“How to Conduct Education Research and Publish It: Guidance for Liberal Arts Faculty”

Yale-NUS, November 22nd, 2017

The International Program for the Scholarship of Educational Leadership (SoEL): UBC Certificate on Curriculum & Pedagogy in Higher Education

Harry Hubball, PhD
Professor, National Teaching Fellow, Canada
Faculty of Education
The University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC, Canada

Outline

• “How to Conduct Education Research and Publish It: Guidance for Liberal Arts Faculty”

  ✓ Strategic priorities for educational inquiry
  ✓ Formulating, refining and aligning practice-based inquiry questions
  ✓ Research methodology, data collection & research design
  ✓ Dissemination strategies

• Critical Challenges/Institutional Supports, and Ethical Considerations…
SoEL Inquiry/Investigations to Enhance Educational Practices

- Organizational level:
  Issues pertaining to strategic development, processes, impacts, effectiveness, quality, efficiencies, improvements

- Program level:
  Issues pertaining to strategic development, implementation, impacts, quality, effectiveness, efficiencies, improvements

- Curriculum and pedagogy/Teaching and student learning level:
  Issues pertaining to strategic development, processes, impacts, effectiveness, quality, efficiencies, improvements

SoEL: Practice-based Research, Development, & Dissemination

FOR ACADEMIC LEADERS WITH EDUCATION LEADERSHIP ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- SoEL Practice Issues RQ’s (frame and refine issues from general to specific)
- SoEL Research Literature (best practice principles, models/frameworks)
- SoEL Research Design and Methodology (strategic research framework)
- SoEL Research Methods (strategic qualitative/quantitative data & analysis)
- SoEL Strategic Practice Developments/Improvements and Dissemination Implications

Arthur, Waring, Cox, & Hedges 2012; Edmunds & Kennedy, 2010; Lochmiller & Lest, 2016; Remler, & van Ryzin, 2015

POTENTIAL SoEL RQ’s in DIVERSE SETTINGS [INDICATORS/Evidence OF IMPACT]

E-1: SoEL Context Questions
E-2: SoEL Process Questions
E-3: SoEL Impact Questions
E-4: SoEL Follow-up Questions

Hubball & Clarke, 2010
Educational Inquiry Contexts

Diverse perspectives of practice-based educational inquiry are shaped by ontological and epistemological assumptions each with different implications for:

1. the questions we ask, and
2. the claims that we seek to make,

- **Ontological Assumptions**: World view about the nature of reality - what is “really” going on here, what difference do we seek to make?
- **Epistemological Assumptions**: Ways in which we come to know about the above reality: [Theory of Knowledge] – how do we know what we know; what is the relationship between the knower and the known

Example of SoEL Research Methodologies

- Appreciative inquiry
- Institutional/program/classroom action research,
- Case study research,
- Ethnography,
- Grounded theory research,
- Implementation analysis,
- Longitudinal study research
- Phenomenological study,
- Program development/evaluation research,
- Self-study (including SWOT),
- Experimental design,
- Survey research,
- OTHER?

Example of SoEL Data Collection Methods

(Mixed Methods: Quantitative and Qualitative)

- Literature search (best practice models, situational comparisons)
- Documentation analysis (strategic vision, program learning materials, syllabi, comparative program data)
- Stakeholders’ experience – Surveys/Focus groups
- Review samples of students’ work
- Systematic peer-observation and analysis, field notes
- E-data-Analytics, digital video footage / multi-media
- External and internal review
- Other?

Example of SoEL Data Collection Methods

[Mixed Methods: Quantitative and Qualitative]
### SoEL/SoTL: 'Submission Friendly' Journals

- IJSSoTL / International Inquiry for Teaching and Learning (ISSL Journal) IJTLHE, AJSoTL / CJSoTL...
- International Journal for Academic Development
- Discipline-based pedagogical journals (e.g., Journal of Dentistry Education)
- OTHERS (e.g., Mountain Rise: The SoTL eJournal; Transformative Dialogues, HERDSA)

- Research Articles,
- Instructional Articles,
- Essays,
- Reviews

### Summary: A few tips

*The art, science and politics of publishing educational scholarship*

1 & 5. Situational analysis: Why bother - Purpose / Need (easy to harder outcomes)
2. Formulate and refine your inquiry RQ/Objectives
3. Ground your practice-based educational research in the scholarly HE literature
4. Select responsive research methodology and research design to achieve goals. Buy useful text book!
5 & 1. Targeted writing (fora-specific), progressive goal-setting timelines, consider co-authorship, seek expert assistance

### Outline

- "How to Conduct Education Research and Publish It: Guidance for Liberal Arts Faculty"
  - Strategic priorities for educational inquiry
  - Formulating, refining and aligning practice-based inquiry questions
  - Research methodology, data collection & research design
  - Dissemination strategies
- Critical Challenges/Institutional Supports, and Ethical Considerations…