

Creative Methods

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PSY 357: Community Psychology
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Announcements

- Assignment 4 due Friday!
- Assignment 5 optional
- Questions on the Final?

Discuss the following Questions:

What is needed for something to be considered
“research”?

What do you feel needs to be addressed,
excluded, included considered for research to be
considered “good”?

Creative methods overview



Creative methods emerge and are used to help folks think about and engage in research differently



Creative methods can build on traditional methods, challenge them, or destroy them entirely



As “creative” implies using creative methods means dreaming up new and innovative ways to do research



One must first understand the basis of traditional research in order to to get creative.

**Some
Creative
Methods**

Transformative methods

Indigenous methodologies

Technological methods

Art-based methods

Transformative Methods

- Research methods that try to address and reduce power imbalances
- Examples: Feminist Ethnography, Power Mapping, Critical Discourse Analysis, Collective Biography
- Social justice informed and motivated
- Many challenging areas: tokenism, saviorism, resources, practice, writing, and aftercare
- Challenges the status quo and seeks to break cycles of violence

Kara (2017)

Transformative Thinking

Take a moment to think about and discuss some social norm or tradition you see as problematic, limiting, or harmful.

Dream up a new way of doing, understanding, that is in resistance to or with this norm eliminated entirely.

Indigenous Methods

- Methods crafted by and for indigenous folk that center indigenous ways of knowing and understanding
- Resist and interrogate colonial and imperial pasts in research.
- Indigenous methods rely on holding the assumption that research is an extremely valuable tool, however the ways it has developed in the west is limited and sometimes problematic
- Indigenous methods move way from participant/researcher dynamic
- Used to fundamentally change the way research is done and understood.

Kara (2017)

Discuss some forms of knowledge that exist in your culture or community that are seen as “unscientific” by dominant society?

How might you honor and incorporate these into a research project or practice?

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4/25/2023

Announcements

- Assignment 4 grading to start soon.
- Assignment 5 optional
- Final questions? (Due May 19th with 24hr grace)
- No re-dos or extensions for the final unfortunately

Some Creative Methods

Transformative methods

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Technological Methods

- Doing research using technology of any kind
- Usually used during collection, analysis, & dissemination but can be at any point
- Keeps research up-to-date and can increase efficiency
- Examples: Photovoice, Dedoose, Social media scraping, Statistic Software, Data visualization
- Many tricky ethical considerations: accessibility, privacy, security, validity

Kara (2017)

Data Visualizations

- What is your initial reaction to the visualization?
- How might visualizing data in this way be useful and/or harmful?
- What factors do we need to be mindful of when creating visualizations?

Data Visualizations

- Racism and Wealth inequalities for Black Men (Badger et al, 2018)
- A View on Despair CW Suicide (Kujipers, 2019)

Art-Based Methods

- Using art at any or all stages of the research process
- 5 Types: Visual, Sound, Performance, Literary, & New Media
- More clearly, doing research using drawing, painting, acting, production, dance, poetry, storytelling, fiction writing, music...
- Useful when language barrier is present or with children
- Allow researchers and participants alike to express themselves in more expansive ways
- Some debates about who is qualified to do art-based research as well as critiques of its subjective nature
- Tricky to know which communities to use with

Kara (2017)

Activity: Drawing our Lives

- Draw a line or shape that represents your life from birth until this moment.
- Alter the line/shape when times were good, when times were bad, when things remained consistent, when things get redundant or confusing etc...
- Take a moment to highlight a moment that represents a meaningful interaction you had with someone/a group of people that has/have shaped who you are now.

Benefits & Challenges

Benefits

- Innovative & engaging
- Challenges outdated and potentially harmful ways of doing research
- Can allow more nuance and complexity to exist within the data
- Can make research more inclusive and less elitist

Challenges

- Not objective and in many cases anti-objectivity
- Trouble with arguments for academic rigor and validity
- Constantly changing and updating thus lacking stability
- Can be tricky to draw conclusions and find meaning within such personal data

Activity: Let's get creative

- RQ: How have perceptions of romance changed between the Gen X (42-57 y/o) and Gen Z (10-25 y/o) generations?
- Work collaboratively to think of some creative methods you could utilize to address this
- Think critically about which aspect of the research might require some creativity in order to address? Why
- Think about how you might name, measure, analyze, and present on this topic.