

## Museum Essentials: Working Ethically

### Paulo Viscardi transcript

My name is Paulo Viscardi, and I am the Zoology Curator at the National Museum of Ireland and I am also the Chair of the Natural Science Collections Association.

The Code of Ethics is a very useful document for understanding the kind of governance side of things within organisations so when we are looking at things for example disruptive sampling it is making sure that we are actually considering all the various different factors that we should be considering before we allow for that disruptive process.

Also, when we look at the way in which Ethics are applied, it gives us a certain degree of protection, I am talking here with a different hat on, not with my National Museum of Ireland hat, but talking with my subject specialist network hat for the Natural Science Collections Association.

We are often faced with collections are put at risk through mismanagement or through a lack of resources - a lack of funding usually and having the ethics very clearly outlined and very clearly detailed it does allow us to make very very clear challenges to ethical issues.

So I know a few incidents where I have been able to refer back to the Museums Associations Code of Ethics when I have had people approaching me about situations they find themselves in, where they have concerns and it is nice to point them in the direction of tangible information that is actually useable.