

Transformative Mixed Methods Designs in Evaluation for Social, Environmental and Economic Justice

Pre-conference Institute, 2019 Conference of the SSO:USA

Donna M. Mertens, Professor Emeritus, Gallaudet University

October 3, 2019, 1:00-5:00PM

DoubleTree Resort by Hilton, Paradise Valley-Scottsdale, Arizona

Brief Description: This workshop uses a transformative lens to inform the development of mixed methods designs for research that supports changes to strengthen human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice in marginalized communities.

Detailed Description: Occupational science recognizes the importance of working towards social transformation and the use of innovative methods. Developments in the use of mixed methods have extended beyond the practice of combining surveys and focus groups. The sophistication of transformative mixed methods designs in research will be explained and demonstrated through illustrative culturally responsive examples taken from diverse sectors and geographical regions. Transformative mixed methods designs will include applications for designing an intervention and determining its effectiveness. Participants will have the opportunity to create transformative mixed methods designs using vignettes that are relevant to the field of occupational science.

The workshop will be divided into 3 sections:

- First, the concepts of transformation; social, economic, and environmental justice will be explored in the context of occupational science research, with reference to relevant marginalized populations (e.g., homeless, immigrants, unemployed people, women, people with disabilities, racial/ethnic minorities).
- Second, the basic vocabulary of mixed methods design will be explained, and transformative mixed methods design will be put into the context of occupational science research.
- Third, transformative mixed methods designs will be explained and demonstrated for the purpose of developing an intervention and determining its effectiveness. The participants will be given a case study with relevance to occupational science and asked to develop a mixed methods design.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Discuss the meaning of transformation in the context of social, economic, and environmental justice.
2. Identify the components of transformative mixed methods designs in evaluation for the purpose of designing an intervention and determining its effectiveness.
3. Use a case study to apply the concepts of transformative mixed methods design for a specific context in occupational science.

Speaker Biography:

Donna M. Mertens is Professor Emeritus at Gallaudet University, a university with a mission to serve Deaf and hard of hearing students. Mertens developed the transformative approach to research and evaluation as a response to concerns raised by members of marginalized communities about the harm done when studies are designed without considering issues of discrimination and social, environmental and economic justice. Mertens published Mixed Methods Design in Evaluation (Sage, 2018), Program Evaluation Theory and Practice (2nd ed.) (Guilford Press, 2019), and Research Methods in Education and Psychology (5th ed., Sage, 2020). She served as editor of the Journal of Mixed Methods Research for 5 years and chaired the Mixed Methods International Research Association's task force on the future of mixed methods. She held long-term leadership positions in AEA, including the presidential position 1997-1999 and the Board 2000-2002. She continues to serve as an advisor to AEA's diversity fellowship program through subsequent years.