LESSON PLAN

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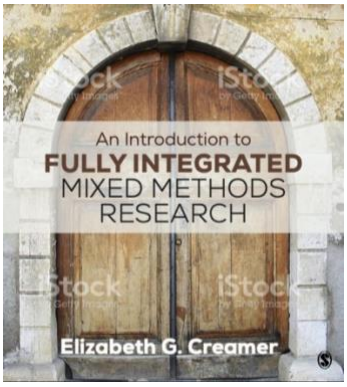
RESEARCH METHODS CLASS ON MIXED METHODS

TOPIC: *Evaluating Quality in Empirical Mixed Methods Research Articles*

READING: *Chapter 8: Evaluating Quality in Mixed Methods Research Publications* in Creamer, E. G. (2018). *An Introduction to Fully Integrated Mixed Methods Research*



SESSION OBJECTIVES

One indication of the complexity of research methods, including mixed methods, is that there is little consensus about what demonstrates quality in a research publication except that it requires more transparency about research methods than is commonly found. This session is designed to help improve the quality of research writing by stimulating discussion about what reflects quality in the reporting of mixed methods research.

On completing the session, students will be able to :

1. Recognize diverse points of view about research quality in mixed methods research and the assumptions that lay behind him.
2. Apply a rubric to the evaluation of a mixed methods research article.
3. Identify two to three exemplary empirical mixed methods articles.
4. Make suggestions about how the Mixed Methods Evaluation Rubric (MMER) might be improved.

ACTIVITY/ASSIGNMENT

As an assignment that can lead to a position paper, ask students to screen mixed methods article in their field or disciplinary area to single out one that they think is exemplary in that there is both a robust qualitative and quantitative component and there is evidence of mixing. After zeroing in on an article, have the students complete the *Mixed Methods Evaluation Rubric* (MER, below). As part of the class discussion, invite students to make suggestions about what they would like to see added or changed about the rubric. As part of the position paper, students can comment on two or three dimensions that they associate with quality in mixed methods research, and the challenges encountered in singling out an article and using the evaluation rubric.

ADDITIONAL READING

Makabe, S., Suda, T., Akagawa, Y., Abe, M., & Kakai, H. (2022). Measurement properties of appraisal tools for mixed methods research: A systematic review protocol. *International Journal of Science and Researcher Archive*, 7(01), 046-052. https://doi.org/10.30574/ijsra.2022.7.1.0185

Table 8.1 in An Introduction to Fully Integrated Mixed Methods Research (2018, p. 151)

Mixed Methods Evaluation Rubric (MMER)

Evaluation Criteria	**Rating Scales**	
	Quality Definitions	**Quality Score (Circle One Per Category)**
Transparency	No reason for using mixed methods is implicitly or explicitly stated	0
	Speaks about the value of mixed methods generally, but not specifically for this study	1
	Implicitly suggests a reason(s) for using mixed method	2
	Explicitly states one or more reason why mixed methods were used in this study or about what was gained from using mixed methods.	3
Amount of Mixing During the Design, Data Collection or Sampling, Analytical, and/or Interpretive Phases	No mixing occurs in the study	0
	Mixing occurs in one phase.	1
	Mixing occurs at two phases	2
	Mixing occurs at three phases	3
	Mixing occurs at four phases	4
Interpretive Compre-hensiveness	No indication that multiple explanations were considered.	0
	Inconsistencies between the qualitative and quantitative data are identified, but not explained.	
	The qualitative and quantitative phases or not integrated into a meaningful meta-inference.	
	Negative or extreme case analysis is utilized.	1
	Inconsistencies between the qualitative and quantitative data are identified and explained.	
	Alternative explanations are weighed to explain inferences drawn from the analysis.	
	Inconsistencies between the results and previous literature are identified and explained.	
	Other:	
Methodological Foundation	No references to any methodological literature.	0
	Two or more methodological references are identified, but only to one of the methods used (QUAL, QUANT, or MIXED)	1

	Two or more methodological references are supplied for at least two of the methods used (QUAL, QUANT, or MIXED).	2
	Three or more methodological references are supplied and they cover all three methods used (QUAL, QUANT, and MIXED)	3
	Three or more methodological references are made to the mixed methods literature.	4