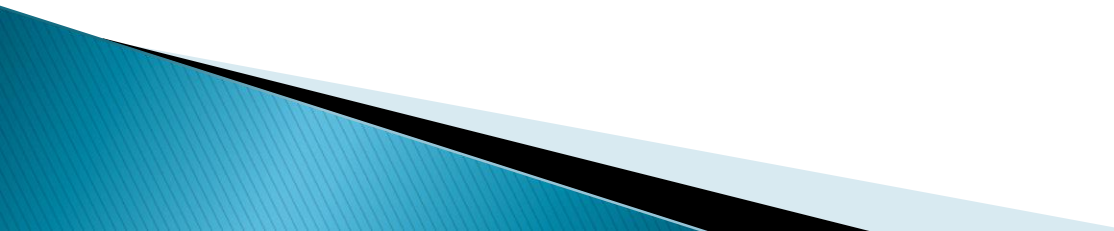
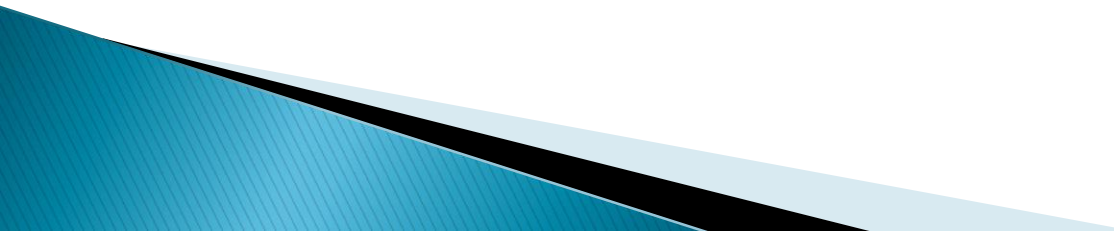


RESEARCH QUESTIONS IN INDIGENOUS RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

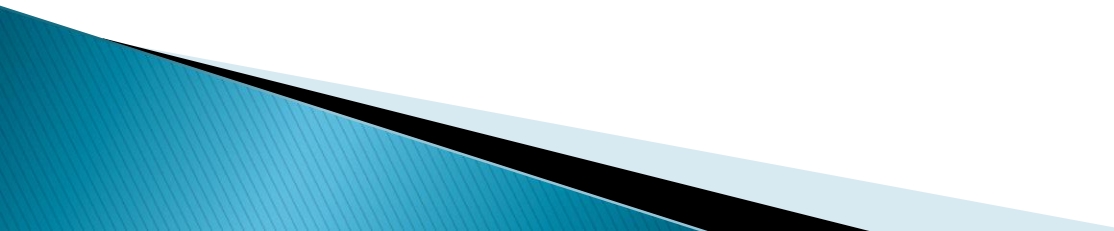
Deficit Questions

- ▶ Western conventional research methodologies are mostly problem-focused modes of inquiry that work with deficit questions (Chilisa 2012, p. 234).
 - ▶ The end result of Deficit Questions is that people may see communities as places full of problems and need that can be solved only with the help of outsiders (Chilisa 2012, p. 244).
- 

Why Indigenous Research Methodologies Should not use Deficit Research Questions

- ▶ Problem-focused modes of inquiry with their accompanying deficit questions:
 - Limit interview conversations
 - Silence marginal voices
 - Fragment relationships
 - Erode community
 - Create/reinforce social hierarchies
 - Contribute to cultural enfeeblement
 - –and thereby allow scientific vocabularies of deficit to establish the very conditions they seek to eliminate (Mertens 2009, p. 184)
- 


Appreciative Questions

- ▶ Indigenous Research Methodologies seek to differentiate themselves from conventional scientific research approaches. Therefore, their research questions are not deficit-focused. Rather, they use
 - Appreciative questions
 - Desire-oriented questions
 - Hope-centered questions.
- 

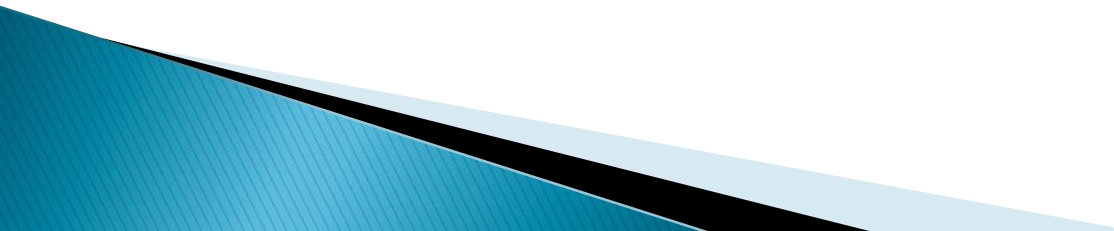
Appreciative Questions

- ▶ Appreciative questions liberate people to see their communities as places full of desires, goals, hope, and resources that community members possess and can share.

Appreciative Questions

- ▶ Examples (See Sarah Michael 2005):
 - ▶ 1. What do you like best about your community?
 - ▶ 2. What aspects of your community are you most proud of?
 - ▶ 3. Can you tell me your favorite story about your community?
 - ▶ 4. What makes your community special?
 - ▶ 5. What are the desires or goals of your community?
 - ▶ 6. What strengths and resources will best help your community to attain its desires or achieve its goals?
 - ▶ 7. What provides hope for your community?
- 

Central Question

- ▶ Research requires a central question. Sub-questions flow from the central question.
 - ▶ A central question is about making “your thoughts into a clear sentence that asks about the specific relationship between two or more factors” (Floyd 1995, p. 19).
- 

FUNCTIONS OF RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- ▶ 1. Help you to personalize or take ownership of your research project
- ▶ 2. Specify the boundaries or delimitations of your research project
- ▶ 3. Fine-tune the focus of your research project
- ▶ 4. Give direction to your project
- ▶ 5. Compel originality, innovation and creativity
 - Reference: Adu-Febiri and Ofori 2009, p. 128

Characteristics of Good Research Questions

- ▶ 1. Have not been asked before (original)
- ▶ 2. Prevent a simple yes or no answer
- ▶ 3. Specify the relationships between two or more factors/variables in your topic or research statement
- ▶ 4. Grabs attention and stimulates curiosity because it is contentious (show-cases marginal voices) or action-oriented or refreshing or hope-inspiring, relationship-building, and/or community empowering
 - Reference: Adu-Febiri and Ofori 2009, p. 120.

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