

**DEALING WITH ETHICAL ISSUES IN CLIENT-DRIVEN RESEARCH:  
SELECTED LESSONS FROM THE WALKING SECURITY INDEX PROJECT\***

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- A. Problem: Invasion of privacy or improper disclosure when accessing records, files or databases provided by the client.

Solution: At-source data protect procedures which eliminate opportunity, and absolve the external researcher of liability.

- B. Problem: Suppression of project data, information, findings, recommendations.

Solution: Contractual communication and publication protocols which are based on the principles of need to know, due diligence, and pursuit of knowledge.

- C. Problem: Complex and obscure language, tools, models, formulations, etc., which are used to restrict the interpretation and application of public policy, plan and program issues and instruments to “experts”.

Solution: Design or re-design public domain materials so that they meet the test of “common sense”.

- D. Problem: Preemptive use of “experts for hire”, “hired guns” and “authorities” to pronounce or testify on matters involving public policies, plans and programs.

Solution: Designate and respect ordinary citizens as experts on public domain *values and attitudes*, and elected officials as experts on public domain *choices and decisions*.

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Note: For internet access to publications and communications on these and other Walking Security Index matters please go to:

[http://aix1.uottawa.ca/~wellarb/walking\\_security\\_index\\_pilot\\_stu.htm](http://aix1.uottawa.ca/~wellarb/walking_security_index_pilot_stu.htm); and,  
<http://www.cip-icu.ca/English/conference/proceedings/02proc15.pdf>