Decolonizing and Indigenizing Research Practice

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Halito!
Overview

- Colonization
- History of Research
- Decolonization
- Indigenism
- In Practice
"From the vantage point of the colonized…the term ‘research’ is inextricably linked to European imperialism and colonialism. This word itself is probably one of the dirtiest words in the indigenous world’s vocabulary.”

(Smith, 1999, p.1)
History of Research
Fidelity may be defined as the extent to which delivery of an intervention adheres to the protocol or program model originally developed. Fidelity measurement has increasing significance for evaluation, treatment effectiveness research, and service administration.
Rigor

As a concept, rigor is perhaps best thought of in terms of the quality of the research process. In essence, a more rigorous research process will result in more trustworthy findings. ... Transparency, as its name suggests, refers to clarity in describing the research process.
Generalization
Decolonization is

“the intelligent, calculated, and active resistance to the forces of colonialism that perpetrate the subjugation and/or exploitation of our (Indigenous) mind, bodies, and lands, and is engaged for the ultimate purpose of overturning the colonial structure and realizing Indigenous liberation”

(Waziyatawin and Yellow Bird, 2005, pg. 2).
Indigenism

“Indigenism has sought to conceptualize methodological reform using a variety of approaches that advocate a research compatibility with indigenous realities, interests and aspirations”

(Rigney, 2006a, pp. 36).
Critical Praxis
Indigenous Stress Coping Model

**Stress**
- Trauma
  - Historical trauma
  - Discrimination
  - Traumatic life events
  - Physical and sexual assaults / abuse

**Coping**
- Cultural Buffers
  - Identity attitudes
  - Enculturation
  - Spiritual coping
  - Traditional health practices

**Health Outcomes**
- Health
  - HIV risk
  - Morbidity
- Alcohol/Drug
  - Use / abuse
  - Dependence
- Mental Health
  - PTSD / anxiety
  - Depression
Traditional Indigenous Knowledge

“a cumulative body of knowledge, know-how, practices and representations maintained and developed by peoples with extended histories of interaction with the natural environment”

(International Council of Science, 2002, pg.3)
“Chanspo Ikhvnanchi”

- Original instructions
- Relational restructuring
- Narrative transformation
Survivance:

"...an active sense of presence, the continuance of native stories, not a mere reaction, or a survivable name. Native survivance stories are renunciations of dominance, tragedy, and victimry."

(Vizenor, 1994, pg. vii).
Reflexivity
Anukfilli “Deep Reflection”

Marcus (1994) identifies four types of reflexivity;
- self-critique and personal quest
- sustaining objectivity
- politics of location
- feminist experiential reflexivity

...positioning assumes all work is incomplete and requires a response (and thus engagement) from others positioned differently
Examples

Daughters of the Drum
Our Vision of Health
Questions