

## **SoTL 101 Workshop 3: Choosing Your Methodology**

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm Rinker Welcome Center, 306

Target Audience: Faculty & Academic Staff

### ***Facilitators***

- Matt Schrage <mschrage@stetson.edu>  
Associate Professor, Health Sciences and Chair of Stetson Institutional Review Board
- Rick Medlin, <rmedlin@stetson.edu>  
Professor, Department of Psychology and Stetson Institutional Review Board Member
- Heather Edwards <hedwards@stetson.edu>  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
- Julia Metzker <jmetzker@stetson.edu>  
Executive Director, Brown Center for Faculty Innovation and Excellence
- Rosalie Richards <rosalie.richards@stetson.edu>  
Associate Provost for Faculty Development

### ***Today's Goals***

You will ...

1. identify potential methodologies for examining your SoTL research question,
2. understand what ethical issues can arise in SoTL research across varying methodologies, and
3. be able to use MentorIRB to submit subsequent proposed SoTL research protocol for review.

# What methodologies are familiar to us by our disciplinary work?

Consider the methodologies below.

a) "Case study research is any inquiry which involves careful description and analysis of a specific individual, group, or event." –Jennifer Friberg

b) "Content analysis is defined as systematic and replicable analysis of written, spoken or visual data in order to make inferences from that data with regard to a particular context." –Friberg and Cox

c) "Survey research is that which uses directed questioning (via interviews, focus groups, or written questionnaire) to understand the perceptions, knowledge, or attitude held by a group of people about a given topic." –Jennifer Friberg

d) Others: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Of the above methodologies....

Which are "square" with your disciplinary background and are commonly used in your discipline's research?



Which are "circling" around in your head? (What methodologies are you completely unfamiliar with?)



And finally, what methodology "circling" in your head could you see using in SoTL research and one day be "square" with?



# Methodologies: Finding Peer Resources & Identifying Methods Used in Your Articles

METHODOLOGIES	CHARACTERISTICS	WHO MIGHT BE A PEER RESOURCE?	LIST ARTICLES FROM H.W. USING THIS METHOD
<p>“<u>Case study research</u> is any inquiry which involves careful description and analysis of a specific individual, group, or event.” – Jennifer Friberg</p>	<p>Data can come from interviews, observations, reflections with a sample size of one.</p>		
<p>”<u>Content analysis</u> is defined as systematic and replicable analysis of written, spoken or visual data in order to make inferences from that data with regard to a particular context.” – Friberg and Cox</p>	<p>Inductive content analysis-<i>themes are identified as the data is examined</i></p> <p>Deductive content analysis-<i>categories are established earlier in order to refute/support a claim</i></p> <p>Often used with other methods to form a mixed-methods approach.</p>		
<p>“<u>Survey research</u> is that which uses directed questioning (via interviews, focus groups, or written questionnaire) to understand the perceptions, knowledge, or attitude held by a group of people about a given topic.” –Jennifer Friberg</p>	<p>Data can come from interviews, focus groups, or written questionnaires.</p>		
<p>Other?</p>			

## ***10-min Free Writing***

Write continuously for 10 minutes | Pen never leaves paper  
Write whatever comes to your head (you won't have to share!)

**Reflect on your SoTL research question. What method/s will help you answer your research question?**

**DEAD  
QUIET  
No  
talking**

***10-min Free Writing***

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# Elevator Pitch

**A:** Take 2 minutes to distill your 10-minute free writing and identify a potential methodology for your research question. Jot anything below you might need for this process.

**B:** When the 2 minutes are up, give each other two minutes to state your research question and corresponding methodology. (Feel free to get up and walk around to find your partner!)

## ***Notes to organize pitch:***

## ***Post-pitch feedback from partner:***

***Based on your post-pitch feedback, do you want to rethink your methodology or you want to “stay fast?”***

# Think | Pair | Share

*Below are two cases illustrated in Hubball and Clarke's article, "Diverse Methodological Approaches and Considerations for SoTL in Higher Education." Take a few minutes to read over these examples and consider the following questions.*

- 1. Who are the research subjects?*
- 2. What are the potential risks?*
- 3. What ethical issues could arise that must be addressed within the methodology protocol?*

Table 1

*Examples of Diverse Methodological Approaches for SoTL Inquiries in Higher Education*

SoTL research context	Central SoTL research question	Methodological approach	Data collection methods	General outcomes
Investigating learning-centred curriculum change in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences 4-year BSc Program (Hubball & Burt, 2007)	Theory-practice integration of curriculum learning outcomes	Action research and implementation analysis	Focus group interviews, review of course syllabi and curriculum documentation, examination of student assessment methods and teaching practices	More attention is required for faculty development on learning-centred course design and assessment practices, as well as strategic monitoring of formative curriculum evaluations
Analysis of a critical incident in a first year undergraduate course (Torosyan, 2007)	Developing best practice guidelines when faced with the challenge of a student who does not take responsibility for his/her own learning?	Narrative case study inquiry	Journaling of complex interplay between student and teacher	Through an inductive process, a set of best practice principles were developed to guide future engagements with students in this position, as well as five dimensions for reflecting on critical incidents

# Time to Vote!

At our last workshop, we asked you (as subjects of this study) to help us refine our SoTL research question on offering this workshop series. You helped us narrow down our questions to:

- How does participation in a SoTL community of practice impact identity formation as a teacher-scholar?*
- How does SoTL work impact professional identity?*
- What elements of a SoTL community of practice best facilitate implementations of SoTL studies?*

Please rank these questions from '1' to '3,' where '1' represents the SoTL question you think is the best.

What ethical issues can arise that we would need to address in our protocol to reduce risk to you, as subjects, of our study?



# Q&A Preparation

Now that we have directed our thoughts towards ethics issues in SoTL research, think back to your elevator pitch. What ethics issues might need to be addressed in your protocol? Are there sticky points on how to address these issues? Take a moment to write down any questions or concerns you have to prepare for our upcoming visit with Matt Schrage and Rick Medlin from Stetson's IRB.

*Questions/Concerns:*



*Notes from Matt and Rick's presentation:*

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# Ticket out the Door

Reflect on how today's work on methodologies and research ethics may have triggered another iteration of refinement of your research question. Once you are done, before leaving, enter the revised research question at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SoTL1>

## *Homework*

Find two journals and two conferences that would be appropriate venues to disseminate your SoTL work upon completion.

We hope to see you at the fourth workshop in the series, "Resources and Planning for Dissemination." It is scheduled for Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2-5 pm.