Researching in Aboriginal Communities: Are we doing right?

Summary: Choosing the right research methodology for the right context is important and I believe this is particularly true when researching in Indigenous communities. It is important to remember that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community is the most studied community in Australia. For over two centuries non-Indigenous researchers have examined every facet of Australian Indigenous life, utilising many different research methods and methodologies, some of which have been ethically unsound and detrimental to the Indigenous community being studied. Grounded Theory Methodology is one method that I believe is culturally sensitive and appropriate to use in the context of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research. Grounded Theory Methodology (GTM) is derived from sociological research and used to build a theory where little is known about the research area. As an early career researcher it can be quite challenging to conceptualise abstract theory from very practical empirical data. In this Keynote Address, I will discuss the ways in which I apply Grounded Theory Methodology in my research with Aboriginal communities.

Bio: Professor Peter Radoll is inaugural Dean of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education and Research, and Director Academic and Research at the Wollotuka Institute at the University of Newcastle. Peter is a descendant of the Anaiwan People of northern New South Wales. Before taking up his current position, Peter held various roles in the university sector including: Director of the Tjabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre and associate lecturer in Information Systems in the College of Business and Economics at the Australian National University; and Acting Director of the Ngunnawal Indigenous Higher Education Centre and Assistant Professor in Information Systems in the Faculty of Business, Government and Law at the University of Canberra. Peter is Chief Investigator and Science and Technology node leader on the ARC funded National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network. He is a leading academic in the area of diffusion of ICTs in Aboriginal communities. He is Adjunct Professor at the University of Canberra and Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre of Economic Policy Research at the ANU.

Publications


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Location: HB13, Hunter Building
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