

# UT Summer Institute: Introduction and Task

University of Tsukuba

Summer Institute

July 2015

# Description of the Course

- You will work in a group on a task for 6 days
- The task will provide an introduction to the research process in physical education and sport pedagogy and associated fields
- The task will involve the development of a research project proposal

# Description of the Course

- You will be provided with information each day to assist you to complete the task
- You will be given time each morning to work on the task with your group
- Your group will make a presentation of your research project proposal on the final day

# Task Step 1

- Identify a 'hot' topic in physical education and sport pedagogy or a related field
- Write the draft title of your study
- Identify group member names and country affiliations

# Step 2

- Write a paragraph explaining the importance of your topic (300 words max.) The intent of this paragraph is to persuade the reader that this topic needs to be studied.
  - Consider the body of literature you will draw on to write your paragraph and the key words you would use in your literature search
  - Consider the theoretical perspective/s you might use to inform your study
  - Reference key literature in making your case for the importance of your topic
  - Consider implications of this research to physical education implementation, policy and physical education teacher education, and sport

# Step 3

- List your Research Questions (RQs) (between 2 and 4 RQs)
  - These should be in interrogative form (?)

Example: *'Relationships between body image, motivation and physical education experiences in 13-14 year old boys and girls'* (Kerner, C. UoB)

    - RQ1: Are there between pupil and between class differences in the body image scores of 13-14 year old pupils within physical education?
  - Identify the theoretical basis of your study and briefly describes how it grounds your study.

# Step 4

- Write about the research design and methods you might use in order to generate data that will allow you to answer your RQs
  - Consider design and methods in relation to each RQ. Make sure your design aligns with your research questions
  - Consider how you would characterise the methodology of your study overall (eg. qualitative, mixed-method, ethnographic, practitioner research)
  - Consider the ethical issues likely to arise in your study and whether you will need the permission of gatekeepers

# Step 5

- Identify up to three journals in which you would seek to publish the findings of your study, and write a short paragraph (50 words max.) explaining how your study fits with the mission of each journal.
- Identify three conferences of national or international associations.
  - Consider each journal/conference as a scholarly or professional community and so as a specific audience for your work
  - Consider the networking opportunities each conference would provide and how you might optimise these



# Step 6

- Present your completed task as a group on Tuesday morning 21 July
  - You have 5 minutes for the presentation and 5 minutes to answer questions

# What is a 'Hot Topic'?

It is a topic in physical education and sport pedagogy

- That we don't know enough about
- That we need to know more about urgently
- That is current
- That knowing more about will make a difference for the better
- That we can learn more about through well designed research projects

# How do we know a topic is 'hot'?

- Careful reading of the research literature suggests the topic is important and current but insufficiently understood
- A problem has emerged from professional practice, highlighted by practitioners
- A new policy has presented new challenges to practice

# Some examples of 'hot topics'

- Can adolescent girls learn to value the physically active life? And can physical educators assist them to do so?
- What are the consequences of motor development delay for young children's physical development, health and wellbeing? And can we develop a program to overcome these consequences?