Social Science Subjects

This is especially important with the number of documentaries following groups or tribes, historically, the use of ethics have been sloppy in some social science experiments, such as the Milgram study. These are the main points:

- Participant studies are relatively easy to set up, and are very cost-effective when compared to other methods.
- There must be no chance of causing psychological or physical suffering to the participants, and the wellbeing of the participants are the primary goals of research.
- Other disciplines, such as psychology and sociology, frequently study social science subjects in the form of experiments, surveys, and observations.
- The studies generally provide little empirical data, so the findings are always open to criticism and debate.
- Wherever possible, the observer should strive to understand the particular community. It is extremely useful for studying the internal relationships in any group or society, the subtle interactions that purely empirical research cannot always pick up.

The advantages of using social science subjects are:

- Access to real-life settings that cannot be replicated in a laboratory.
- Ability to observe and study complex social interactions.
- Opportunity to gain a unique insider's insight.
- Ease of setting up and cost-effectiveness.

The ethical considerations concerning permissions, values, and setting up control groups.

In most research, the scientist generates a hypothesis, and works to develop a body of research which may support or reject it. Whilst the hypothesis is an integral part of the research, it is important that the researcher is aware of the possible implications. Whilst the researcher need not be gay or lesbian, it will be easier for researchers using social science subjects to understand these stereotypes, and to provide unique insight into the unique difficulties faced by gay communities.

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Links

[1] https://explorable.com/true-experimental-design
[10] https://explorable.com/bobo-doll-experiment