



Research Methods Workshop

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Research Paradigms

- Quantitative
- Qualitative
- Mixed Methods

Quantitative Research

- What is Quantitative Research?
- Example of a quantitative study?
- Example of a quantitative data collection method?

Quantitative Research Designs

- Experimental Designs
 - True Experimental
 - Quasi-Experimental
 - Time Series
 - Single Subject
- Nonexperimental Research Designs
 - Survey Designs
 - Causal-Comparative
 - Correlational Designs

Sample Quantitative Dissertation

Implementation of Bal-A-Vis-X[®] Exercises and Its Effects on Kindergarten and First-Grade Students' Reading Skills

- **Purpose:** The purpose of this study was twofold: to (a) **investigate how the implementation** of the Bal-A-Vis-X[®] program (i.e., a series of developmental movement exercises used daily) affects students' DIBELS scores, and (b) **examine the relationship** between the Brigance and the DIBELS' scores.

Quantitative Sample (cont'd)

- **Research Questions**

- 1. How effective will the implementation of Bal-A-Vis-X[®] exercises be at improving kindergarten and first-grade students' DIBELS scores?**
- 2. What is the correlation between kindergarten and first grade students' DIBELS and Brigance scores?**

Quantitative Sample (cont'd)

- **Research Design**
 - **Experimental group**: Bal-A-Vis-X[®] exercises
 - **Control group**: no exercises
 - Participants: 2 Kindergarten and 2 first grade classes
 - **What type of research design is this?**
- **Data Collection Methods**
 - Fall DIBELS and Brigance **scores**
 - Spring DIBELS and Brigance **scores**

Qualitative Research

- What is Qualitative Research?
- Types of Qualitative Studies and Data Collection?
- Example of a Qualitative Study?

Defining Qualitative Research

- Describing, explaining and/or interpreting qualitative patterns.
- Naturalistic inquiry, discovery-oriented studies, learning perspectives of others, and study complex and natural phenomena.

Not a Qualitative Study

- – Not a comparison
- – Not relating variables
- – Not proving hypotheses
- – Not measuring variables

Avoid such words in Qualitative Study

- – “relate”
- – “influence”
- – “impact”
- – “effect”
- – “affect”
- – “cause”

Qualitative Pre-Design Steps

- Hone your topic focus:
 - Who
 - What
 - Where
 - When
 - Why and
 - How

Qualitative Approaches

- Case Study
- Phenomenology
- Narrative
- Ethnography
- Grounded Theory
- Historical Studies
- Systematic Review of the Literature

Sample Qualitative Dissertation

Adjusting to Divorce: A Case Study of Older
Hispanic Adults in South Florida

Qualitative Purpose Concept Paper

The overriding purpose of this research study is to explore and increase understanding of the complex process of divorce as **experienced** by Hispanics who divorce in late-life. The main focus will be on these individuals' **experiences**, long term effects of the divorce several years after the event, and the coping mechanisms used throughout. The ultimate goal of this study is to provide insights and constructive suggestions for Hispanics who divorce late in life and after long-term marriages as well as for mental health professionals who work with this population.

Qualitative Questions Concept Paper

1. How do Hispanics who divorce in late-life **experience** the process of divorce?
2. How do Hispanics readjust to life as single persons?

Qualitative Case Study Proposal

Purpose

The overriding purpose of this research study was to explore and increase understanding of the complex process of divorce as **perceived** by older Hispanic adults in South Florida. The main focus was on these individuals' **perceptions** of divorce as well as on the coping mechanisms used to adjust. The ultimate goal of this study was to provide insights and constructive suggestions for Hispanics who divorced late in life and after long-term marriages as well as to improve mental health professionals' understanding, assessment, and treatment of this population's perceptions of divorce.

Qualitative Case Study Questions

1. How do Hispanics who divorce in late-life **perceive** the process of divorce?
2. How do Hispanics **understand and make meaning** of their divorce?
3. What are the **perceptions** of Hispanics who participate in a religious divorce support group?

Case Study Participants and Instruments

- 15 informants from Catholic Divorce Group
- Interviews and Observations
- Developed Questionnaire
(expert review, pilot)
- Observation Protocol

Mixed Methods Research

- What is Mixed Methods Research?
- Example of a Mixed Methods study?
- Example of mixed methods data collections?

Mixed Methods Research Designs

- **Sequential**
 - Explanatory
 - Exploratory
 - Transformative
- **Concurrent**
 - Triangulation
 - Embedded
 - Transformative

Sample Mixed Methods Dissertation

*Preparing First-Generation College Students for Doctoral Persistence: A **Mixed Methods Study** of the McNair Scholars Program*

- **Purpose:** The purpose of this **mixed methods study** is threefold: to (a) **understand** why McNair Scholars Program participants are failing to persist to completion of a doctoral degree, (b) **determine** how demographic factors **affect** McNair alumni's persistence in graduate school, and (c) determine how the demographic factors help **explain** why McNair Scholars Program participants are failing to persist to completion of a doctoral degree.

Mixed Methods Sample (cont'd)

Qualitative Research Questions

1. **Why** are McNair Scholars Program participants failing to persist to completion of a doctoral degree?
2. What are McNair Scholars Program alumni's **perceptions** of the program's ability to prepare students for graduate school?

Mixed Methods Sample (cont'd)

Quantitative Research Question

3. How do demographic factors (i.e., age, gender, SES, baccalaureate GPA) **affect** McNair alumni's persistence in graduate school?

Mixed Methods Sample (cont'd)

Mixed Methods Research Questions

4. How do the demographic factors help **explain** why McNair Scholars program participants are failing to persist to completion of a doctoral degree?
5. **What improvements** to program components **are needed** for the McNair Scholars Program to effectively prepare first-generation college students for successful persistence in graduate school?

Mixed Methods Sample (cont'd)

- **Research Design**
 - Collecting QUAL data, followed by quant data
 - **What type of research design is this?**
- **Data Collection Methods**
 - Focus groups
 - Demographic and enrollment data

Examples from the Group?

- Quantitative Research
- Qualitative Research
- Mixed Methods Research

THANK YOU!!!

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