

Mixed Methods to Address Wicked Problems

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MMIRA Webinar

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Challenging Times, Wicked Problems, and Optimism

- Dysfunctional political parties, rampant factionalism, immature politicians (Weekend Australia, Nov 25-26, 2017)
- Countries across Southeast Asia have shown signs of increasing human rights violations or moves away from democracy. (Washington Post, 8 Sept 2017)
- Wicked Problems: No known or agreed upon solutions, complex, require interdisciplinary teams, time is running out
- Optimism: What is the other choice?

Optimism based on a shift in the assumptions that guide our work as researchers

What's mixed methods research got to contribute?

How can transformative mixed methods contribute?

- Strengthens credibility of evidence
- Critical cultural perspective
- Inclusion of diverse stakeholders and their experiences
- Orientation towards constructive action

Paradigms: Four Assumptions

- Axiological: Nature of Ethics
- Ontological: Nature of Reality
- Epistemology: Nature of Knowledge & Relation Between Knower & That Which Would Be Known (Researcher and Stakeholders)
- Methodology: Nature of systematic inquiry

Role of the Researcher

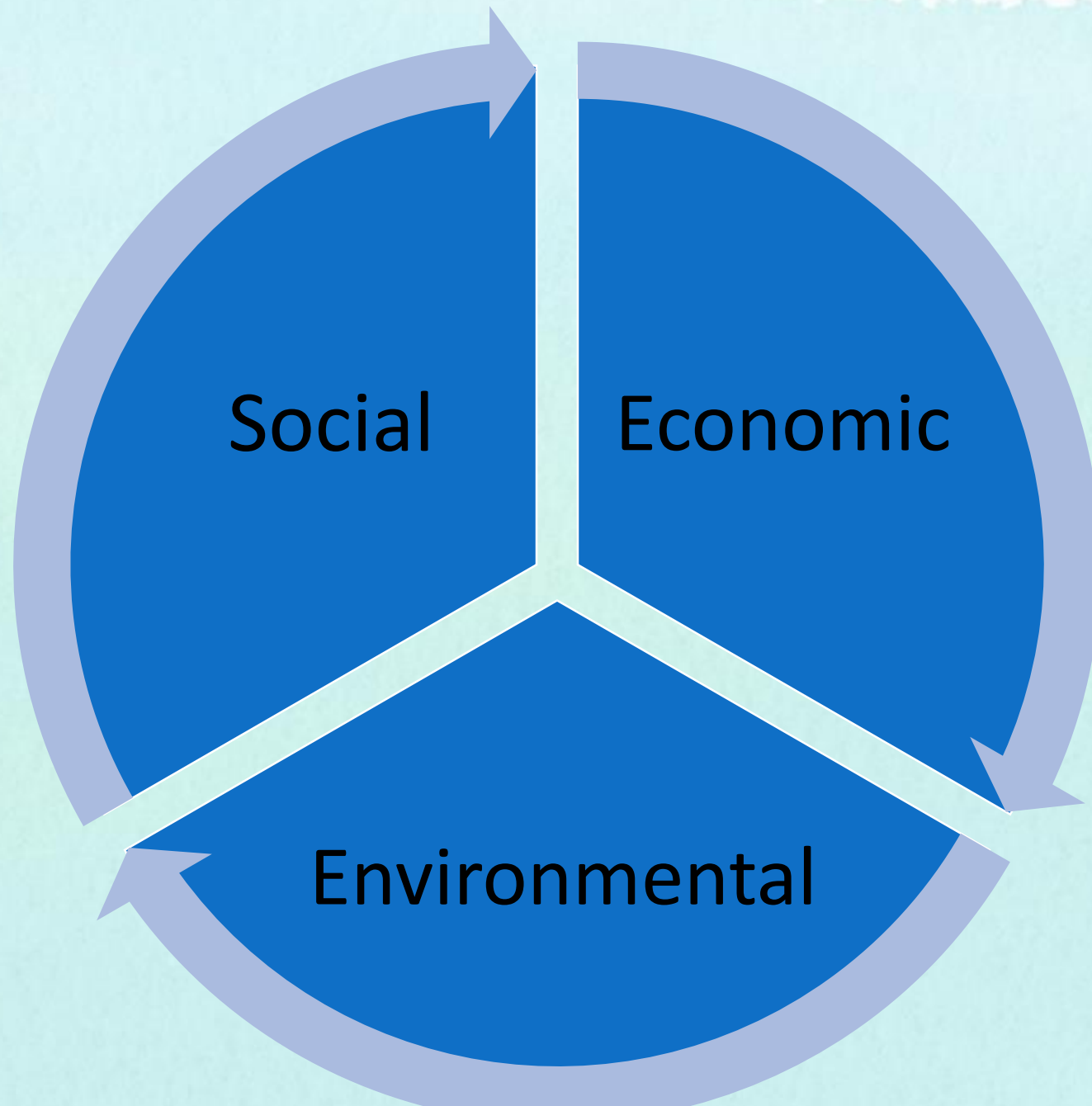
Is research transformational for democratic purposes or managerial and/or political affirmation masked as objective/independent/credible?

Change agents: Advancing the global SDGs by ensuring the right to evaluation by all. Indran Naidoo, AEA November 2017, Washington DC

Shifting to a Transformative Stance: Axiology, Values, Ethics

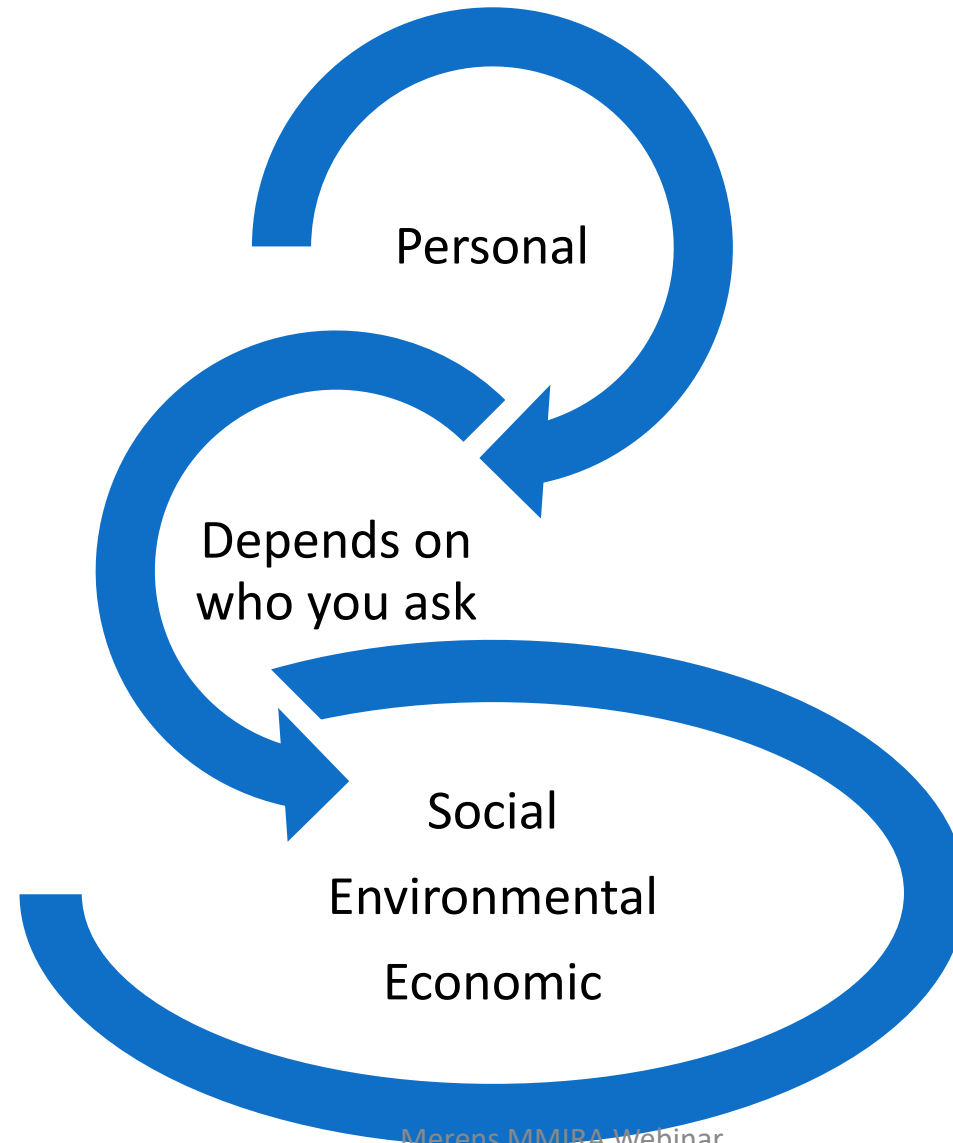
- Designing studies that recognize the interconnectedness of all of us, living and nonliving, from the past, present and future
- Designing studies that address the linkage between different types of justice
- Using transformative mixed methods to bring to visibility the values that are driving societal decisions
- Designing studies that lead to transformative action

Type of Justice





What is the meaning of transformation?



Transformative Paradigm

Assumptions	Beliefs
Axiology	Cultural respect; promote social, environmental and economic justice & human rights; address inequities; reciprocity; resilience; interconnectedness (living and nonliving); relationships
Ontology	Multi-faceted; consequences of privilege; historically situated
Epistemology	Interactive; trust; coalition building
Methodology	Transformative, dialogic, culturally responsive, mixed methods; policy change

Transformative Axiology: Context Analysis

1. How can mixed methods be used to

- identify the cultural norms and beliefs that might be operating in the community
- identify dimensions of diversity associated with discrimination and oppression and associated power structures

2. How would you take into account the expertise, knowledge, and strengths of the community in order to provide a platform for authentic engagement between the researcher and the community?

Transformative Ontological Assumption

- Recognizes that different versions of reality exist;
- All versions of reality are not equal;
- Recognizes privilege given to what is perceived to be real based on: social, political, cultural, economic, ethnic, gender, religion, indigeneity, refugee/immigrant status, and disability positionality ;
- Interrogates versions of reality that sustain oppressive systems;
- Makes visible versions of reality that have the potential to further human rights

Making Versions of Reality Visible: Mining in Australia and Palm Oil Production in Indonesia

- Indigenous land rights
- Prevention of pollution
- Slow down the destruction of the coral reef because of increased carbon emissions
- Loss of agricultural land
- Protect forests
- Water security
- Well-being
- Reduce gap between rich and poor

- Jobs
- Energy
- Economic growth
- Profit

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/adani-coal-mine-premier-digs-in-for-regional-jobs/news-story/40071b0b0c570ae7d6ecc180c5a137b9>

Adani coal mine: Premier digs in for regional jobs

Steven Wardill, The Courier-Mail March 25, 2017

Transformative Mixed Methods and Different Versions of Reality

- Use mixed methods to:
- Identify, support and include diverse participants, so that you can reveal different versions of reality, including their basis in terms of privilege and power
- Contribute to the change in understandings of what is real

Transformative Epistemological Assumption

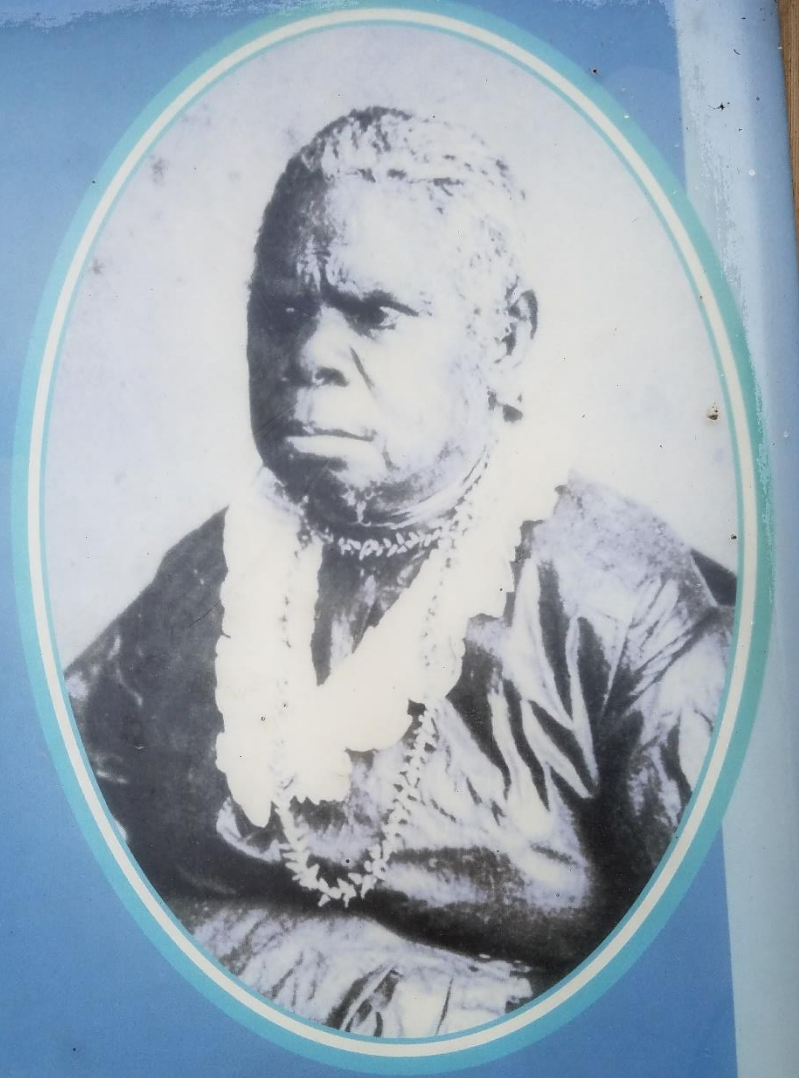
- Establishment of an interactive link between the researcher and participants;
- Acknowledges that knowledge is socially and historically located;
- Explicit acknowledgement of power inequities;
- Development of a trusting relationships
- Build effective political coalitions

Epistemology: Knowledge is Social and Historically Located



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FEAR

In the final years of her life, Truganini was fearful of her body being mutilated by scientists after her death. One of the last tribal Aborigines in Tasmania, she died in 17

Epistemology: Building Coalitions Papua New Guinea Mining

- 1967: Soeharto government signed contract with Freeport McMoRan
- Freeport's power: economic growth, job creation, taxes paid to Indonesia
- Indigenous people protested; workers went out on strike
- UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People
- UN Norms on the Responsibilities of Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises with Regard to Human Rights
- Formalized into organizations, such as LEMASA (Amungme Tribe Council) and LEMASKO (Kamoro Tribe Council) (Soares 2004). They also forged alliances with other indigenous communities in Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (Alliance of Indigenous Peoples of the Archipelago)
- UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations; worked with Australian Council for Overseas Aid; Established an office in Port Vila to coordinate efforts
- Lawsuit against Freeport for cultural genocide
- Freeport: Social, employment and Human Rights Policy and internal code of conduct principles; International Congress and Convention Association audit compliance; Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights with NGOs; signed ISO14001 environmental standards; audit PT.SGS International
- Established 1% Trust Fund; Amungme and Kamoro granted Land Rights Trust Fund – share in the mine; August 2017 – transfer majority share to Indonesia

Transformative Mixed Methods Epistemology

- Use mixed methods to:
- Address power differentials in the stakeholder groups
- Give voice to the less powerful
- Establish trusting relationships
- Build effective coalitions for political action

Transformative Methodological Assumption

- Develop a culturally responsive cyclical approach
- Engage appropriately with diverse stakeholders
- Conduct contextual analysis
- Develop interventions that are culturally responsive
- Facilitate use of the research findings for social transformation, including policy implications

Transformative Mixed Methods

Build relationships

Review literature

Individual and group consultation

Develop working strategies

Contextual analysis

Focus groups, surveys, extant data, literature, GIS mapping

Identify value positions

Develop intervention

Pilot intervention

Observations, interviews, photo voice, focus groups, surveys, pre/post data collection, team meetings

Implement intervention

Similar data collection as for pilot

Add process evaluation of implementation

Collect data on unexpected outcomes

Determine effectiveness

Post data collection (indicators, art work, poetry, photos, mapping)

Examine relationship quality

Use findings for transformative purposes

Use for policy change

Use to refine intervention

Use to improve and expand relationships

CLIMATE CHANGE 2014:

IMPACTS, ADAPTATION, AND VULNERABILITY



Transformative Research Agenda

- ▶ Meaning of transformation: live in harmony with nature and each other, economic sustainability, control research process
- ▶ Korea:
 - ▶ **Natural ecosystem – energy and pollution** → **harmony**
 - ▶ **Social ecosystem – polarization, gaps** → **human dignity**
 - ▶ **Technological ecosystem: industry, unemployment** → **improved quality of life and economic development**

Korea and Environmental Research (Jung et al. 2013)



- Research on eco-industrial parks
- Quantitative
 - **Economic**
 - **Environmental**
 - **Social**

Transformative Mixed Methods in Korea

Phase 1

Qual: Identify stakeholders; build relationships; analyzing documents

Quant: Identify available demographic and environmental data

Phase 2

Qual: Interviews, focus groups, town meetings

Quant: Establish baseline for pollutants and health status

Phase 3

Qual: Develop interventions based on stakeholder input

Quant/Qual: Pilot test interventions & data collection

Phase 4

Quant: process assessment of implementation; pretests

Qual: observe and interview stakeholder groups during intervention

Phase 5

Quant: Post-test measures

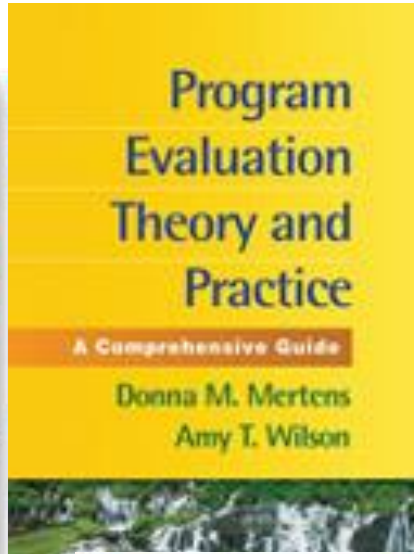
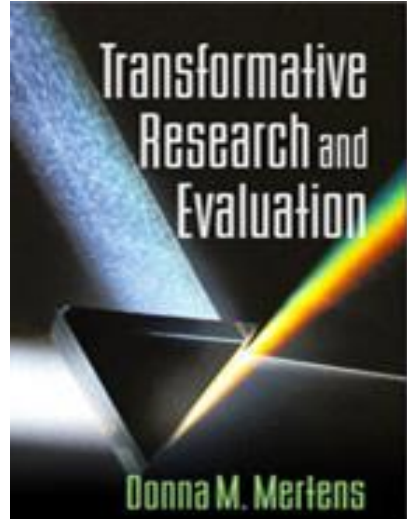
Qual: Interviews, observations, policy planning

Conclusions

- Courage
- Mixed Methods: Capture complexity, address social justice, and ethics
- Teams – researchers and coalition
- Capacity development



Resources



Mixed Methods Design in **EVALUATION**



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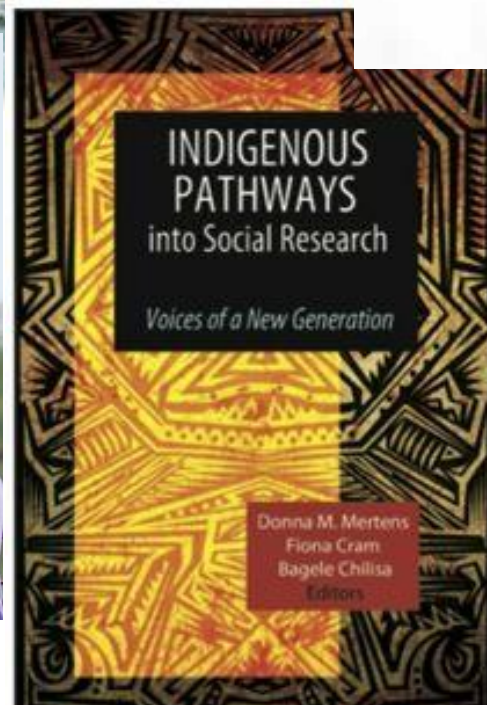
Research and
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4
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