

‘Indigenising’ Research ethics and Standards

Abstract

For Indigenous researchers conducting a study in their own communities, deconstructing research methods is of great importance to their research journey. Apart from fulfilling research ethics and standards based on the academic research practice, Indigenous researchers have the responsibility of maintaining respect and reciprocity in order to give voice to the Indigenous Peoples’ ‘ways of knowing’. Throughout the research process, the Indigenous researcher is faced with the challenge to contextualise academic research standards into culture and knowledge systems of the Indigenous community.

This paper explores research ethics, credibility and standards in the cultural context and understanding of the Igorot Indigenous Peoples of Benguet, the Philippines as part of my PhD study. The results of the study show how the academic research process was guided with ‘pansukael’, the Igorots’ traditional way of seeking wisdom. This paper argues that the ‘Indigenisation’ of academic research ethics and standards could be made possible by ‘looking’ and ‘working’ through the ‘window of the peoples’ culture’.