

CODE OF ETHICS OF THE CZECH ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Prague 2014



INTRODUCTION

The Czech Ethnological Society is an independent and voluntary non-governmental organization associating researchers, academics, teachers and experts in ethnology, students of ethnology and people from other related disciplines with general interest in ethnology. The main purpose of the organisation is to support and facilitate development of ethnology through application, promotion and popularisation of its scientific results.

The Czech Ethnological Society (hereinafter as CES) covers and supports its members' activities that are related to ethnology. This includes mainly scientific (theoretical and research) work, publishing, documentation and presentation (i.e. in museum institutions), facilitation of expert reviews and statements, promotion and popularisation of ethnological results (including folklorism) and education of future ethnologists. CES also organises polls, surveys and competitions rating scientific, research, collector, lecturing, exhibition and publishing activities, and contributes to the enhancement of its members' expertise through seminars, conferences and lectures.

All these activities are reflected in the Code of Ethics of the Czech Ethnological Society, which issues from the structure of key Czech and foreign ethnological, folkloristic, anthropological, and museological ethical codes that are modified for the purposes of CES.

The Code of Ethics of the Czech Ethnological Society formulates the basic principles for defining professional responsibility of ethnologists concerning the discipline of ethnology, studied people (subjects of research – respondents, informants, narrators), collected data of tangible and intangible character, initiators and sponsors of research, colleagues and co-workers, students and volunteers (including correspondents to CES), broad public, and the entire society.

This Code of Ethics relates mainly to the areas of scientific research, publishing of data and scientific results, archiving and care for data, applied ethnology, publicity in the media, promotion, and teaching of ethnology.

1. VÝZKUM

During field, archival, and museum ethnological research the CES members are advised to:

1.1 concerning the discipline of ethnology

- perform these research activities on the highest level of expertise in the spirit of critical research to broaden the existing scientific knowledge, to maintain the elementary principles of scientific work in heuristics and epistemology,
- properly consider the topics of research projects and thoroughly prepare these projects by studying all relevant primary and secondary sources,
- use relevant research methods and techniques, top technical equipment and research facilities,
- keep relevant research records allowing a verification of the research if needed,
- refrain from taking part in illegal or ethically disputable research projects;

1.2 concerning the studied people and groups

- protect, under all circumstances, the dignity and rights of the research subjects,
- comprehensively inform the research subjects of the aims, purposes, and methods of research,
- consider ethical impacts of relationships with subjects exceeding the scope of research,
- perform transparent research and minimise covert research, which can be done only in cases free of ethical issues,
- seek informed consent of the subjects with the research being carried out and with their involvement in it,
- not to abuse the position of a researcher against the research subjects or to consciously manipulate the research subjects, which also relates to engaged research;

1.3 concerning the collected tangible and intangible data

- collect data only under the application of strict ethical conditions stated above,
- not to interfere with the character, quantity and quality of the sourced data;

1.4 concerning the subjects commissioning research

- clearly define mutual relationships and obligations towards the subjects commissioning research prior to its beginning,
- prepare the research with fiscal responsibility and transparent budget, and to apply the usual pricing and remuneration methods to prepare only feasible research matching the capabilities of the researchers and the commissioning institutions,
- expressly state the information regarding the commissioning subjects throughout research,
- present all relevant collected data to the institution for whom it was sourced;

1.5 concerning colleagues, co-workers, volunteers and students

- respect the principles of team work, proper collaboration, clear and fair definition of roles in the research,
- not to favour or penalise members of the research team, volunteers and students upon categories such as age, gender, belief or political opinion,
- respect opinions of colleagues, students and volunteers during research activities;

1.6 concerning the public

- carry out research for the benefit of the whole society and with respect to social responsibility.

2. PUBLISHING

During expert publishing activities, members of CES are advised to:

2.1 concerning the discipline of ethnology

- publish in the spirit of critical research with the aim to broaden existing scientific knowledge,
- publish only data and results of research on the highest professional level,
- publish only texts demonstrating sufficient expert knowledge of the given topic,
- adhere to the rules of scientific publishing including explicit referencing of relevant published literature, adhere to correct citation usage and standards, observe the plagiarism ban,
- avoid purpose-designed publishing, e.g. artificial breaking of texts into several parts;

2.2 concerning the studied people and groups

- strive for receiving explicit consent of the research subjects with the publishing of the research results,
- consider facts with potential negative consequences for the research subjects, and mitigate these consequences e.g. by preserving anonymity,
- inform research subjects, if possible, about the published research results and allow them to access these results in the future,
- maximally emphasize the participation of the research subjects on the overall result published, stating their names if a consent is obtained;

2.3 concerning the collected tangible and intangible data

- publish only data sourced under the application of strict ethical standards stated above,
- publish only holistically processed and non-forged data and results of their analysis,
- publish only relevant sourced data;

2.4 concerning the subjects commissioning research

- clearly state the relations and obligations towards the subject commissioning research in the publication, including information about the commissioning subject,
- list acknowledgements for help to the subject commissioning research,
- publish primarily in media recommended by subjects commissioning research;

2.5 concerning colleagues, co-workers, volunteers and students

- clearly state names of all co-workers, volunteers and students in the publication in the order of their participation in the published results, clearly stating their roles in the research, in case of their equal participation state their names in an alphabetical order,
- express thanks for help and assistance to participating colleagues, students, volunteers and collaborating institutions,
- respect the opinions of colleagues, students and volunteers throughout publishing,
- not to state one's name on published results in which they did not participate as researchers;

2.6 concerning the public

- publish with regards to social responsibility, and in such a way that ensures the publishing results are available to the whole society.

3. ARCHIVING AND CARE FOR RESEARCH RESULTS

During archiving and caring for archived materials, museum collections and other research results in public and private archives, museums and collections, the CES members are advised to:

3.1 concerning the discipline of ethnology

- archive and care primarily for data broadening the existing scientific knowledge,
- archive and care primarily for data processed on the highest possible level of expertise;

3.2 concerning the studied people and groups

- use only transparent tools, ideally of contractual character, to source data for archiving,
- strive to meet the wishes of research subjects relating e.g. to their anonymity or ensuring access to data during their archiving and caring for them,
- inform the research subjects about the location, accessibility and method of preservation and caring for the data, and ensure their accessibility in the future,
- emphasize the degree of participation of research subjects in the sourced archived data, stating their names if consent is obtained,

3.3 concerning the collected tangible and intangible data

- properly and responsibly store and care for collected data,
- use the latest relevant professional approaches, methods, techniques and technical equipment in caring for data,
- execute all available measures to prevent abuse of archived data,
- execute all available measures to prevent damage, loss, repurchase or theft of the archived data;

3.4 concerning the subjects commissioning research

- ensure good information linking between the archived data and the commissioning subject,
- archive data primarily in institutions recommended by the commissioning subjects;

3.5 concerning colleagues, co-workers, volunteers and students

- ensure all available measures to make the archived data available to the broadest research public,
- clearly state names of all co-workers, volunteers and students during archiving in the order of their participation in the sourcing of the data, in case of their equal participation state their names in an alphabetical order,
- express thanks for help and assistance to participating colleagues, students, volunteers and collaborating institutions during archiving,
- respect opinions of colleagues, students and volunteers during archiving and collecting activities,
- not to state one's name on archived data in the sourcing of which they did not participate;

3.6 concerning the public

- take proper care of the archived data with respect to social responsibility,
- make the archived data available to the whole society and ensure their preservation for future generations.

4. APPLIED ETHNOLOGY

During the preparation of exhibitions, displays, presentations, folklore performances, programmes and shows, during the presentation and reconstruction of artefacts, techniques and activities including their artistic rendering, and while practising experimental and engaged ethnology, the CES members are advised to:

4.1 concerning the discipline of ethnology

- apply primarily data sourced with the aim to broaden the existing scientific knowledge,
- apply only data and results of research processed to the highest professional level,
- apply only data demonstrating sufficient expert knowledge of the given topic,
- present the applied data with adherence to the highest standards of artistic presentation and related presentation skills,
- avoid such application of ethnological data that would be designed solely to generate profit;

4.2 concerning the studied people and groups

- use only transparent tools, ideally of contractual character, to apply data,
- strive to meet the wishes of research subjects relating e.g. to their anonymity or data availability during application,
- consider facts that could lead to negative consequences for the research subjects during application, and mitigate these consequences e.g. by preserving anonymity,
- inform the research subjects about the method, place and time of the data application,
- emphasize the degree of participation of research subjects in the applied data, stating their names if consent is obtained;

4.3 concerning the collected tangible and intangible data

- apply the data properly and responsibly,
- use the latest relevant professional approaches, methods, techniques and technical equipment for the application of the data,
- execute all available measures to prevent abuse of applied data,
- execute all available measures to prevent damage, loss, repurchase or theft of applied data;

4.4 concerning the subjects commissioning research

- ensure good information link between the applied data and the commissioning subjects,
- present applied data primarily in institutions recommended by the commissioning subjects;

4.5 concerning colleagues, co-workers, volunteers and students

- perform external consultancy and evaluation when assessing expert and applied ethnological texts and projects with utmost responsibility, objectivity and impartiality, avoid potential conflicts of interests and evaluation of non-expert and irrelevant projects,
- clearly state the names of all co-workers, volunteers and students during application of the data in the order of their participation in the sourcing and application of the data, in case of their equal participation state their names in an alphabetical order,
- express thanks for help and assistance to participating colleagues, students, volunteers and collaborating institutions during application of the data,
- respect opinions of colleagues, students and volunteers during application of ethnological data,
- not to state one's name on applied data in the sourcing of which they did not participate;

4.6 concerning the public

- apply the data with respect to social responsibility and in such a way that ensures their maximum possible availability and benefit to the broadest public, without resignation to the expertise of their processing.

5. PUBLICITY, PROMOTION AND EDUCATION IN ETHNOLOGY

During presentations in mass media, presenting ethnological findings in public space, for instance through interviews, lectures, talks and while presenting discussions, and during teaching at schools of all levels, the CES members are advised to:

5.1 concerning the discipline of ethnology

- present primarily data sourced with the aim to broaden the existing scientific knowledge,
- present only data and results of research processed to the highest level of expertise,
- present only data demonstrating sufficient expert knowledge of the given topic,
- present the applied data with adherence to the highest expert standards including maximum possible use of related professional presentation and teaching skills,
- avoid such presentation of ethnological data that would be designed solely to generate profit;

5.2 concerning the studied people and groups

- use only transparent tools, ideally of contractual character, to present data,
- strive to meet the wishes of research subjects relating e.g. to their anonymity or data availability during presentation,
- consider facts with potential negative consequences for the research subjects during presentation, and mitigate these consequences e.g. by preserving anonymity,
- inform the research subjects about the method, place and time of the data presentation,
- emphasize the degree of participation of research subjects in the presented data, stating their names if consent is obtained;

5.3 concerning the collected tangible and intangible data

- present the data properly and responsibly,
- use relevant professional approaches, methods, techniques and technical equipment for the presentation of the data,
- execute all available measures to prevent abuse of the presented data,

5.4 concerning the subjects commissioning research

- ensure good information link between the presented data and the commissioning subjects,
- present the data primarily in institutions recommended by the commissioning subjects;

5.5 concerning colleagues, co-workers, volunteers and students

- clearly state names of all co-workers, volunteers and students during data presentation in the order of their participation in the sourcing and presentation of the data, in case of their equal participation state their names in an alphabetical order,
- express thanks for help and assistance to participating colleagues, students, volunteers and collaborating institutions during presentation of the data,
- judge the work of students and volunteers only upon their achieved results and expert qualities,
- respect opinions of colleagues, students and volunteers during teaching,
- responsibly present all the sourced information and current level of scientific knowledge including ethical principles of research and scientific work during teaching and presentation activities;

5.6 concerning the public

- present or teach the data with respect to social responsibility and in such a way that ensures their maximum possible availability and benefit to the whole society, without resignation to the expertise of their processing.

SUMMARY

The Code of Ethics of the Czech Ethnological Society provides the CES members with methodological guidelines to individually deal with ethical issues related to fundamental, applied and engaged ethnological research, processing and publishing of data and their archiving, presentation, dissemination of research results through media and teaching of ethnology. These guidelines shall not be understood as definitive and unchangeable, but rather as a collection of instructive policies referring to a broader context of topic and relationship frameworks, which should be considered in terms of professional ethics while practising ethnology.

Besides applying these particular guidelines along with all relevant legislation (e.g. Act No 101/2000 Coll., On Personal Data Protection, Act No 121/2000 Coll. – so-called Copyright Act, the Civil Code, and relevant museum and archiving legislation) upon using specific methods of ethnological research the CES members are advised to observe the ethical codes of relevant related professional organisations (e.g. ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums, Ethical Code of the Czech Association for Oral History, Ethical Codes of the Czech Association for Social Anthropology) as well as institutions under which or for whom the relevant research, data or their application or presentation is performed (e.g. Code of Ethics for Researchers of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic).

The Code of Ethics of the Czech Ethnological Society was approved by the General Assembly of CES in Pilsen on September 16, 2014.

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