

IRB Review of Oral History and Other Social Science Projects

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POLICY:

- I. The UIC OPRS requires that any research involving humans, including social science studies incorporating historical methodologies, oral history, biographical methodologies, or qualitative interviews, be submitted for a human subjects research determination by the IRB.

[NOTE: For more information about this policy decision, please see the *Investigator Tip Sheet: Rationale for the IRB Review of Oral History and Other Social Science Projects.*]

PROCEDURE:

- I. Investigators wishing to perform oral histories or other social science projects must complete and submit the *Determination of Whether an Activity Represents Human Subjects Research* form to OPRS.
 - A. This process requires 1-2 business days for review and, in almost all cases, is conducted via electronic submission and/or email.
 - B. Submitting work to UIC OPRS for a human subjects research determination also provides written documentation as required by the Graduate College of the IRB's determination as a condition of accepting a thesis or dissertation.
- II. In cases for which historical research is determined by OPRS not to represent human subjects research, graduate students are still expected to exhibit scrupulous adherence to professional ethics; specifically when publishing work that derives wholly or in part from oral interviews. Graduate students involved in oral history should follow the [Principles and Standards of the Oral History Association](#) in the preparation of their published research, such as a dissertation, article, public lecture, or conference presentation. Particular attention should be given to the need for voluntary, written release forms indicating the use and potential storage of any material derived from oral history interviews.

REFERENCES:

For more human subject protection information and resources regarding history, oral history, biography, and qualitative interviews, please see the following sites (UIC OPRS has drawn on these sites in the development of this policy):

[New York University, The University Committee on Activities Involving Human Subjects, Clarification on Oral History](#)