SAGE Publications MethodSpace Live Webinar

Indigenous and Intercultural Research: Issues, Ethics, and Methods

Featuring Dr. Bagele Chilisa, author of *Indigenous Research Methodologies* and Dr. Deborah McGregor, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice at York University in Toronto.

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Agenda

- Introductions: Michael Todd
- Overview: Dr. Janet Salmons
- Dr. Bagele Chilisa
- Dr. Deborah McGregor
- Q & A: Continued on MethodSpace
Welcome to MethodSpace Live!
Questions for Reflection and Action

Participants? Sources? Literature?

Worldviews? Styles? Rapport & respect?

Language? References?

Access? Reach? Impact?

Researching

Teaching and Learning

Writing

Sharing Results
Indigenous and Multicultural Research

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My Story 2005: Academic Discourse versus Indigenous Research Methodologies

There are difficulties in getting Africans involved in the theorizing and building of knowledge on ways of conducting research.

You have to address questions such as how do you test the validity of your findings…by African or Western standards?
What language do you use to build a research community and how do you research, store, and transmit the accumulated knowledge?

Arguably, the whole idea of research belong to the north/western paradigm, so probably some Africanness will have to be sacrificed in the process.
Can Africa originate evaluation practices and theories rooted in African world-views and Paradigms?

‘Africa is too diverse to constitute a monolithic worldview in my opinion. There is no American approach to evaluation, or Canadian, or European approach, or Australian approach. Diversity is manifest in all aspects of evaluation I see no value in trying to treat African as a monolithic perspective. Each local context in Africa should be honoured and valued, that is the key point, but not some mythical generic or archetypal African perspective. It doesn’t exist. Don’t force it. It‘s not useful’
Lessons From the Stories

• Euro Western Knowledge as superior and the Other as inferior.

• Fixation of researchers on the cultures of the studied in most cases Indigenous Peoples, First Nations, and the formerly colonised from Africa, from third and fourth world countries, developing and underdeveloped.
Lessons From the Stories

• The deficit theorising, labelling and negative stereotyping of these cultures.

• Academic imperialism where conceptualisation frameworks, theoretical frameworks, research questions, research designs and research techniques stem from the developed world literature and the use of dominant languages that impose Euro Western Thought System.
Relational Ontology: Beings with Many Connections
Figure 1: An Indigenous Mixed Methods Approach

Elicitation Phase

Pilot Survey  Designing the Intervention  Testing the Efficacy of the Intervention

Indigenous methods; Storying, proverbs  Language  Other Qualitative methods  Interviews  Structured questions around Theory of Planned

Theory and culture based questionnaire  Determinants of risky behaviors

Intervention Curriculum  Content  Activities  Time

EXPERIMENT

Evaluation Methods
dialogues; talking circles; yarning; Participatory relationship methods

Evaluation Methods Pre-test Post-test Randomized Control Trial

Evaluation Outcome  Repeated measures evaluation results

Qualitative summative Evaluation Results:

Individualized evaluation reports through promise letters
Ethics: An Indigenous Perspective

- Relationality
- Reciprocity
- Respectful Representation
- Responsibility
- Rights and Regulations
- Reflexivity
- Responsivity
- Reverence
- Decolonisation
Indigenous Research, Justice and Traditional Knowledge (TK)

Deborah McGregor, Ph.D.

Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice at York University in Toronto, Canada.
Appropriate respect is given to the cultures, languages, knowledge and values of Aboriginal peoples, and to the standards used by Aboriginal peoples to legitimate knowledge.
RCAP Principles

• Aboriginal peoples have distinctive perspectives and understandings, deriving from their cultures histories and embodied in Aboriginal languages.

• Research that has Aboriginal experience as its subject matter must reflect these perspectives and understandings.
Self Determination and Research

• The broader shift in relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples and institutions has played a significant role in *decolonizing research relationships*.

• An important aspect is also the work occurring in Indigenous communities.

• An important goal of self determination is assuming greater control over research agendas (UNDRIP) and OCAP.
Knowledge, Research and Data Sovereignty

• Research is still a very “extractive” process despite inroads made over time.

• Risks in Research

• Protection of Knowledge (esp. traditional knowledge)

• Our own Protocols (including governing data, copy right)

• Protocols try to govern or shape how “relationships” should look, identify principles for how research is to take place.
Indigenous Data Sovereignty (ID-Sov) is the right of Indigenous peoples to determine the means of collection, access, analysis, interpretation, management, dissemination and reuse of data pertaining to the Indigenous peoples from whom it has been derived, or to whom it relates. Indigenous data sovereignty centres on Indigenous collective rights to data about our peoples, territories, lifeways and natural resources (Kukutai & Taylor 2016; Snipp 2016)
From Aboriginal to Indigenous Research

• There is a movement to Indigenize research approaches.

• It is an equally important movement to advance *Indigenous approaches and methods* of research.

• Question: What do Indigenous approaches and methods look like?
Indigenous Research

- Drawing on Indigenous governance, law, knowledge and protocols
- Responsibilities
- Accountability
- Beyond the human dimension
- Beyond human agency
• Recognition that TK exists within systems of knowledge production, generation, transmission, transformation that existed for thousands of years (not just data).

• TK resides in the people, community, land

• Recognize Indigenous modes of inquiry

• Support community capacity

• Governance and law (decision making and deliberations).
Some Ethical Considerations

- Trauma Informed Research
- Who tells the story-what stories etc.
- Accountability (for all researchers)
- Moral/Ethical (personal, professional)
- Ethics falling to the researcher in a unethical context
- Consent (at multiple levels and scales)
- Reciprocity
- Compassion
Miigwech
The topic for the next MethodSpace Live webinar is:

**Joint Display Analysis for Mixed Methods Research**

Tashane Haynes-Brown
and
Michael Fetters
May 14

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