Mixed Methods: Approaches for Combining Qualitative and Quantitative Research Strategies

Odum Institute for Research in the Social Sciences – June 6-8 University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, North Carolina
2011, ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research

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Prerequisites
Prerequisites for the course are a working knowledge of both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Some time in the class will be spent on reviewing the basics of both qualitative and quantitative research.

Course Objectives:
• To learn the basic characteristics of mixed methods research.
• To design a mixed methods study that includes the elements of the steps in the research process (e.g., research problem, purpose statement, research questions, data collection and analysis, and interpretation)
• To learn how to write a mixed methods study for journal publication
• To learn how to write a mixed methods proposal for NIH (or other federal agencies)
• To learn how to use qualitative computer programs for mixed methods data analysis

Required readings:


Class Sessions and Topics

Monday, June 6

A.M. Session
I. Introductions
II. Sharing individual projects that participants will work on during the course
III. Introduction to mixed methods
   a. Defining mixed methods, its major characteristics, and its expansion and differentiation
   b. Reviewing the basic of qualitative and quantitative research
   c. Identifying reasons for conducting a mixed methods study
   d. Identifying philosophical assumptions, worldview perspectives, and theoretical lens
   e. Six major types of mixed methods designs, diagrams, and notation
   f. Challenges in using specific designs
   g. Developing mixed methods purpose statements and mixed methods questions

P.M. Session
IV. The design process
   a. Matching mixed methods to a researchable problem
   b. Drafting a working title
   c. Posing a general question
   d. Listing forms of qualitative and quantitative data collection/analysis
   e. Identify worldview and possible theoretical lens
   f. Determining your type of research design

Tuesday, June 7

A.M. Session
IV. The design process (continued)
   g. Drawing a diagram of your design and using proper notation
   h. Writing a mixed methods purpose statement
   i. Drafting quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research questions
   j. Ordering the topics in your mixed methods study
   k. Sharing the diagrams of design

P.M. Session
V. Writing a mixed methods journal article
   a. Identifying outlets for publication
   b. Incorporating mixed methods writing strategies
   c. Viewing elements of mixed methods incorporated into a mixed methods journal article
   d. Reviewing two published mixed methods studies (Classen et al. 2007; Ivankova & Stick 2007)
Wednesday, June 8

A.M. Session

VI. Guidelines for mixed methods research for extramural proposals for funding Needing guidelines
   a. Existing guidelines for mixed methods proposals
   b. Seeing the benefits of mixed methods research
   c. Citing examples of NIH funded projects
   d. Knowing mixed methods research for proposal developers
   e. Adding mixed methods elements in a NIH research plan
   f. Adding mixed methods into other proposal elements (e.g., human subjects, budget, abstracts)
   g. How to build a mixed methods research process (e.g., role of PI, infrastructure and resources, teams members, collaboration)
   h. Writing K-grants and Center grants with a management Core office for resources

P.M. Session

VII. Use of computer software for mixed methods data analysis
   a. Recognizing software options
   b. Software capabilities of ATLAS.ti, MAXQDA, and NVivo
   c. Using existing options of software
      d. Generating matrices for different designs

VIII. Summary and Wrap-Up