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TITLE: Theory to Methods: Three Case Studies

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study, as represented in the poster, is twofold: First, it is to demonstrate distinct research methodologies, as used in three 2021 dissertations; and second, it is to demonstrate how theoretical foundations ground methodologies and inform their distinct research inquiries.

The *Introduction* of the poster will lay out a broad spectrum of theoretical foundations from multiple points of view, as understood by a senior scholar, Dr. Joan Wink, Professor Emerita of California State University, Stanislaus. All will be available via links in the RESOURCES.

Next, the poster will compare and contrast three very distinct doctoral dissertation methodologies (qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods) representing the broad continuum of research.

Dr. Ana York, Assistant Professor, California State University, Stanislaus, will begin by sharing her research, in which she used quantitative methods.

Dr. Jade Herman, Chief of Staff at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, will follow as she shares her research, in which she used qualitative and a quantitative method.

Dr. Dawn Wink, Associate Professor at Santa Fé Community College will then share her research, in which she used qualitative (Scholarly Personal Narrative) methods.

The participants who view this poster will learn the *how-to* of each method of the dissertations as the three doctoral scholars paint a portrait of their inquiry, sample size, theoretical foundation, methods, and findings. The *Conclusion* of the poster will emphasize *the why* of each of the processes as Dr. Joan Wink makes connections between theory and methodology.

What initiated this poster presentation?

Joan continues:

During 2020-2022, I was on several doctoral committees, and I observed how the experiences of three specific doctoral candidates were vastly different—depending on the program, the university, the chair of each committee, and the candidate herself. As a veteran professor of languages, cultures, and philosophies, I appreciate how important it is for each graduate student or educational professional to understand the broad spectrum of philosophies, be able to articulate each, and to see how these various theories, perspectives, philosophies, turn from theory to practice in schools at all levels.

Meet Ana.

Ana’s quantitative dissertation used a quasi-experimental, single-group, pretest-posttest design in her study of meditation.

Meet Jade.

Jade’s mixed methods dissertation used intrinsic case study and transcendental phenomenology, plus a chi square test for contextual information in her study of an educational leadership program.

Meet Dawn.

Dawn’s qualitative methods used Scholarly Personal Narrative (SPN), as she followed the Pre-search, Me-search, Re-search, and We-search methodology in her study of ecolinguistic.

CONCLUSION

In this presentation, we shared three different philosophies of education and how each affected the experiences of these three doctoral candidates and their research. Our over-arching goal is that each viewer of this poster presentation will come away with a deeper understanding of, not only a broad view of the various educational philosophies, but also the ability to name and understand each to a greater degree. Ultimately, we want each of viewers to understand their own philosophical grounding.