

Scholarship Learning Community (SLC)

Title: Conducting Mixed Methods Research in the Social Sciences

Facilitator: Leticia Couto

Description:

This learning community will discuss how to incorporate mixed methods into social sciences research and how to develop proposals using this research paradigm. Many faculty consider themselves either qualitative scholars or quantitative scholars; however, the mixed methods paradigm allows for investigations with the depth of qualitative work and the breath of quantitative work, while also addressing the biases that we can have against our less used paradigms (be it quantitative or qualitative). By bringing together scholars with different specialties, we can build together towards a mixed methods research paradigm that can uncover parts of our research agenda we were unaware of. This learning community will heavily use John Creswell's readings on mixed methods, as well as different studies and proposals that use this paradigm. This learning community is of interest for any scholar that wants to learn more about mixed methods and develop a project using this paradigm. The community will be more focused on social sciences, but scholars from any area are welcomed. We will work on readings and discussions, while also preparing our own projects and getting feedback from our colleagues.

SLC Group Goals

Each participant should have a submission-ready funding proposal for a mixed methods project. This can be an internal or external grant. If not a funding source, participants can have a solid proposal for manuscript development, identifying potential outlets for their work.

Planned Activities

The primary activity of this group will be reading and discussion, with working on a proposal and identifying possible funding sources. We will generate a list of readings together in the first meeting. The facilitator will bring a prepared list of suggested readings and ask others to do the same, then we will collaboratively decide what we will read and when. After that, each month we will read one text or set of texts, then discuss during a 90-minute meeting. The role of discussion leader will rotate among group members.

[Type here]

Between meetings, the primary task will be reading the texts and preparing for discussion by considering how you can apply them to your work.

Tentative schedule:

September Initial meeting; discuss suggested list of readings; choose remaining readings collaboratively.

October Reading 1, brainstorm project ideas

November Reading 2, share research questions

December Skip due to winter break

January Reading 3, rough draft of instruments

February Reading 4, identify source of funding or outlet for possible publication

March Skip this month due to quarter end/start and spring break

April Reading 5; discuss if any funding opportunities were sought out or outlet possibilities

May Reading 6, Final meeting; share your application product with the group