Introduction to Mixed Methods Research (Chapel Hill)

August 5-7, 2015

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Odum Institute for Research in the Social Sciences
University of North Carolina

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Course Goal:
The term mixed methods research (MMR) refers to the application and the integration of qualitative and quantitative approaches at one or more stages of the research process. The goal of this three-day interactive course is to introduce to new (e.g., doctoral students, junior faculty) and seasoned (i.e., limited experience conducting MMR) researchers an array of conceptual strategies and practical techniques for conceptualizing, planning, implementing a single MMR study or program of studies, and utilizing the results to address the needs of stakeholders. The course also will cover approaches for applying guidelines when reporting results and publishing tips for writing a MMR report or article.
Course Objectives:

1. To understand conceptual issues shaping and impacting the field of MMR in terms of philosophy, theory, and socio-politics.
2. To understand the major steps involved in conceptualizing, planning, and implementing a MMR study with a specific focus upon understanding the major types of research designs & sampling designs.
3. To understand the major steps involved in data analysis with a specific focus on types of integration.
4. To understand the major steps involved in data validation and data interpretation with a specific focus on validity designs applicable for MMR.
5. To understand major steps involved in utilizing MMR findings and conclusions with a specific focus upon dissemination to stakeholders.
6. To understand how to write a MMR report.
7. To understand the process of publishing a MMR article.

Participant Engagement: To facilitate participant engagement, interspersed throughout the course will be interactive small group activities to engage the participants in the iterative process of conducting MMR. These activities will be structured as breakout groups, and they will be followed by whole group discussion led by the presenter.

Please bring a one-page overview of a MMR project; please include in the overview, the focus of the research, question(s) addressed, and the significance of the project. This overview will serve as the starting point for developing products during the small group activities. The MMR project could be a dissertation prospectus, funding proposal, an idea for a single study, or plans for implementing a program of research. At the course conclusion, there will be mini-presentations of the products developed during the small group activities to attain group feedback.

Prerequisites: Prior experience with MMR is not a prerequisite. Extensive introductory course materials will be provided. A laptop is not a requirement. However, it likely will be helpful in developing the products.
Schedule

August 5 - Morning

*Topic: Contemporary Issues*

- Characteristics of MMR
- Major Types of MMR
- MMR Definitions & Terms
- MMR Four-Stage Framework
- Discussion of your individual projects

**August 5 - Afternoon**

*Topic: Conceptualization Stage of MMR*

- Role of Philosophical Stances
- Defining the Goal, Objective, Rationale, and Purpose for Mixing Approaches
- Developing Research Questions
- Selective Published Examples of MMR
- Individual Projects & Small Group Activities

**August 6 - Morning**

*Topic: Planning Stage of MMR*

- Developing a Research Design
- Developing a Sampling Design
- Selective Published Examples of MMR
- Individual Projects & Small Group Activities

**August 6 - Afternoon**

*Topic: Implementation Stage of MMR*

- Data Collection Techniques
MMR Analysis Frameworks
Validity Designs
Individual Projects & Small Group Activities

**August 7 - Morning**
Topic: Utilization Stage of MMR
Writing up the MMR Report or Study
Tips on How to Publish MMR

**August 7 - Afternoon:**
Topic: Teamwork & Participants’ Presentations
Developing Effective MMR Teams
Presentations of Individual Projects Developed in Small Group Activities
Summary and Wrap-up

**Suggested Reading:**
Below is a selective list of readings. The list is organized around the key topics addressed in this course. However, participants are encouraged to seek multiple sources within and across disciplines as they pursue their MMR agenda.

**Research Conceptualization Stage**

**Conceptual Frameworks & Philosophical Stances**


**MMR Goal & Objective**


**MMR Rationale, Purpose, & Research Question**


**MMR Sampling Design**


**MMR Design Frameworks and Example Study**


**Research Implementation Stage**

**Data Collection**


**MMR Data Analysis**


Validity Designs


Dissemination of MMR
Writing the MMR Report

Reformulating the Research Question
Bio of the Presenter

Kathleen M. T. Collins is a Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education & Health Professions at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. She earned her Ph.D. in education with an emphasis in special education, research design, and qualitative methods at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Dr. Collins has made over 100 presentations at international, national, regional, university venues, and she has published over 80 articles, book chapters, and encyclopedia chapters. In addition, she has made several invited addresses to faculty and students, including international keynote addresses in Australia and South Africa.

Dr. Collins has presented and co-presented numerous workshops for university faculty and graduate students and audiences attending international conferences, such as the American Educational Research Association and the American Evaluation Association. These workshops addressed topics related to mixed methods research, writing research literature reviews, publishing research articles and books, and conducting action research projects. Dr. Collins has taught graduate-level courses in mixed methods research design. She is co-editor of a MMR book titled *Toward a Broader Understanding of Stress and Coping: Mixed Methods Approaches* (2010, Information Age Publishing).