

Lecture Notes 1.2: A Brief History of Ethics in Psychological Research

A. Pre-1945: there were few standardized rules on the ethical treatment of experimental subjects

1. Watson's Little Albert experiment (1920s)
2. Lobotomy studies of the criminally insane

B. Post-WWII

1. 1948 - Nuremberg Code established, it's the first attempt to create an international code for the ethical treatment of human subjects. It's biggest outcome is the notion of *informed consent*.
2. 1953 - APA's first code of ethical standards. It allows for deception (not providing informed consent) as long as it doesn't physically or mentally harm the participants, and it doesn't alter their behavior.
3. 1974 - The National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects in Biomedical and Behavioral Research forms boards to review ethics of studies by researchers using federal funds.