

History of the Broader Impacts Criterion: Providing an Introduction, Historical Description, Nature of Broader Impacts, and Guiding Theory

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Introduction:

The term, “[broader impacts](#)”, was originally coined in 1996 by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to be implemented as a scoring criterion for grant proposals. However, the origins of the “entire” broader impacts concept have practical and philosophical roots in values and thought established Before the Common Era (BCE). From a humanistic perspective, origins of this concept can also be found in other cultures throughout the world.

In the context of historical Western ideology and modern United States, some of these ideas and values were articulated by individuals such as Aristotle and Jean-Jacques Rousseau. These ideas and values evolved as they were shaped by other philosophers, theorists, and different types of scientists over time. However, rapid evolution, diversification, amplification, and the eventual restructuring of these ideas and principles occurred when more “[societally competent and proficient](#) [1]” peoples and civilizations were encountered in the Americas.

Ancient American civilizations, which spanned the Paleo-Indian, Archaic, and Formative Periods, had achieved broad integration and utilization of the societal benefiting concept before they were visited and colonized by Europeans. The broad integration and utilization of this idea is well documented through many of the written and oral histories of the Peoples of the Sovereign Nations (the Native Americans and Indigenous tribes), <http://www.choctawschool.com/home-side-menu/iti-fabvssa/%E2%80%98iyyi-kowa%E2%80%99-a-choctaw-concept-of-service.aspx> [2]. The impact and ramifications of Ancient American colonization and the assimilation, use, and propagation of Indigenous ideas and values is also well-documented by many scholars [3].

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