

Linking Scientific Values, Intersectionality and Positionality in Mixed Methods Research

Instructions:

Audience: This activity is intended for research groups, whether in courses or teams.

Step 1: Explore values by sorting which ones are important to your research, then ranking them.

Step 2: Reflect on which identities resonate with being a researcher.

Step 3: Connect one or more values and intersectionality identities to a positionality statement.

Step #01: Explore

What Values Do I Hold?

Values Guiding Research Design

Creativity, Invention,
Discovery, Innovation
Cultural Responsiveness,
Ethics, Humility, Authenticity
Rigor, Integrity, Scientific
Standards, Truth
Spirituality, Ancestry,
Community
Social Progress,
Reparations, Equity

Step #02: Reflect

Which Aspects of my Identities Resonate with me as a Researcher?

Intersectionality Wheel



Step #03: Connect

How do my Values and Intersectionality shape my Positionality and voice?

Positionality Stems

"As a researcher who values (insert value(s)) and identifies as a (insert identity), I approach this research on (insert topic) by"
 "We question..."
 "We aim to reposition the power..."
 "We empathize with..."
 "My power relations changed based on..."
 "I acknowledge that..."
 "We value"
 "We aim to balance..."

Example #1:

Values	Equity, Cultural Responsiveness, Ethics, Discovery, Creativity
Intersectional Identities	Political Ideology, Race, Parental Status, Gender
Positionality	As a researcher who values Equity, Cultural Responsiveness, Ethics, Discovery, Creativity and identifies as a mixed-race-Black-mother, cis-woman, abolitionist, I approach this Critical Race Mixed Methods Study on Positive Development of Racialized Youth by grounding my work in a deep commitment to liberatory and emancipatory research. Through a mixed-methods lens, I interrogate taken-for-granted assumptions about both research practices and the socio-political realities faced by racialized urban youth. I recognize that my research not only advances my career but also grants me privilege through the exploration of barriers confronting racialized youth. With intention, I choose to leverage my power and privilege to amplify knowledge from marginalized voices, guided by the broader goal of intersectional liberation.

Example #2:

Values	Creativity, Ethics, Humility, Cultural Responsiveness, Authenticity, Human Rights
Intersectional Identities	Cisgender, heterosexual, White, able-bodied, parent, student, daughter, woman, middle-class
Positionality	As a researcher who values humility, authenticity, ethics, cultural responsiveness, and human rights, I approach my research on peace and democratic education by acknowledging my own inherent bias resulting from the privilege of having White skin and a middle-class upbringing. My experience as a White woman in the United States has shaped my worldview, and it is incumbent upon me to actively question my own assumptions with the understanding that there is not one, objective truth, but instead there are many ways to make sense of the world.

References:

Colorado Department of Education (2023). Intersectionality wheel. <https://ed.cde.state.co.us/equitytoolkit/understanding-self/intersectionality>

Where to Find More: Katz-Buonincontro, J. (2024). Definitions, origins, and practices of mixed methods inquiry. *How to mix methods: A guide to sequential, convergent, and experimental research designs* (pp. 11-28). American Psychological Association.

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