "By their nature, public institutions belong to society and hence to everyone."

- Jacqueline Marx and Gareth J. Treharne, "Introduction: Researching 'Down', 'Up', and 'Alongside,'" *Palgrave Handbook of Ethics in Critical Research*

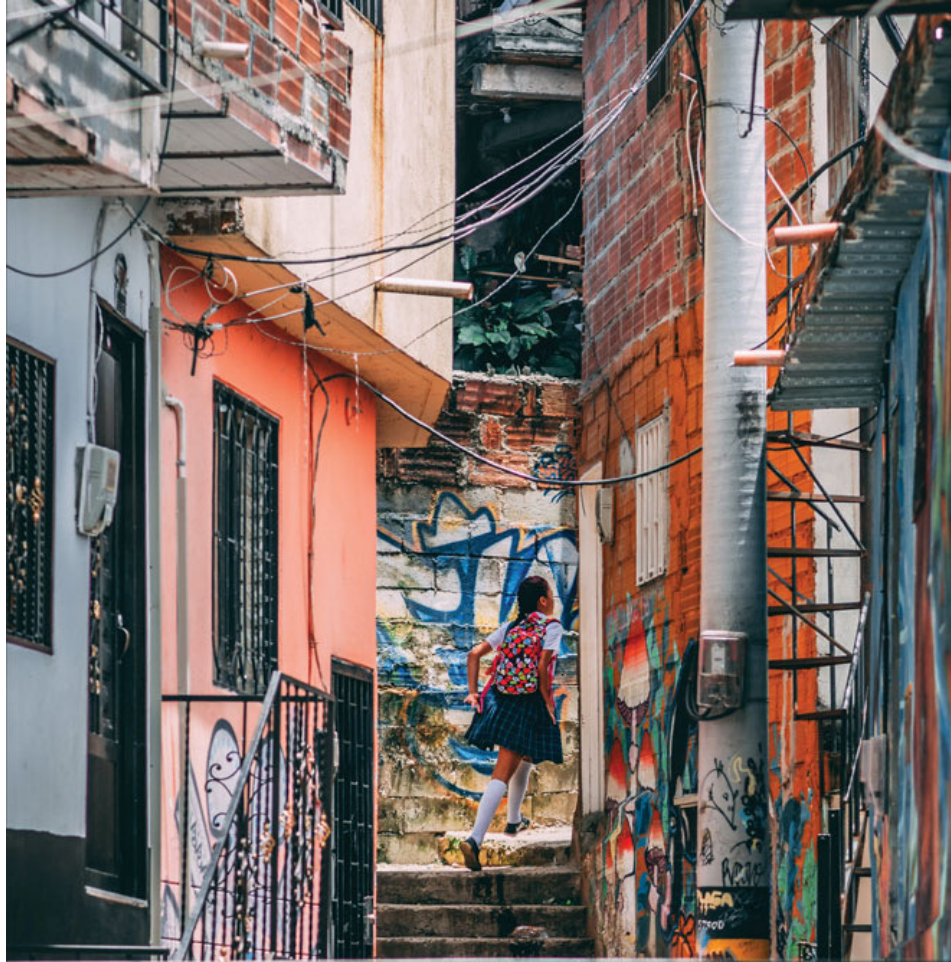Authorities   *Hold to account*

Researcher   Peers   *Collaborate*

Children/youths   *Protect*

Geoffrey Baker

The Search for Coexistence and
Citizenship in Medellín's Music Schools

Rethinking Social Action Through Music

- Bantjes & Swartz: "For a long time senior clergy had actively prevented the public disclosure of cases of sexual abuse because of personal investment, whereas many ordinary members of the church had strong feelings that the stories of abuse needed to be told."

EL SISTEMA
ORCHESTRATING VENEZUELA'S YOUTH

Geoffrey Baker

Washington Post, 2021

- Julie Allan (2010), "Arts and the inclusive imagination: Socially engaged arts practices and Sistema Scotland*,*" *Journal of Social Inclusion*

- Julie Allan et al. (2010), "Knowledge Exchange with Sistema Scotland," *Journal of Education Policy*

- Erik Olin Wright: "first, to elaborate a systematic diagnosis and critique of the world as it exists; second, to envision viable alternatives; and third, to understand the obstacles, possibilities and dilemmas of transformation."

- Morwenna Griffiths, educational research for social justice "is not necessarily research *about* education or its processes. Rather, it is research which has an *effect on* education."

- Randall Allsup and Eric Shieh: "the moral imperative to care [...] the imperative to perceive and act, and not look away."

SIMM research as a moral project, with goals of emancipation and social justice

"But I wonder why they waited so long. This isn't new. I just presented my testimonial, but in 2014 Geoff Baker published a book where he described the structures at El Sistema that allow the abuse, and concrete cases he collected in his interviews. Baker's book was read, in Venezuela and abroad, as an attack against El Sistema. But at that moment I was being abused in the institution. If they would have taken action then, I would have been protected, as well as other people."

("Lisa" in "A History of Sexual Abuse in Venezuela's Lauded Youth Orchestra System," *Caracas Chronicles*, 1 July 2021)

Research ethics as a process involving a network of actors and a web of responsibilities and consequent actions