

How to Protect Scientific Integrity under Social and Political Pressure:

Applied Daycare Research between Science and Policy

Robert Sternberg & Susan Fiske (Eds):

Ethical Challenges in the Behavioral and Brain Sciences. Case Studies and Commentaries.

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Introduction: the thesis

Policy-relevant research should meet strict scientific criteria, especially when explosive political or social topics are involved. It is therefore desirable that decisions about funding of research proposals as well as supervision of testing the research hypotheses and the implementation of the research design always are the responsibility of an independent scientific forum. Obviously, policymakers and practitioners should be allowed to leave their mark on the formulation of the broad research question, because they are the major participants of the discussion about the implications and applications of the research results. But applied scientific research is first and foremost aimed at the growth of knowledge and the search for truth, and should be executed independently of the interests of stakeholders, policymakers and politicians, otherwise research and researchers risk the chance of being corrupted.

