Mixed Methods Research Course

2012, ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research

Instructors: John W. Creswell, Ph.D., Educational Psychology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Jennifer Wisdom, Ph.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, and Paul Mihas, Odum Institute, University of North Carolina  
(bio-sketches attached at end of syllabus)

Course Objectives

The core objective in the workshop is to blend the theory and practice of designing and conducting mixed methods research. A mixed methods study is one in which the researcher collects, analyzes, and integrates both qualitative and quantitative data in a single study or a longitudinal program of inquiry.

The key ideas included in this workshop will be:

- An introduction to the methodology of mixed methods research
- Sharing examples of good, rigorous mixed methods studies
- Designing a mixed methods investigation
- Participating on a mixed methods research team, project management, and publishing mixed methods studies
- Using qualitative software in mixed methods research

As part of designing a mixed methods investigation, we encourage participants to bring to the class a mixed methods project that they can further develop or design using rigorous mixed methods procedures. This project may be a project idea, a dissertation prospectus, a proposal for funding, or a study that has already been completed. In the course an emphasis will be placed on developing a rigorous, persuasive mixed methods project including a mixed methods title, problem statement, purpose, research questions, qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis, and interpretation. Additional considerations will be given to the use of philosophical assumptions, worldviews, and theoretical lens.

Please bring to class a one-page sketch of a project idea that you would like to work on during the workshop. Include in this sketch: a draft title, the overarching research question you would like to address, quantitative data collection, qualitative data collection, and the overall significance of the project. If you so choose, you may partner on this project with someone else in the workshop.
**Prerequisites:** Participant should bring to the workshop a working knowledge of both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Some attention will be given to building these skills, but the primary aim of the workshop will be to focus on mixed method. This three-day mixed methods course is offered for participants in the social, behavioral, and health sciences. It is for pre-doctoral, post-doctoral, and experienced, funded investigators.

**Required readings:**


Additional good, rigorous mixed methods studies (e.g., embedded, multiphase)

**Class Sessions and Topics**

Overview of the Sessions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>A.M. Session</th>
<th>P.M. Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, June 25</td>
<td>Share project ideas; introduction to mixed methods</td>
<td>Examples of mixed methods studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, June 26</td>
<td>Designing a mixed methods study</td>
<td>Designing a mixed methods study (continued)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, June 27</td>
<td>Project management, mixed methods teams, publishing mixed methods studies</td>
<td>Using qualitative software in mixed methods research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Monday June 25th**

A.M. Session

I. Introductions

II. Sharing individual project sketches that participants will work on during the course

III. Introduction to mixed methods (John Creswell)

    a. Origins of mixed methods research
    b. Definitions/assumptions
    c. Technical developments
    d. Conceptual/theoretical developments
P.M. Session
IV. Examples of mixed methods studies (Jennifer Wisdom)
   a. A concurrent design example
   b. A sequential design example
   c. A multi-phase design example
   d. A health intervention embedded design example

Tuesday, June 26th
A.M. Session

V. Designing a mixed methods research investigation (John Creswell)
   a. Matching mixed methods to a research problem
   b. Drafting a working title
   c. Posing a general question
   d. Listing forms of qualitative and quantitative data collection/analysis
   e. Identifying a worldview and possible theoretical lens
   f. Determining your type of research design

P.M. Session
IV. The design process (continued)(John Creswell)
   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

Wednesday June 27th
A.M. Session

VI. Project management, teamwork, publishing mixed methods studies (Jennifer Wisdom)
   a. Setting up a mixed methods team
   b. Team leadership
   c. Institutional support
   d. Publishing outlets for mixed methods projects
   e. Strategies for getting published

P.M. Session
VII. Use of computer software for mixed methods data analysis (Paul Mihas)
   a. Recognizing software options
   b. Qualitative software capabilities of Atlas.ti and Maxqda
   c. Using existing options of software
   d. Generating matrices for different mixed methods designs

VIII. Summary and Wrap-Up
**Bio-sketch**

**John W. Creswell.** As a Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, my areas of expertise reside in mixed methods research, qualitative inquiry, and general research design. During my career I have authored 20 books (including editions) in research methods that are used around the world and have been translated into over a dozen languages. I held the Clifton Institute Endowed Chair on research methodology for five years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. For the last five years, I served as a co-director at the Office of Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, which is the only research center for mixed methods research in the world. I co-founded the Sage journal, the *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*, and served as an Adjunct Professor of Family Medicine at the University of Michigan, assisting investigators in the health sciences develop extramural funded proposals from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. I have also been an “academic expert” on qualitative and mixed methods research for the VA health services research unit in Ann Arbor, Michigan. I am a Senior Fulbright Scholar, and became a speaker/consultant on mixed methods to five universities in South Africa in 2008. In 2012, I participated as a Fulbright Scholar again in Thailand to bring mixed methods research to the Pan-Pacific area. I am a facilitator of the “Mixed Methods Day” at the International Congress for Qualitative Inquiry at the University of Illinois (May, 2012), and I have been the keynote speaker four times at the International Mixed Methods Conference in the UK. I am currently on a 14-member research and development advisory panel for the Social Security Administration advising on the mixed methods development of an occupational information system for health disability adjudication. Recently I served as a co-leader of a national working group developing “best practices” for mixed methods research in the health sciences that has been disseminated to all 23 Institutes and Research Centers for NIH.

**Jennifer Pelt Wisdom, PhD MPH.** I am an Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology in the Department of Health Policy and Management and Assistant Dean for Research Resources at the Mailman School of Public Health. I also have appointments as Associate Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Mailman School, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia, and as a Research Scientist at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. As a licensed clinical psychologist and health services researcher, I study the organization, delivery, and quality of behavioral health treatment for children and adolescents. I recently completed a career development award from the National Institute on Drug Abuse that used mixed methods to assess the quality of care in adolescent substance abuse treatment. Current mixed methods projects include NIMH-funded studies of (1) how publicly funded child/adolescent behavioral health organizations adopt evidence-based treatments and other practice innovations and (2) how family peer advocates work within publicly funded mental health systems to improve the quality of care for children and their families. I have presented nationally and internationally on my research and on the applicability of qualitative and mixed methods to health services research.
Paul Mihas is a senior social research associate specializing in qualitative research at the Odum Institute for Research in Social Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is the former managing editor of Social Forces, a journal of sociology published at the University of North Carolina Press. He has been with ResearchTalk since 2001 as a qualitative analysis consultant. He has lectured on qualitative methods, software, and strategies for analysis at several universities, including the University of Puerto Rico and Temple University. His interests include mixed methods and approaches to incorporating memo writing in analysis; his qualitative research focuses on cancer survivors and metaphors for illness and the body. Mihas received an M.A. (1989) from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.