
QUALITATIVE RESEARCH: WHAT'S IN IT FOR THE SECTOR?

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CASC, Brock University, May 29, 2014



OVERVIEW

- Research in the current Canadian context
- Opportunities and Challenges
- Refiguring research
- Key lessons for revisionary co-operative futures

RESEARCH IN THE CANADIAN CONTEXT

- Intellectual and discursive crisis: “When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean” (Humpty Dumpty; Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass*)
- Increasingly tied to wealth generation as the supreme driver of domestic and foreign policy
- Crumbling conceptual infrastructure and evidentiary architecture (Savoie, 2013)
- In the black and white world of Prime Minister Harper, “this not a time to commit sociology” (CBC, April 25, 2013)
- Brym & Ramos (2013, 28 April), “we are now on a path to policy-based evidence. Increasingly facts are ignored, suppressed, or distorted to suit government ideology”

UNCOOPERATIVE FEDERALISM

- Largely ignores the UN year and defunds co-op organizations
- Attacks on democratic governance, knowledge, and difference
- Winners **or** losers in global competition
- The environment **or** the economy
- Ecological interests as impediments to progress and as luxuries (like social justice)
- International aid is realigned with trade and a federal minister's portfolio changed from International Co-operation to International Development
- Plurality of economies and entrepreneurial models reduced to single reductive logic

CAPITALISM IN CRISIS

- Revisiting current efforts to rethink “outmoded and crumbling models” (Schwab, 2011) and rethink capitalism (Haque, 2011; Porter & Kramer, 2011)
- Building on efforts to humanize and resocialize the economy (Birchall, 2012; Findlay, 2012; Lewis & Conaty, 2011; McMurtry, 2010; Mook, Quarter, & Ryan, 2012; Reed & McMurtry, 2009; Restakis, 2010)
- “Control over memory is essential for any political project—hegemonic, resistant or otherwise. In the struggles over the past, the act of *forgetting* or *omitting* is just as powerful as that of recollection” (Davis & Starnm 1989; cit. Larsen, 2006, p. 315).
- “We have all been marinated in European thought” (Battiste, 2002)
- Unpacking modernity as a literal, discursive, and cognitive mapping in the names of progress, reason, civilization



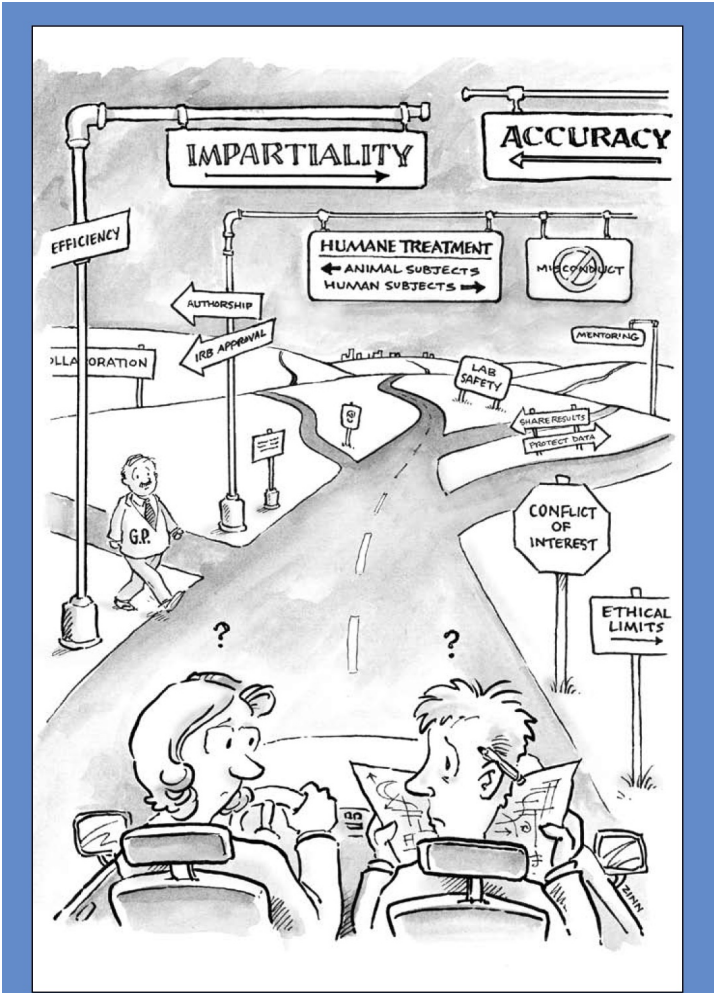
COLONIAL RESEARCH FOUNDATIONS

- Privilege and power given to individual researcher for study, question, method, discourse, analysis
- Insulated research monologue among researchers
- Built on unreflective intrusive data collection, examining the parts, ignoring whole
- 'Power' in luggage of values, discourses, systems, rules, institutional processes
- Peoples pathologized and problematized based on culture, language, community and solutions given to them without resources to fix them



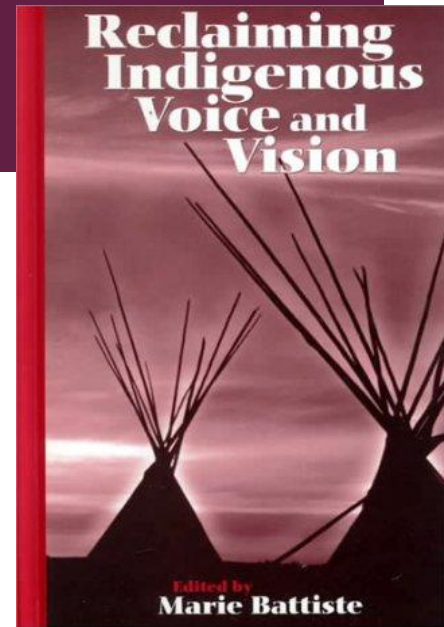
CHANGING RESEARCH PARADIGMS

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- TCPS2
- TRI-COUNCIL POLICY STATEMENT
- Ethical Conduct for
Research Involving
Humans**
- 2018
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
- Canada



DECOLONIZING METHODOLOGIES

- “The term ‘research’ is inextricably linked to European imperialism and colonialism. The word itself, ‘research’, is probably one of the dirtiest words in the indigenous world’s vocabulary” (Smith, 1999).
- Indigenous researchers leading a discourse on respect and decolonization



RETHINKING (PARTICIPATORY ACTION) RESEARCH

- From positivist distance and disinterest to a “revolutionary science” acknowledging politics while maintaining “discipline” (Fals Borda, 1987)
- Participatory research brings new sets of social relations for research and ...a new set of ethical challenges” (Boser, 2006)
- “The discourse of participation has been gradually appropriated and recontextualised within a neo-liberal policy regime” (Jordan, 2003)
- Indigenous Humanities (Battiste et al, 2005)
 - Making inquiry more sociable and accountable
 - Giving more complex accounting of identities and institutions
- “cognitive justice”: “prudent knowledge for a decent life” (Santos, 2007)



CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF CO-OPERATIVES AND COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH: CO-PRODUCTION & CO-CREATIVITY

- **Authentic Partnerships**—built upon trust and respect
 - Unique governance
 - Intersectoral and interdisciplinary partnership model
- **Intellectual and collaborative organizing and institution building**—a forum to shape policy for the greater good
 - University of Saskatchewan recognition as the hub of c-u relationships
 - Institutional legacy of collaborative social organizing and planning
- **Knowledge mobilization**—research in the public domain
- **Research culture** as “economic engine” reconstituting communities as part of effective remediation and redistribution



THREE RS: RESEARCH, RELATIONSHIPS, AND REFLEXIVITY

- Responding to the coercive 3Rs of colonial education
- Democratizing research, respecting knowledges, redirecting the research gaze all ways, demanding accountability
- Promoting intergenerational dialogue
- Understanding commonalities, sharing interests, passions, and commitment
- Challenging systems and stereotypes
- Resisting/unpacking academic orthodoxies and monopolies
- Strengthening trust and relationships



MAKING A CO-OPERATIVE DIFFERENCE

- Reimagining the conceptual economies of our disciplines for research committed to the social, economic, and cultural life of communities
- Encouraging decolonizing methodologies (including gender and cultural lenses)
- Respecting diverse knowledge bearers
- Revisiting stories of economic modernity
- Expanding understanding of co-operatives and their multiple bottom lines
- Challenging performance metrics and reward systems and expanding what counts in community, university, and policy contexts
- Promoting research as an important site of learning, relationship, capacity building, identity formation, and community (academic, activist, artistic) renewal
- Sharing gifts of new concepts, language, energies, and holistic understandings