Feminist Approaches to Mixed Methods Research

Abstract

Methods are “tools” or techniques researchers employ in order to answer specific research questions; they are not inherently feminist or non-feminist. What makes feminist research “feminist” lies in the perspectives and research questions that focus on women’s issues and concerns. Feminist research addresses questions that expose power, difference, silence and oppression, with the goal of moving toward a more just society for women and other oppressed groups.
This workshop will highlight the ways in feminists theoretical perspectives inform the way mixed methods is currently practiced. We will address the following questions:

- How do feminists integrate mixed methods into their work?
- What are the assumptions of the social reality do they make when mixing up methods and paradigms?
- Are there some feminist perspectives that uniquely lend themselves to a mixed methods design? If so, then why?

We will provide participants with with some specific examples of different ways feminists utilized mixed methods approaches and will also demonstrate how computer software programs like HyperRESEARCH (www.researchware.com) can facilitate this process.

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