

# URUGUAYAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY (AUAS)

## CODE OF ETHICS

### Chapter I. BACKGROUND

Since the founding of the Uruguayan Association of Social and Cultural Anthropology (AUAS) in 2005, the absence of a Code of Ethics to regulate the framework for Social Anthropology activities in Uruguay has been a concern for its members.

In recent years we have enthusiastically seen a greater presence of our career in various areas of national life, which has generated more opportunities for action and intervention, but also the responsibility and the need for a greater and better regulation of the profession.

We agree, therefore, on the importance of having this Code in view of the following principles that had been already established in an earlier draft approved by the Association's General Assembly:

- Role of the Association in the regulation of the profession
- Increased critical mass
- Increased visibility and knowledge of the profession
- Increased professionalism and demand for it
- Increased diversity of spaces of action of anthropologists
- Existence of Codes in other disciplines, with certain quite defined bio-centric lines.

Given this situation, raised in several meetings, we decided to start developing this Code, building upon various prior instances that were considered essential:

1. Approval of a profile of the profession, aimed at a general audience external to the discipline, as an initial communication tool.
2. Discussion forums and committees concerning this issue.
3. The survey of similar documents.
4. Thematic workshops at various events and also during the local congress organized by AUAS.
5. Contacts with other regional associations (Argentina, Chile, Brazil), with which we had been working on this issue at various events.

These prior instances were accomplished, generating the aforementioned first draft, which states three overarching lines of work and approaches: *"I. Ethics of working with Others. Work as people, working with people; II. Ethics of professional training and work. The anthropological scientific community; III. Ethics of interdisciplinary work. Interdisciplinary teams."*

At present, AUAS, being the sole representative of the guild, has agreed on the general criteria that should govern the Social and Cultural Anthropology profession in Uruguay. From now on, these criteria will guide the work of social anthropologists in this location.

In order to monitor compliance, the Uruguayan Association Social and Cultural Anthropology (AUAS) shall establish, within a period not exceeding 30 days, an Ethics Committee to determine the rules of operation, scope and possible sanctions for breach of the rules that compose this Code of Ethics. The Code will apply indistinctly to both members and to professionals who are not members of the Association.

The members of the Committee will be designated by the General Assembly and its functioning shall also be endorsed by the General Assembly.

### Chapter II. ETHICAL CRITERIA FOR PROFESSIONAL WORK

1. **General framework.** All anthropological research should be framed within the general principles of fundamental Human Rights, as understood according to the most comprehensive and updated approach.
2. **Informed consent.** Individuals or groups engaged as respondents or a related status must be adequately informed on the subject of the investigation and freely consent to their participation, including the use of their images.
3. **Guarantee of anonymity.** The anonymity of respondents or individuals in a related status must be guaranteed, except if the particular characteristics of research, and with the respondents' explicit authorization, requires disclosure of their identities.
4. **Confidentiality.** Confidentiality of data must be preserved.
5. **Obtaining data.** Under no circumstances may deception be used to obtain information.
6. **Return of results.** Whenever research permits, the return of the results to the population must be ensured.
7. **Authenticity.** The findings of an investigation may not be distorted in any way.

### **Chapter III. PROFESSIONAL WORK**

In addition to the basic criteria established above, social anthropologists additionally must adhere to all common rules of professional behavior, with regards to:

- a. Respect for research sources and care with how they may be impacted by research or dissemination.
- b. Respect for intellectual property rights and copyrights of the members of the social group and one's own.
- c. Abstention from the dissemination of results before the team or person responsible for the investigation releases them.
- d. Maintain adherence to basic ethical criteria listed in Chapter III, even within interdisciplinary work and regardless of who provides sponsorship or research funding.
- e. Adjust activities to current Uruguayan law.

### **Chapter IV. General Criteria**

Any situation not explicitly mentioned by this Code of Ethics and that may warrant generating an opinion by involving people or events that may be considered at odds with these ethical principles, will be submitted to analysis by the Ethics Committee, which will report the case and its resolution to the General Assembly.

Editors: AUAS Ethics Committee (Virginia Pacheco Prado, Susana Rostagnol, Victoria Evia, Lydia de Souza), designated by the XI General Assembly AUAS on May 26, 2012.