Introduction to Mixed Methods Research (Chapel Hill)

July 12-14, 2017

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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 research question and the interests 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 and sampling designs
3. To understand the role of ethics in designing a MMR study
4. To understand the major steps involved in facilitating integration at each stage of the research process
5. To understand the major steps involved in data validation and data interpretation with a specific focus on designing validity designs applicable for MMR
6. To understand major steps involved in utilizing MMR findings and conclusions with a specific focus upon dissemination to stakeholders
7. To understand how to write a MMR report
8. 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 instructor.

Please bring a one-page overview of a MMR project; 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 instructor’s 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

July 12 - Morning

*Topic: Contemporary Issues*

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

**July 12 - Afternoon**
*Topic: Conceptualization Stage of MMR*
Role of Philosophical Stances
Defining the Goal, Objective, Rationale, and Purpose for Mixing Approaches
Developing Research Questions
Individual Projects & Small Group Activities

**July 13 - Morning**
*Topic: Planning Stage of MMR*
Developing a Research Design
Developing a Sampling Design
Selective Published Examples of MMR
Individual Projects & Small Group Activities

**July 13 - Afternoon**
*Topic: Implementation Stage of MMR*
Data Collection Techniques
MMR Analysis Frameworks
Developing Validity Designs
Individual Projects & Small Group Activities

**July 14 - Morning**
*Topic: Utilization Stage of MMR*
Writing up the MMR Report or Study
Tips on How to Publish MMR
July 14 - Afternoon:

Topic: Teamwork, Participants’ Presentations, & Wrap-Up

Developing Effective MMR Teams

Individual Project Presentations Developed in Small Group Activities

Summary and Wrap-up

Suggested Reading:

Below is a selective reading list. 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**


**Research Implementation Stage**

**Data Collection**


**MMR Data Analysis**


**Validity Designs**


**Dissemination of MMR**

*Writing the MMR Report*


*Reformulating the Research Question*


*Developing Effective Research Teams*


**Bio of the Instructor**

**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 and research methodology specifically in the areas of design and qualitative methods at the University of California Santa Barbara. Dr. Collins has made over 100 presentations at international, national, regional, and university venues, and she has published over 80 articles, book chapters, and encyclopedia chapters (39 in the area of mixed methods research). In addition, she has made several invited addresses to faculty and students, including keynote addresses in the United States, Australia, and South Africa. Dr. Collins has presented and co-presented over 35 workshops (30 in the area of mixed methods research) for audiences attending international conferences, such as the American Educational Research Association, American Evaluation Association, Mixed Methods International Research Association, and to faculty and students at the University of Munich, Germany, University of Pretoria, South Africa, Universities of North Carolina, Arkansas, and South Florida, USA. Currently, Dr. Collins teaches an advanced graduate-level mixed methods course in face-to-face and online settings. She is lead co-editor of a book titled *Toward a Broader Understanding of Stress and Coping: Mixed Methods Approaches* (2010, Information Age Publishing).