

A mirror on ethics training: Reflections from an early career psychologist

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ELC 2010

Tell us the truth – how
are we doing in regards
to ethics training?





$N \neq 1$, but this
isn't scientific.
It's personal.

6 stories...

#1: The Prime Directive



My origin story.



“You played a lot of Nintendo and rode your bike around the neighborhood, but that was about it. Other kids dreamed of becoming a superhero, the president, or an explorer. I was worried that you didn’t have any dreams. Your brother didn’t think you were going to graduate high school.”

- My Dad

A CALIFORNIA
DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL 1996

PROSPECT HIGH SCHOOL



Est. 1968

C.U.H.S.D.

HOME OF THE PANTHERS





DeAnza College

EAST ENTRANCE

DO NOT
ENTER



A photograph of a brick wall with a white rectangular sign mounted on it. The sign features the letters 'UCLA' in a gold-colored, three-dimensional serif font. The wall is made of red bricks with light-colored mortar. Above the wall, there are green pine branches. To the left, a stone balustrade is partially visible. The scene is brightly lit, casting shadows from the sign and the branches onto the wall.

UCLA



THE
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
of AMERICA
founded 1863



No one made me think twice
about psychology!

- Accreditation
- Tuition, loans, & debt
- Internship crisis
- Tenure track positions
- Doctorate versus Masters degree

GETTING IN

A STEP-BY-STEP PLAN FOR GAINING
ADMISSION TO GRADUATE SCHOOL
IN PSYCHOLOGY



Ψ

GRADUATE STUDY IN PSYCHOLOGY

2014

American
Psychological
Association

2004/2005
EDITION

Now includes
profiles on
298 programs



HOW TO:

DEVELOP YOUR
QUALIFICATIONS

CHOOSE THE
RIGHT PROGRAM

PREPARE
AN EFFECTIVE
APPLICATION

MASTER THE
INTERVIEW

MAKE A FINAL
DECISION

Insider's Guide to Graduate Programs in Clinical and Counseling Psychology

REVISED &
UPDATED!

MICHAEL A. SAYETTE
TRACY J. MAYNE
JOHN C. NORCROSS



The Prime Directive



Psychology's prime directive is
informed consent (3.10)

7.02 Descriptions of Education and Training Programs

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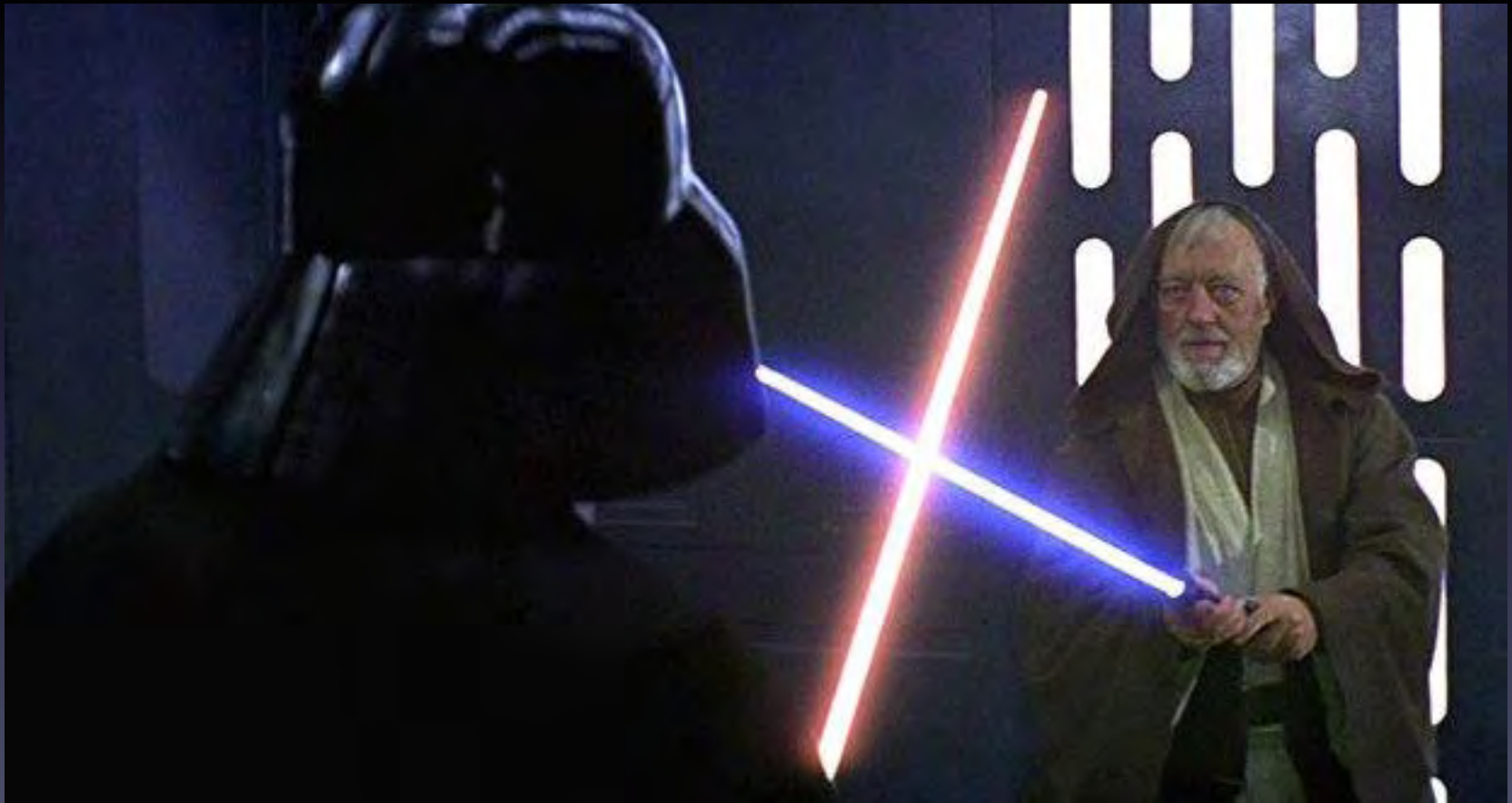
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THE
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
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founded 1863



#2: “Always two there are – a master and an apprentice.”





THE
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“Prime Directive”

Last August I began my practicum training in psychotherapy and since then I've questioned whether or not I should continue this blog. Unfortunately, I've come to the conclusion that keeping a public blog like this is not in the best interests of my patients. I'll be shutting this site down soon and hopefully will continue the stories elsewhere.

Thanks for all of your support over the years.

Goodnight and good luck.

POSTED BY ALI ON 02-04-07 @ 12:55 AM 2 COMMENTS [EDIT](#)

“This is for your protection...”

Mostafa Tabatabaiejad, a student at UCLA, was repeatedly stunned (links: [Daily Bruin](#), [LA Times](#)) with a Taser gun five times when he did not show his student identification card at the UCLA Powell library Tuesday night.

UCLA lab officials were conducting a random check of student identification cards in the library's computer lab. Mostafa did not have his card on him and was asked to leave. When he refused to leave, UCLA police were informed. When Mostafa finally began to leave the lab, he was stopped by police who resorted to the use of a Taser gun. Mostafa was repeatedly shocked, even when handcuffed. Several students asked the police officers to stop and asked them for their names and badge numbers and names. The police responded by threatening to stun other students with the Taser gun.

There is absolutely no excuse for the behavior of the UCLA police in this situation. It was abusive, unjustified, and potentially racially motivated.

I am utterly disgusted and ashamed that this occurred at my alma mater. I wouldn't have thought much of it if this had occurred in East LA, South



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LATEST PHOTO



RANDOM PHOTO



“You’re going to have to
stop blogging, turn off
Face Book, and focus on
your classes.”

“This is interesting - I don't have much experience with social media but we can figure this out together.”

BRAIN KNOWS BETTER

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The Psychology of Science Fiction



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My name is Ali Mattu. I have a Ph.D. in clinical psychology. I hope this website will help you develop a love for the brain and behavioral sciences, just like Star Trek did for me.

The Psychology of Spock: Past, Present, and Future

July 18, 2013

I recently caught up with a Trekkie friend of mine. He's a psychiatrist and I'm a psychologist, so of course we did a deep dive into the psyche of the latest film — *Star Trek Into Darkness*. Our conversation kept coming back to Spock.

"He's the most important character in the Star Trek universe," Dr. T said. "Spock has wielded more influence on the alpha quadrant than anyone else."

I never thought about Spock like that before, but Dr. T was right—he is the only character who's made an appearance in every era of Star Trek including *The Original Series*, *The Next Generation*, and J.J. Abrams's new parallel universe.

"Why is Spock such an enduring character?" I asked. "What makes him so unique?"

Dr. T and I spent the rest of the night trying to understand Spock. After a small detour debating who would win



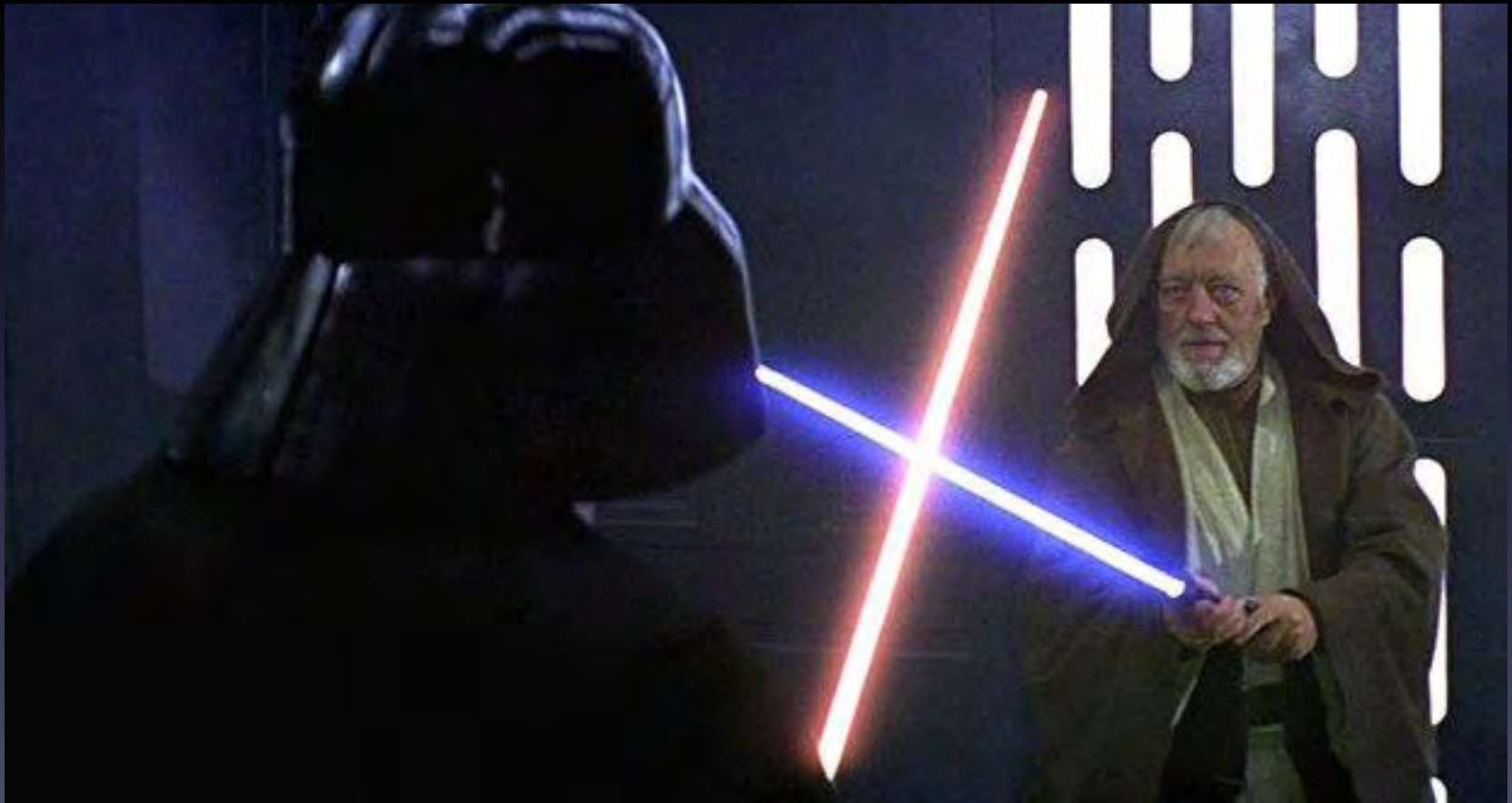
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Highlights:



“Always two there are – a master and an apprentice.”



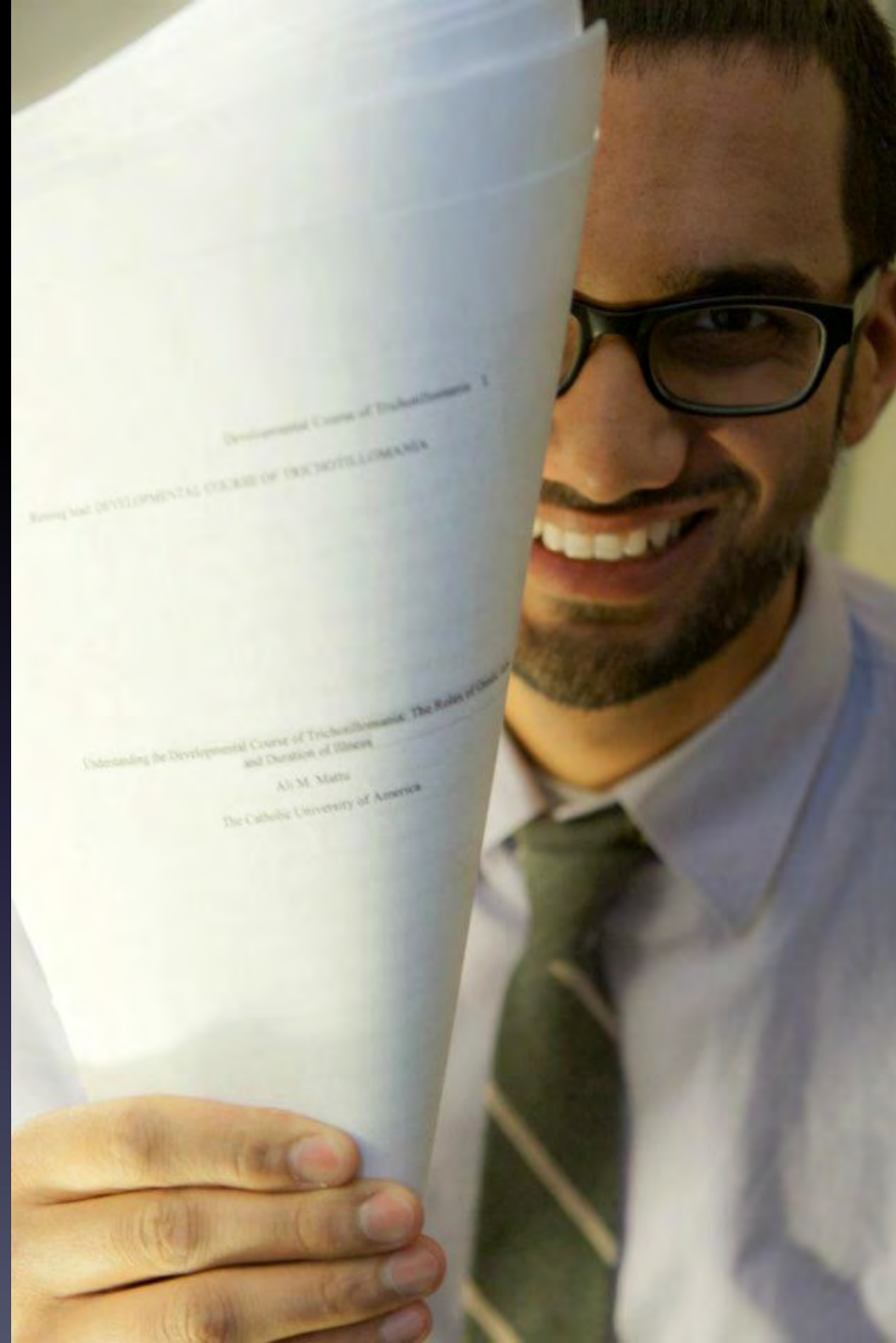
2.01 Boundaries of Competence (professional, clinical, research)

Goodyear, Crego, Johnston (1992)

Bidirectional Mentorship

#3: “With great power comes great responsibility.”





Developmental Course of Trichotillomania

Understanding the Developmental Course of Trichotillomania: The Role of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder

Ally M. Marte

The Catholic University of America



Mattu et al.

“With great power comes
great responsibility.”



8.12 Publication Credit

“Talk about publication and
authorship...”

Costa & Gatz (1992)

#4: "I don't go looking for trouble. Trouble usually finds me."



Characteristics of basic social units



Because of our unique position as trainees, we discover a lot of ethically dubious situations...



PERCOLATOR

Research that matters.

PREVIOUS

[← Gender Gap in Economics Raises Questions About Objectivity](#)

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[Building the Perfect Journal →](#)

Former Harvard Psychologist Fabricated and Falsified, Report Says

September 5, 2012, 3:55 pm

By *Tom Bartlett*



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Marc Hauser was once among the big, impressive names in psychology, head of the Cognitive Evolution Laboratory at Harvard University, author of popular books like *Moral*

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Paul Basken

“You beat the data up until it
confesses.”



BELLEVUE HOSPITAL

- Plagiarism
- Falsifying data
- Confidentiality
- Multiple relationships

“I don’t go looking for trouble.
Trouble usually finds me.”



We are trained to consult and document in the face of ethical conflicts, but what do you do if the ethical conflict involves your professor, supervisor, mentor?



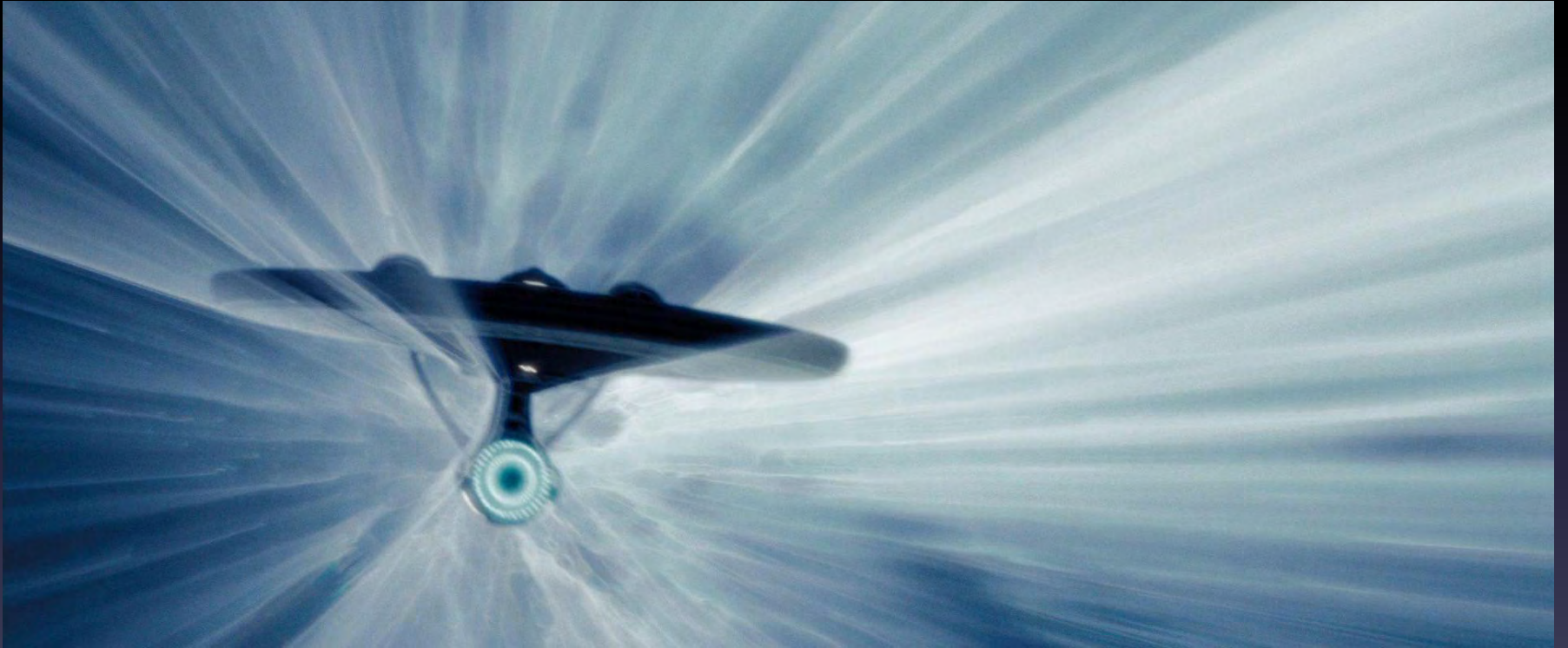
1.04 Informal Resolution of Ethical Violations

1.05 Reporting Ethical Violations

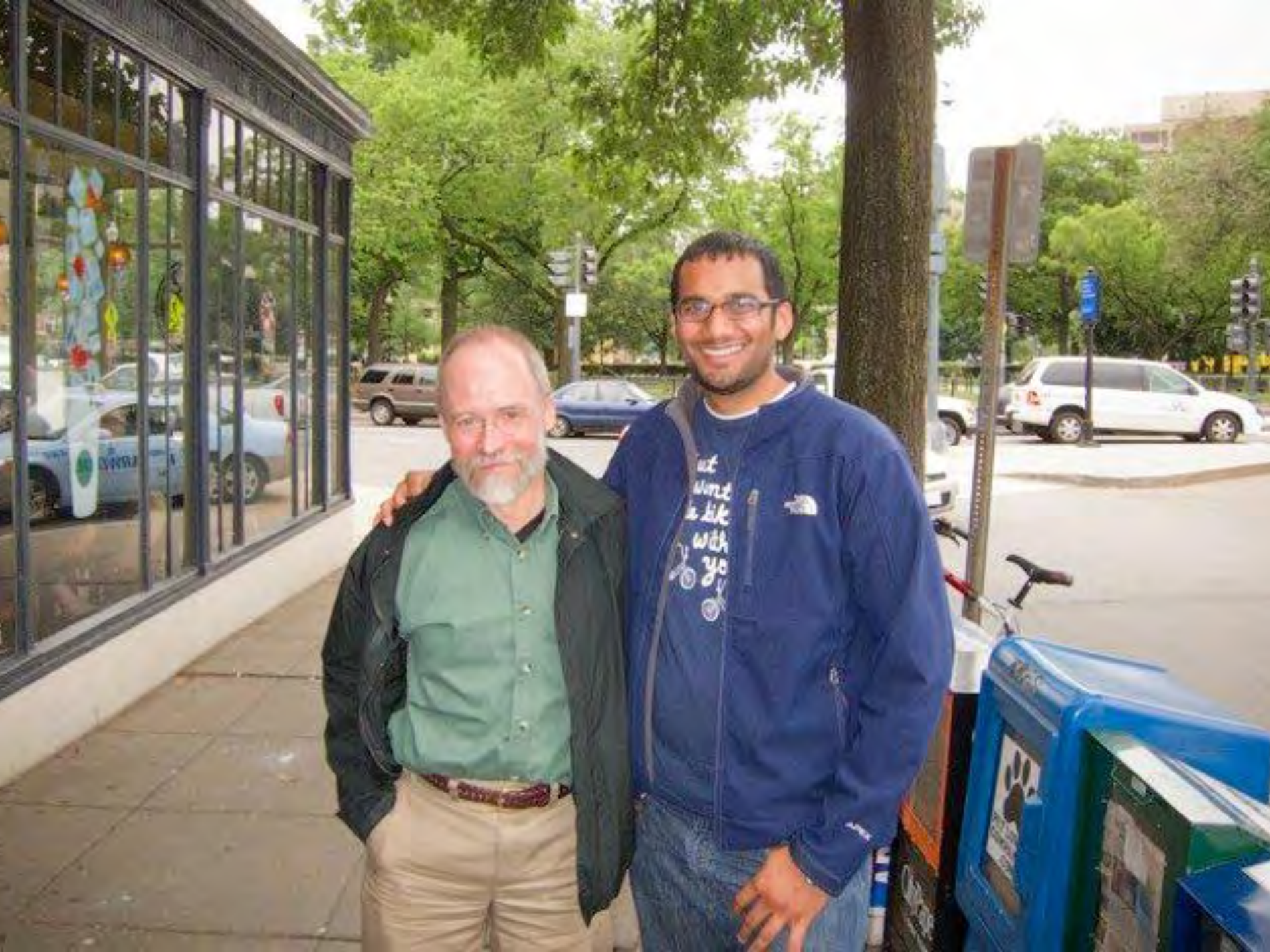
There are consequences for
reporting your superiors

“Ethical willingness”,
Betan & Stanton (1999)

#5: Boldly go.





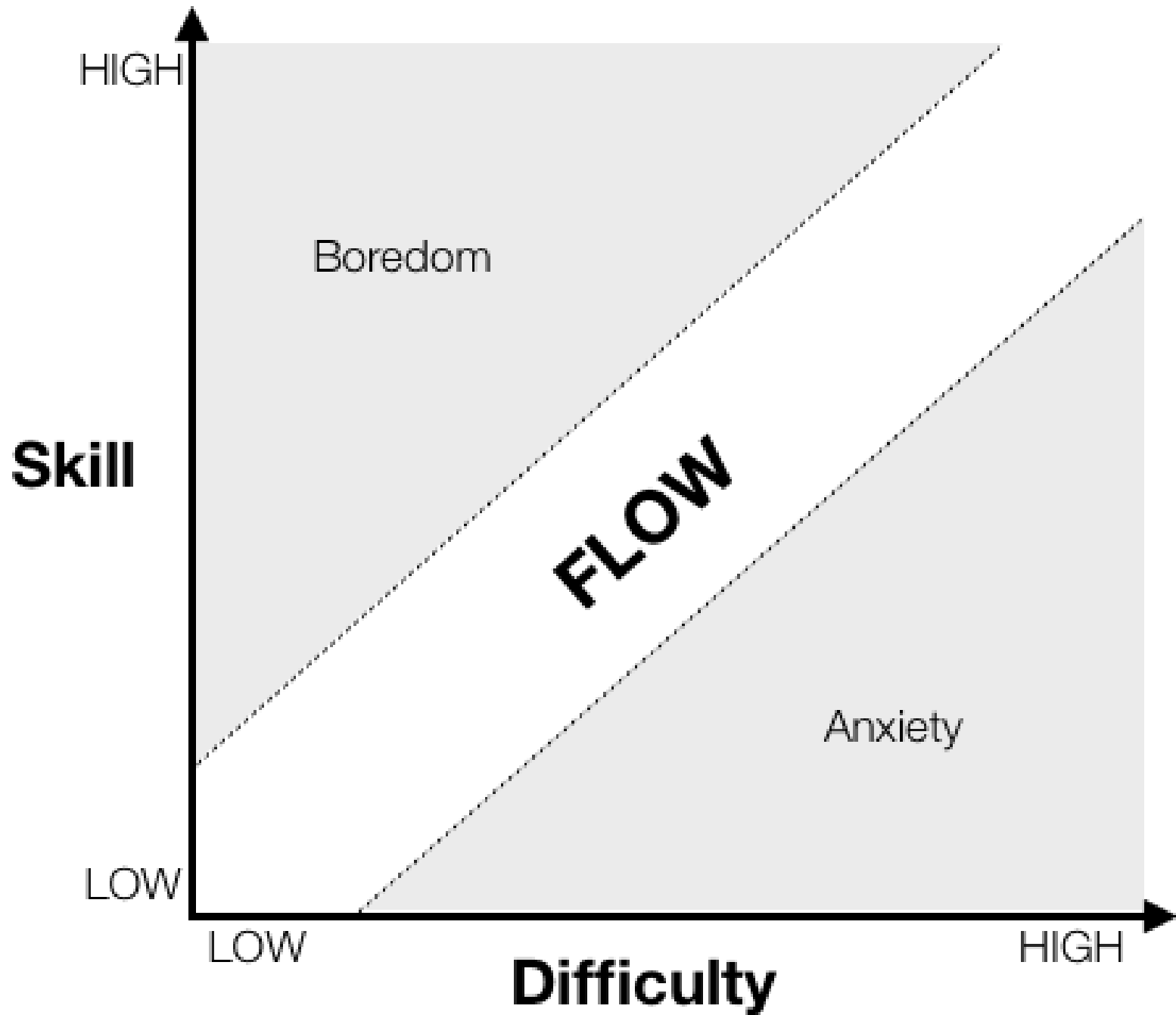




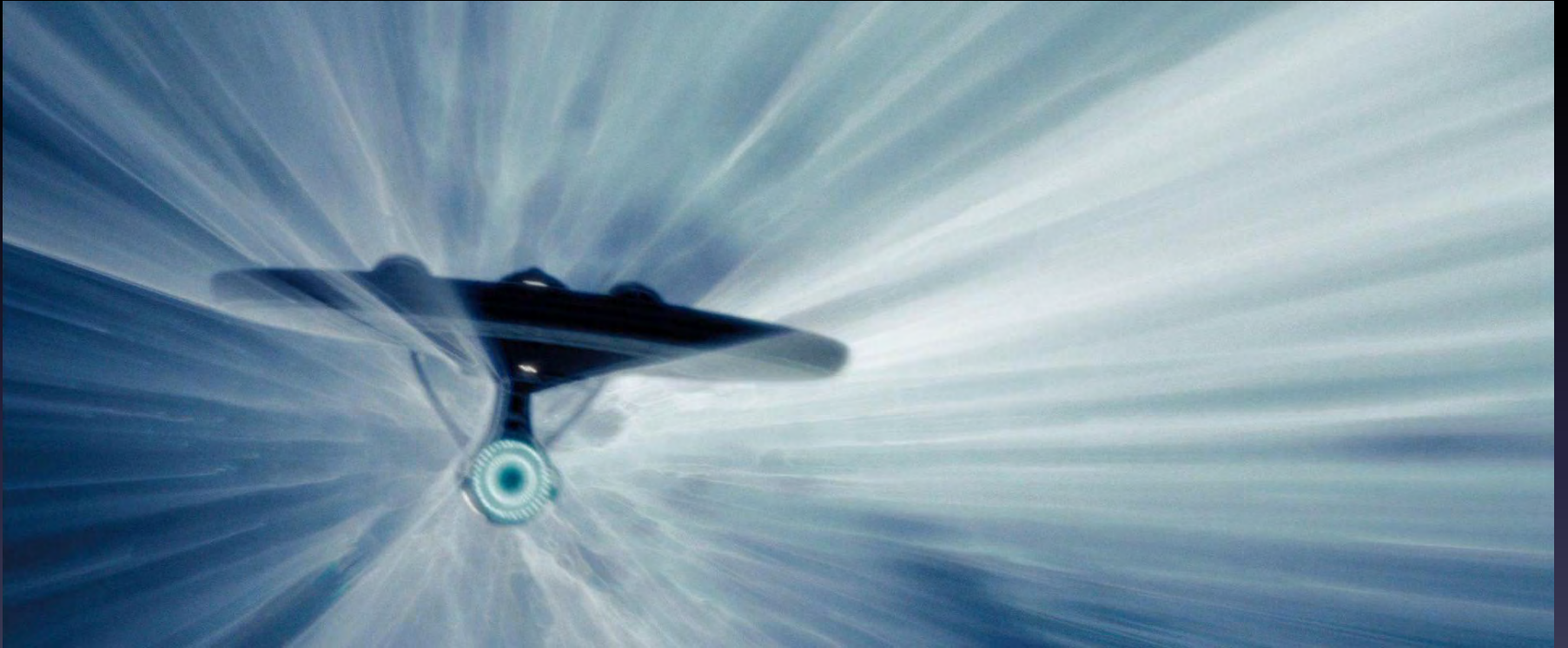


Department of Child
and Adolescent Psychiatry

NYU Child Study Center



Boldly go.



- Practicum, externship, internship, post-doc
- Research assistantship, masters thesis, doctoral dissertation, fellowship
- Workload, difficult, independence
- Struggling with complexity

2.05 Delegation of Work to Others

Psychologists who delegate work to employees, supervisees, or research or teaching assistants or who use the services of others, such as interpreters, take reasonable steps to...authorize only those responsibilities that such persons can be expected to perform competently on the basis of their education, training, or experience, either independently or with the level of supervision being provided; and...see that such persons perform these services competently.

#6: "You shall not pass."











- Admission to graduate school
- Qualifying exams
- Dissertation
- Internship
- License Boards

Where does the buck stop in psychology? Looks like a lot of diffused responsibility.

“You shall not pass.”



Principle A: Beneficence and Nonmaleficence

Psychologists strive to benefit those with whom they work and take care to do no harm. In their professional actions, psychologists seek to safeguard the welfare and rights of those with whom they interact professionally and other affected persons...

Where does this leave us?

- “Real” informed consent re: graduate training is rare
- Gaps in competence are best dealt with collaboratively with trainees
- Publication credit continues to be a major concern among trainees
- Difficult to respond to ethical conflicts regarding superiors
- Delegation of work is usually done well and maximizes learning
- No primary gatekeeper in psychology

Thank you!

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