



Communities of Practice

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5 KIE Communities: knowledge-Education Creativity Innovation Entrepreneurship Big Data Analytics & Digital Business

Editor

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Save the dates!

Creativity

E. Paul Torrance International Roundtable on Creative Thinking—July 21
Reisman Diagnostic Creativity Assessment Special Interest Group—July 21

Research

KIE Kaufman Family Research Symposium—July 22
Research Student Workshop—July 23

Education

Global Comparative and International Education Roundtable—July 23
World Education Fellowship Centenary Lecture—July 23

Big Data Analytics

Big Data Analytics, Digital Business & E-entrepreneurship Symposium—TBC

How to Go from Fuzzy Mess to Dissertation to Publication

Inaugural Research Student Workshop Keynote
Fredricka Reisman, PhD

This new KIE focus is a response to calls from the student membership interested in learning more about the Master's and Doctorate degrees. The keynote will focus on three topics: The Master's Degree, The Dissertation, The Publication.

The Master's Degree

Discussed will be the rich history about how the master's degree dates back to the origin of European universities. In the United States, the first master's degrees (*Magister Artium*, or Master of Arts) were awarded at Harvard University after its established in 1636.

Doctorate degrees

What is a PhD or EdD degree?

Both the PhD and EdD programs are dedicated to expanding the student's knowledge of their chosen field. Upon successful completion of prescribed coursework, degree candidates are required to submit a proposal that focuses upon their proposed research



Keynote: Dr Fredricka Reisman

study and select a faculty mentor who will serve as the chair of their doctoral committee, usually comprised of a minimum of three, but may be more, including experts in the specific field. The final step in acquiring the doctorate involves the oral defense where the candidate defends the dissertation and is grilled by his committee (and sometimes guest attendees) in regard to study design, results, and future related research.

Publishing Your Work

What Journal Editors Look For

Selection criteria may vary by journal and reviewer but can serve as a useful guideline for prospective authors. Journals generally cater to specific subject areas and the study topic is the first aspect that is considered; therefore, it is important to read the editor's directions for prospective authors. The paper clearly highlights the hypotheses or research questions, purpose, literature review, methods, results, salient findings as well as the importance and limitations of those findings. Reviewers look for in depth analysis of the test data and objectively explained results while making sure that the researcher is not overanalyzing the results and, in the process, making unreasonable conclusions. The reviewers check if the work makes a valuable contribution to the specific discipline.

• Dr Fredricka Reisman, is Professor Emeritus and Co-Founder, Education, Learning, and Brain Sciences (E-LaBS) Research Collaborative at Drexel University School of Education, and Former Interim Associate Dean for Research, Drexel University Goodwin College, PA, USA.

Theoretical Contexts: Do They Have a Place in Research Work?

Inaugural Research Student Workshop Chair
Gertrude Shotte, PhD

Research students should never underestimate the importance of engaging a theoretical framework for their research work. Theory plays a very important role in research since it provides researchers with a broader understanding of the knowledge that relate to the topic under investigation. Based on personal experience, it seems safe to say that the use of theory is an area that research students find quite problematic. There seems to be a great degree of uncertainty concerning the what, when, how, where and why of theory usage in research. These are real concerns that cannot be addressed in this space. However, I will draw attention to the need for students to identify the two principle theoretical aspects that students should take into consideration: (1) the theoretical perspectives that underpin the entire research; and (2) the theoretical assumptions that influenced the methodology. But what is a theory?

Simply put, a theory is an idea.

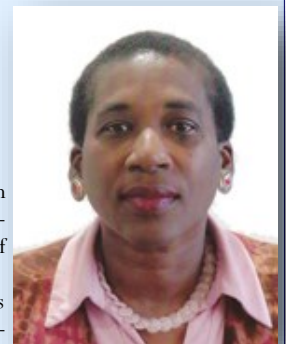
Researchers who are interested in a particular phenomenon, employs his/her own knowledge, other people's ideas that are related to this knowledge and observations to make sense of the phenomenon in question. Insights are gained by pulling links together, making inferences, drawing conclusions and making predictions. Over time, it is these very insights that have come to be regarded as established ideas. With reference to (1) above, these understandings help researchers to clarify their key concepts, become familiar with the assumptions that are directly related to their research topic and locate the relevant paradigms that represent their own notions and suppositions. There is even scope for combining pertinent theories to emphasise not only the understanding of, but also the application of time-honoured ideas. These practices provide students with justification for the theories that underpin their research.

With reference to (2) above, there is another set of theoretical columns that support

methodological procedures. These assumptions span the spectrum of research approaches – quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods. Epistemology, ontology, axiology and rhetoric are the regarded theories that are instrumental in shaping a researcher's investigation. While epistemology and ontology take the lead in influencing a researcher's choice of research approach, they all play a pivotal role in characterising the entire methodological route.

So, are theoretical contexts useful in research work? Yes, they are.

• Dr Gertrude Shotte, Doctor of Professional Studies (DProf) Supervisor / Consultant, Middlesex University, London, UK.



Chair: Dr Gertrude Shotte

TEN innovative ways to significantly improve your chances of getting 'that' Research grant

Colleagues across the world often ask for my take on how to improve their chances of getting a slice of 'that' research grant. So, here is my take on the requisite preparatory work or thinking involved— 10 tips you might find helpful as you think about funding your research project:

1. Ensure that you are super-secured in your understanding of what 'that' Research programme is all about. Many national and international research grant programmes are strictly intervention. It usually is about knowledge transfer and application, which only applied research can bring about. So, it is absolutely important that you understand the thrust of the research programme you are applying for.
2. Then ensure that you have a clear understanding of the research grant programme' prioritised thematic research areas.
3. Ask yourself what is so exceptional about the work you are proposing. You will not impress the evaluators if you talk about how the work is so 'special'. That is assumed!
4. Think about the basic and applied aspects of the work and ensure that both are demonstrably connected.

Research Grants Tips James Ogunleye

5. Ask yourself how the work can be innovatively or and perhaps creatively addressed.
6. Ask yourself how the work will significantly raise the bar in knowledge that will lead to practical, demonstrable and sustainable, permanent solutions. Call this sustainable impact if you will. This is important. Most national and international research grant awarding bodies have very limited budgets. So, the keyword is **SUSTAINABILITY**. What many agrant bodies will NOT do is to stump up funding for the same or similar work a few years down the line!
7. How will you, innovatively, apply the findings of the project in different local, national or perhaps international settings?
8. It is not enough to identify users or stakeholders of the outputs of the work you are proposing, you need to state in clear and explicit terms how each stakeholder will be involved and demonstrate, quantitatively, the benefits of their involvement – personally, professionally, as well as the benefits to the industry and the community they serve.

9. It is absolutely important is that you are cast-ironed, clear and explicit about the role/s of each project team or researcher and how each team or researcher will help embed value to the work that you are proposing. Notice the word 'embed' not 'added'—you will not impress project reviewers and evaluators if you go on and on about your project 'value added'.

10. Get the costing right. When costing your application, you need to know what can realistically be funded. Personally, any tools or equipment that will **LAST MORE** than the life-time of the project should not be funded. To me, it should be the responsibility of your university or organisation to provide such tools, software including laptops, or equipment. Don't forget to check the relevant Guide for Applicants for information about any audit requirements.

Finally, sky won't fall in if you don't get 'that' research grant. Adopt a salesman's approach: keep writing, you get better at it as you go!

Good Luck!

•Prof Ogunleye served on the independent expert panels/ evaluator for Research Framework Programmes of the European Union.

Members Lounge

Prof Rebecca Lekoko University of Botswana



Professor Rebecca Nthogo Lekoko is currently Head of the Department of Lifelong Learning and Community Development, University of Botswana (UB). She joined UB with a professional background from Teacher Training Colleges. She is a graduate of the University of Botswana (Diploma and Bachelor of Education), University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada (Masters in Adult and Higher Education) and Pennsylvania State University, USA (EdD, Adult Education). In 2011, she was awarded a Fulbright Research Grant. As a seasoned researcher, she is currently a member of an international cross-disciplinary research network known as Sustainable Futures in Africa, with five other African countries, coordinated by the University of Glasgow. She engaged in other local and international research

partnership. She represents Botswana in Doctoral Education of Commonwealth Africa (DECA) coordinated by Commonwealth Tertiary Education Facilities, Penang, Malaysia.

Her specialisation in higher education is curriculum development and social empowerment, like life skills education, lifelong learning, inclusive policies and participatory research. She has also published extensively in these areas. Prof Lekoko has also drawn upon her rich experiences as a social change practitioner to help establish organisations with community empowerment as their mandates, e.g. Sign Language Skills Development, Pono Low Vision Rehabilitation Society and Moshaweng Cooperative Society.

Members Lounge

Samuel Kwok Middlesex University, UK



Samuel Kwok is a DProf [Doctorate in Professional Studies] Candidate at Middlesex University, UK. Samuel is an entrepreneur and accomplished professional accountant. He is a member of the Chartered Accountants Worldwide; a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA), Academic Fellow of the Association of International Accountants (AIA) UK, and International Certified eCommerce specialist (ICEC, USA).

Samuel is a Council member of GLG Research, a USA-based knowledge marketplace with over 700,000 global network of experts across a range of fields and subject disciplines. Currently, he focuses on developing professional advisory services to international luxury brands, equity fund, government and Non-Government Organisations. He runs his own consultancy firm specialising on building cross-border business development strategies for projects.

He has acted as a lead consultant for the Chinese Gold and Silver Ex-

change Society of Hong Kong, chief consultant for the Sino-Swiss Eco-Industrial Park, Zhenjiang, and expert member of the Consumer Right Protection Council of the Hangzhou City Government in China.

Samuel's research focuses on Work-Based Learning; his publications and conference presentations are on enterprise—i.e. luxury industry analysis and practices, e-luxury, and branding management practices. He is exploring a new research direction on brand culture and management using a research policy process framework known as the Narrative Policy Framework (NPF).

Samuel is a recipient of the Shanghai Gold Exchange 'Best Paper Award'. He is an Adjunct Professor at the SKEMA Business School in China, as well as serves on the Executive Education program at the Xian Jiaotong-Liverpool University in Suzhou, Jiangsu, China. He is a watch connoisseur and aficionado of fine horology.