

# Indigenous Research Methodologies

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## Positionality



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## Ethics



- Legacy of colonialism translates to research
- Unethical and racist premise, lack of informed consent, unethical conduct
- Continues to be a lack of Indigenous people in research fields

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**Creating Change- TRC Recommendations**

- Develop and implement a multi-year National Action Plan for Reconciliation, which includes research and policy development, public education programs, and resources.
- With Aboriginal peoples, post-secondary institutions and educators, and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and its partner institutions, to establish a national research program ...to advance understanding of reconciliation
- Plus an additional amount to assist communities to research and produce histories of their own residential school experience and their involvement in truth, healing, and reconciliation

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**Mataatua Declaration on Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights of Indigenous Peoples (1993)**

“Indigenous peoples of the world have the right to self-determination and in exercising that right must be recognized as the exclusive owners of their cultural and intellectual property. It insists that the first beneficiaries of indigenous knowledge must be direct indigenous descendants of that knowledge. [...]

Recognize indigenous peoples as the guardians of their customary knowledge and have the right to protect and control dissemination of that knowledge and [...] create new knowledge based on cultural traditions. “

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*the practice of academically certified  
punctuation distances me  
from my sense of space time and natural  
speech patterns including translated ones  
separating me from my connection with  
the earth and its natural rhythms  
the a priori presumption being that the  
written word is of paramount worth  
-Peter Cole-*

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### Key Tenets

- **Relational accountability:** to a whole community, not only participants
- **Identity and community:** Frames are part of the study, not 'bias'
- **Self-determination:** Community drives research throughout the project, and owns intellectual property

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### Areas of study in healthcare

- Social determinants of health
- Community resilience
- Environmental impact
- Effective service delivery to rural and remote areas
- Decolonized medicine
- Community and Nation based research

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### Methods that explore relationships

- Story telling (narrative inquiry)
- Talking circles (focus groups)
- Indigenous Métissage
- Participatory action research in communities
- Blended process, rather than separate research stages

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**Example**

- Study of Indigenous knowledge use in Indigenous nurses' practice
- Nurses consistently use inherited knowledge in their work, blending Western and Indigenous knowledge
- Connected identities among participants
- Paper discusses personal position, names and identities of participants
- Reports "threads" from conversations

Bearskin, R. L. B., Cameron, B. L., Reid, A., & Martial, R. (2016). Māmawoh Kamātowin," Coming together to help each other in wellness": Honouring Indigenous Nursing Knowledge. *International Journal of Indigenous Health*, 11(1), 18-33.

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**"[authors] explain that while stories are not complete, and are limited in presenting a full understanding, they show us a path from which we can all learn"**  
*Lisa Bourque-Bearskin*

P. 29. Citation on previous slide

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**Thank you!**

More materials on Indigenous Research are available on D2L and the library

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