Tsukuba Summer Institute 2016

Collaborative Research Program
Theory & Research Questions
Where are we going today?

1. Review Lit Review: support for hot topic

2. Identifying a theory
   - Identify a list of potential theories
   - Discuss the merits and weaknesses of each theory
   - Select one (or at most two) theory/theories for your study and identify how the theory grounds your study.

3. Start planning 2-3 Research Questions
Target for Tomorrow @ 11am

Hot Topic

Key Articles informing your research topic

Theory and theorist

Paragraph explaining the importance of your topic + 2-3 research questions
Review of HOT TOPICS & SUPPORTING LITERATURE
Checkpoint Charlie – Can your team..

1. State your team’s hot topic
2. Briefly identify 2 articles that you have selected to justify your hot topic
Purpose of Literature Review

What do we know about this hot topic?

How do we know?
Past theory and methods

What don’t we know about this topic?
Gaps in the literature

How can we find out more about “the gaps”?
Theory and methods
Purpose of Literature Review

Establishes the justification and rationale for your project

Provides the foundations for:
  • Selection of a theorist or theory
  • Construction of research questions
  • Research design

ALIGNMENT IS CRITICAL
Why Use Theory?

- It provides a way of thinking about your hot topic
- It will help identify specific constructs (variables) that you need to examine in your hot topic
- It may suggest relationships between variables and ways in which to manipulate these variables
Why Use Theory?

- Helps with alignment of your RQs to your methods
- It can be an explanation of relationships that you want to test in your study
- Theories make explicit assumptions about phenomena or relationships between variables that can direct your methods
- Theory provides a mechanism for explanation/analysis of findings
- Theory provides useful frameworks and tools for analytic work
Hiring Your Theorist

Selecting a theorist is like hiring someone for a job.

There are many possibilities but you need to decide who is the best applicant.
What to Consider

- What job are you hiring a theorist for?
  - Consider the kinds of characteristics that your theory will need to possess in order to be valuable for you.
  - Ask yourself about your world view and how this might influence selection of a theory?
  - Hire each “theorist” and then dismiss/fire them if they don’t work for you (literature review)
  - Theories previously used in the literature
  - Theories used in other literatures
Considering Your Applicants

- Identify a list of potential candidates (different kinds of theories) from:
  - Literature review
  - Consider their strengths & weakness for the job:
    - What is helpful?
    - What is a problem?
  - Selecting an applicant (theorist) who provides the best overall value.
Know thy Enemy

- Know other theoretical view points
- You need to understand other ways of thinking about your study (theories) and how this may change interpretation of your study
- Understand how people with a different theory might criticize your theoretical point of view & approach
THEORY PROVIDES A LENS FOR US TO INVESTIGATE OUR “FISHBOWLS”

Foucault....I can't see anything special in my world of PE teaching!

Here try looking through these..
Let's consider an example....

Why are there so few overweight or obese Japanese children in Japan?
Theory to Explain and/or Change: Tradition or Paradigms

• **Biophysical Tradition**
  • Energy Balance Equation

• **Health/Social Psychology Tradition**
  • Health Beliefs Model

• **Social Theory Model**
  • Foucault: Governmentality Model
Energy Balance Equation

Flags:

• Method and methodology

• RQs
  – What is the average calorie intake of Japanese Children?
  – What is the average calorie output of Japanese children?

• Publication opportunities
Health Belief Model

Susceptibility
Severity
Threat
Action (PA)
Benefits
Barriers
Outcome expectations

moderate
lots, valued
few, solvable
How are Japanese children incited to conduct themselves as active, healthy citizens of Japan?

Japanese Citizens
- Productive
- Happy
- Healthy

Japan HPE Curriculum for Schools
Miki, Hiromi Sensai
Impression formation processes for athletes

How do athletes categorize and individualize opponents?
What are positive & negative conditions for precise impression formation?
What are the cognitive strategies for athletes?

The continuum model of impression formation

Susan Fiske

• We, cognitive misers, stereotype/categorize others first, and if we have enough motivation and information, we forward to the \textbf{INDIVIDUALIZING PROCESS}; applying subcategories, and integrating piecemeal information.
The social construction of Pedagogic Discourse

Basil Bernstein (1990)

Primary Field of Knowledge Production

- MMA
- Sport
- Active Leisure
- Exercise
- Dance
- OAA

Govt. Departments: DCMS, DCSF, YST, Sport England

Recontextualising Field

University Field of Practice

Secondary Field of Knowledge Reproduction

University Academic journal
Specialize media of education

Pedagogic form of Knowledge

Physical Education

Pedagogic form of Knowledge
Some Research Questions

Who are the main recontextualising agents?

- Is the ORF growing in influence while the PRF is shrinking and what is the effect (whose ideas dominate)?
- How are commercial and other interests operating in the RF?

What is teachers’ role in the process?

- At the interface of the RF and SF? (Two moments of transformation)
- Within the SF?

How does learning in school physical education affect the process of consumption of PPC?
Now it is your turn.....

• Review your 8 research articles
  • What theory have the researchers used?
  • Identify weaknesses/strengths
  • Consider usefulness of each theory/theorist for your specific hot topic
  • Do you know of another (more useful/new) theory?

• Following this review and discussion select your theory/theorist.
Now it is your turn……

**TASK:** Identify a theory

- Identify a list of potential theories
- Discuss the merits and weaknesses of each theory
- Select one (or at most two) theory/theories for your study and identify how the theory grounds your study
Constructing Research Questions

The development of precise research questions is critical for a quality study.

A good research question/s will:
• **Align with your chosen theory and theory family**
• Clearly worded and state a single focus of the topic
• Inform the research design
• Feasible – appropriate according to scope (how big or small), available time, available resources and your expertise
• Scientifically important (literature review)
• Socially important

Many research questions will pose a hypothesis to be tested or explored

Research questions will need constant review and maybe refinement.

Research questions will vary depending on whether a study is quantitative or qualitative.
Quantitative or Qualitative?

Quantitative researchers: gather data by objective methods to provide information about relations, comparisons and predictions.

Typically, quantitative researchers will work with numerical data.

In quantitative research:

- Research questions should be precisely stated and clearly measureable.
- RQS are sometimes written in a way that anticipates a specific outcome, e.g. “The motor skill intervention group will be significantly better than the control group on object control skill performance from pretest to posttest”.
- RQs can also be written in a way that does not anticipate a specific outcome, e.g. “What is the effect of a motor skill program on the object control skill performance of children?”
Quantitative or Qualitative?

Qualitative: focus on the ways in which people make sense of their experiences and the world they live in….seeks to understand phenomena in real-world settings where the researcher does not manipulate the phenomenon of interest

Typically, the data that qualitative researchers will be words and text

In qualitative research:

• RQs are written differently more in the form of guiding questions or questions that reflect the central themes to be explored according to the hot topic, literature review or theory, e.g. “How do children make meaning of their motor competence from participation in a motor skill program?”.
Now it is your turn.....

TASK: Write 2-3 research questions for your research study

• Consider
  • Quantitative or qualitative??
  • Clear focus
  • Key terms of hot topic
  • Language of theorist - ALIGNMENT
  • Hypothesis, explore, comparisons ??
HOMEWORK

• Complete the annotated review of the articles you selected.

• Identify your theory and provide a rationale for why you selected it.

• 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 is important and needs to be studied. Outline the key findings from the literature you will draw upon to support the importance of your topic. Describe the theoretical perspective/s you will use to inform your study. Consider implications of this research to professional practice and policy.