



Online Ethics Center  
FOR ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

# A Question of Motives for Funding Research

## Author(s)

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2000

## Description

A scenario meant to stimulate discussion about the ethical issues that arise when the institution funding research has morally suspicious motives.

## Body

Tests to study the distribution of a parasitic disorder in an illiterate, non-European immigrant population is called for by a state's Governor for reasons which may be allied with her recent political campaign against immigrants. (The campaign characterized immigrants as a source of disease in the state.) The state offers funding to your research group.

- How, if at all, does the possible political motive influence your decision about whether to undertake the research and under what conditions?

## Notes

Caroline Whitbeck introduced methods and modules for discussing numerous issues in responsible conduct of research at a Sigma Xi Forum in 2000. Partial funding for the development of this material came from an NIH grant.

You can find the entire sequence on the OEC at [Scenarios for Ethics Modules in the Responsible Conduct of Research](#). Some information in these historical modules may be out-of-date; for instance, there may be a new edition of the professional society's code that is referred to in an item. If you have suggestions for updates, please contact the OEC.

### **Contributor(s)**

Caroline Whitbeck

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### **Resource Type**

Case Study / Scenario

### **Parent Collection**

Scenarios for Ethics Modules in the Responsible Conduct of Research

### **Topics**

Bias in Research

Grant Management

Human Subjects Research

### **Discipline(s)**

Immunology and Infectious Diseases

Life and Environmental Sciences

Public Health

Research Ethics

### **Publisher**

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