Abstracts

2025 Colloquium on Qualitative Health Sciences Research

May 9, 2025, from 11:30am-4pm Central Time

Hudson College of Public Health, CHB 150

801 NE 13th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73104

Oral Presentations

Keynote Title: “Artificial Intelligence in Qualitative Data Analysis: A Polemic”

Abstract: Large language models and other forms of artificial intelligence are increasingly harnessed in qualitative and mixed method research studies, primarily as a vehicle for reducing the labor-intensive tasks of coding and analysis. Regardless of their alleged precision and efficiency in automating these procedures, an over-reliance on AI-derived analytic tools runs the risk of normalizing thin description as a “good-enough” outcome for qualitative inquiry. Ceding the coding and analytic process to AI also calls into question the ontological and epistemological underpinnings of qualitative research itself: as a humanistically-grounded, systematic approach to interpreting human beliefs, desires, structural conditions, and lived experiences. Particularly for researchers working with structurally vulnerable populations, relying on AI as a substitute for deep immersion into their data also bypasses the implicit ethical arrangement between investigators and participants regarding how informants’ stories and other narrative information should be handled and interpreted. Lastly, given the historical role of transformational technologies in upending labor conditions, the normalization of AI as an analytic tool may result in the de-skilling of analytic practice and alienation by those responsible for engaging in such work. Against a backdrop of AI’s increasing impact on most domains of human life, my goal for this presentation is to provide a framework for qualitative researchers to critically engage with the implications of AI-based analytic approaches beyond their role as time- and labor-saving technologies. In particular, I will reflect on AI’s potential impact on the key relational, methodological, and philosophical principles of qualitative research.

Invited Keynote Speaker: Michael R. Duke, PhD University of California, San Francisco

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Title: “Survivors Help Survivors”: Healing from Mass Violence Through Activism

Brief Synopsis: We perform a content analysis of 15 self-authored essays from survivors of public mass shootings (PMS), specifically, school shootings. We find that those in the study find healing and support through political activism. We argue that activism after violent victimization may align with theories of resilience and coping, suggesting that political activism may have positive effects on MPS survivors' mental health.

Abstract: Sociological research on mass public shootings (MPS) primarily revolves around understanding the shooter - their background, their pathways into violence - and has neglected the lives and experiences of the MPS survivors. Existing research has come from journalists or psychologists, gathering and telling the stories of survivors and examining post-traumatic symptoms of survivors. While valuable, these publications are limited. Journalists often publish in book format, which lacks the rigor of peer-reviewed publications, and psychological research on PTSD, while extremely valuable, is limited in its scope. This research aims to expand sociological research on survivors of MPS by conducting a content analysis of fifteen essays from MPS survivors gathered by VICE news during a gun violence awareness campaign. Results from this study suggest that MPS survivors find community, mental health support, and healing through political advocacy, similar to healing seen in survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Throughout the fifteen essays, we find consistent themes of involvement in activist/nonprofit groups, involvement in politics, and finding community and healing with other survivors. Framing these results within theories of coping and resilience, we suggest that future research should examine how MPS victims' healing may be influenced by involvement in activism.

Author(s): Sally Wiser, PhD Candidate & Meredith Worthen, PhD, University of Oklahoma

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Title: Letting Go of Some control: The Process of Co-developing Communication Materials to Increase Cohort Participation in Health Research for the Black Community

Brief Synopsis: This presentation will highlight new research pathways and methods of engagement that emerged when we pursued a more participatory approach to the study. These participatory practices included relationship building, adopting a more reflexive research approach, advocating for a community researcher role with the IRB, allowing community to lead certain initiatives, empowering the cultural advisory board members as co-researchers, and building internal capacity in data analysis. Here we will highlight the learnings and challenges in this participatory group learning process.

Abstract: This study undertaken by the Knight Cancer Institute at Oregon Health & Science University aims to develop communication and outreach strategies to promote participation in cohorts and studies for members of the Black community in Oregon. The themes for the communication and outreach were developed based on twelve interviews with black individuals who had already joined OHSU research studies (a positive deviance approach), and listening sessions with different members of the black community. This presentation will highlight new research pathways and methods of engagement that emerged when we pursued a more participatory approach to the study. These participatory practices included relationship building, adopting a more reflexive research approach, advocating for a community researcher role with the IRB, allowing community to lead certain initiatives, empowering the cultural advisory board members as co-researchers, and building internal capacity in data analysis. Here we will highlight the learnings and challenges in this participatory group learning process.

Author(s): Tiffani Howard, PhD; Emily Van Houweling, PhD; & Cecelia Wooten, B.S., Oregon Health & Science University

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Title: Resident and Researcher Reflections on 20+ Years of Community Engaged Research at the Tar Creek Superfund Site: A Qualitative Assessment

Brief Synopsis: In this qualitative study, we interviewed 26 residents and researchers who managed a community engaged research project at the Tar Creek Superfund Site to examine how community distrust and academic reward structures may delay community engaged research efforts. Findings demonstrate how trust and relationship building are ongoing processes that continuously need to be revisited and affirmed.

Abstract: Community engaged research emphasizes the inclusion of people with non-academic backgrounds in the research design process (Israel et al., 2005; Luger et al., 2020; Raphael & Matsuoka, 2024). It is most associated with the field of public health, but it has expanded into other disciplines. Research in environmental justice communities often uses a community engaged research approach; however, because of environmental justice communities' experience with systemic oppression, building trust can be especially difficult. This qualitative study focuses on the Tar Creek Superfund Site, located in Ottawa County, Oklahoma. After decades of lead and zinc mining, more than 70 million tons of lead-contaminated tailings piles remain dispersed across the lands of ten federally recognized tribes in a county with more than 30,000 residents (Brandon, 2009). We conducted 26 semi-structured interviews with community members and academics who have facilitated community engaged research at the Tar Creek Superfund Site across 20 years. Interviews lasted between 30 minutes to three hours long, and the data was coded and analyzed using grounded theory approaches. In these interviews, participants described how trust and relationship building are ongoing processes, and this study explores how community distrust and academic incentives may hinder community engaged research efforts.

Author(s): Jessica Tran, Ph.D. Candidate in Natural Resources Science and Management, University of Minnesota & Martin Lively, J.D., Local Environmental Action Demanded

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Title: Participatory Research in Health Sciences: Challenges and Strategies for Inclusive Engagement

Brief Synopsis: This presentation explains the role of participatory research in health sciences, highlighting its potential to enhance health equity, empower marginalized voices, and improve healthcare interventions. It examines methodological complexities, ethical considerations, and strategies for meaningful engagement, drawing from qualitative research on social resilience and well-being.

Abstract: Participatory research has emerged as a powerful approach in health sciences, fostering collaborative knowledge production, co-creation of solutions, and empowerment of participants. By actively involving patients, caregivers, and healthcare providers in research, participatory methods enhance health equity, amplify marginalized voices, and improve healthcare interventions. However, implementing these approaches presents challenges, including ethical considerations, power dynamics, and institutional constraints. This presentation explains the use of participatory research in health sciences, focusing on methodological complexities and practical strategies for ensuring meaningful engagement. Key areas include recognizing lived experiences in research design, addressing ethical concerns such as informed consent and data ownership, and facilitating co-creation throughout all stages of research. Additionally, the study examines institutional barriers that may support or hinder participatory research and highlights innovative qualitative methodologies, such as visual storytelling, digital ethnography, and co-analysis techniques. Drawing on my qualitative research experience focusing on social resilience and well-being, this presentation emphasizes on the data triangulation approach to integrate diverse perspectives. By discussing challenges and strategies, this presentation contributes to ongoing discussions on ethical, methodological, and institutional frameworks in health research.

Author(s): Azher Hameed Qamar, PhD., Lund University, Sweden

Title: Perceptions of Tobacco-Related Misinformation and Health Information Needs Among Chinese Americans in California

Brief Synopsis: This study examines the information seeking patterns of Chinese American tobacco users (and ever users) in California and their perceptions of tobacco-related misinformation on social media, to support the development of tailored educational tools for this population.

Abstract: *Background:* Chinese Americans, one of the largest Asian American subgroups, have relatively low overall smoking rates, but many still encounter barriers to accessing clear and culturally appropriate health information, leaving them more susceptible to misinformation. This study examines how Chinese Americans in California perceive tobacco-related misinformation-such as misleading claims about the safety or benefits of e-cigarettes-and explores their specific health information needs, to support the development of tailored educational tools. *Methods:* Thirteen semi-structured interviews were conducted with ethnic Chinese adults (18-50 years old) in California, recruited via a registry and social media. Participants were English-speaking or bilingual (English and Mandarin) and current or former users of tobacco or nicotine products (e.g., cigarettes, e-cigarettes, heated tobacco). Interviews were conducted in English or Mandarin, translated if needed, and coded by two researchers to identify emergent themes. Participants described their information-seeking patterns, health concerns related to tobacco use, reactions to selected examples of tobacco-related misinformation from social media, and health resource needs. *Results:* Participants (4 males, 9 females; all college-educated) were actively using social media and Google. They could identify misinformation in the given examples but desired more trustworthy resources, bilingual content with visual aids, and communication from culturally similar peers.

Author(s): Eileen Han, PhD; Pamela Ling, MD, MPH; Joyce Cheng, MPH, MS; & Janice Tsoh, PhD, University of California San Francisco

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Title: Using Narrative Analysis to Explore Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQ+ Aging with HIV

Brief Synopsis: This presentation explores how narrative analysis was employed to investigate how Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQ+ people make meaning of their lives and experiences within social and cultural contexts, centering their voices through close textual analysis of storytelling. Despite its potential for capturing lived experience, narrative analysis has been largely neglected in health sciences research. This study demonstrates how it was paired with a Two-Eyed Seeing approach to ensure culturally responsive research, bridging Indigenous and Western knowledge systems to honor participants' perspectives and lived realities.

Abstract: Two-Spirit, a term rooted in Indigenous traditions of the U.S. and Canada, describes Indigenous LGBTQ+ people whose gender and sexual identities transcend Western binaries. Despite their vital cultural roles, Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQ+ (2S/LGBTQ+) people living with HIV (PLWH) face disproportionately high rates of HIV/AIDS, along with intersectional stigma, historical trauma, and structural inequities that complicate aging with HIV. While treatment advancements have extended life expectancy, research has largely overlooked their lived experiences. This study addresses this gap through in-depth life review interviews with 15 Indigenous 2S/LGBTQ+ PLWH, analyzed using narrative analysis. This method preserves participants' voices by treating their stories holistically rather than fragmenting them into codes, offering insight into how intersecting identities shape their experiences of aging and HIV. A Two-Eyed Seeing approach was also used to enhance cultural responsiveness by integrating Indigenous and Western knowledge systems, ensuring the findings accurately reflect participants' lived experiences. This presentation will detail the use of narrative analysis in this study and share preliminary findings that challenge conventional definitions of "successful aging" with HIV.

Author(s): Chase Bryer, LCSW/PhD student, Department of Behavioral and Social Health Sciences, Brown University

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Poster Presentations

Title: Drawing Exercises as a Method for Understanding How Nutrition Incentive Programs Impact Food Choice Behaviors

Brief Synopsis: This methods poster will describe our use of a drawing exercise to understand food choice behaviors among SNAP consumers who shop at Oklahoma grocery stores that participate in a nutrition incentive program. We will utilize a pre-post longitudinal design with interviews prior to, and three months after, implementation of the program at their local grocery store.

Abstract: In this methods poster, we will describe our approach, using a drawing exercise and qualitative questions, to understand how nutrition incentive programs ("NIP") may drive changes in food choice behavior among Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") consumers who shop at grocery stores participating in the Double Up Oklahoma ("DUO") NIP. Utilizing a pre-post longitudinal design, we will conduct interviews with SNAP consumers prior to DUO implementation and follow up after three months. At baseline, we will ask participants to draw their concept of a "balanced meal". Interview questions, both novel and drawn from food choice behavior literature, will refer to their drawing. Questions will focus on types and relative quantities of food depicted in their drawing, and perceptions of how resources influence their food choices. After three-months of exposure to the NIP, follow-up interviews will refer to initial drawings and baseline responses to explore how NIPs impact food choice, conceptualization of a "balanced meal", and perceptions of how resources influence food choices. Other questions will focus specifically on the role of DUO in driving changes in food choice, other benefits (including finances, health, or personal and community relationships) of program usage, and strategies employed by consumers to maximize program benefits.

Author(s): Christopher Moghaddami, MPH, MHA; Mary B. Williams, PhD; & Marianna Wetherill, PhD, MPH, RDN/LD, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences

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Title: Xylazine, Fentanyl, and Synthetic Opioids as Emerging Threats in Oklahoma: Perspectives on Overdose Response and Public Health Implications

Brief Synopsis: Strategic public health approaches are needed to tackle the rise of xylazine, fentanyl, and synthetic opioids in Oklahoma amidst a nationwide polysubstance overdose crisis. Quantitative analysis of National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS) drug seizure reports and Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN) fatal overdose trends highlighted the presence of xylazine, fentanyl, and synthetic opioids has increased drastically from 2018 to 2022 in comparison to other substances. Qualitative interviews with overdose response providers and public health stakeholders (n=20) revealed the importance of person-centered language, need for greater naloxone education, fentanyl prevalence, impact of stigma on people who use drugs (PWUD), wound care awareness, and challenges with current substance use treatment methods.

Abstract: The United States is facing a polysubstance overdose epidemic with the rise of emerging threats like xylazine, fentanyl, and synthetic opioids. The evolving nature of this public health crisis requires strategic harm reduction practices and overdose response protocols. A mixed-method approach was used to contextualize the challenges and opportunities facing the harm reduction and overdose response landscape in Oklahoma. A statistical analysis of National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS) drug seizure reports in Oklahoma from 2018-2022 was conducted. Trends within fatal xylazine, fentanyl, and synthetic opioid-involved overdoses were identified using Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN) data from January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2022, following STROBE reporting guidelines. Semi-structured interviews with overdose response providers, and public health stakeholders (n=20) were conducted through snowball sampling. The presence of xylazine, fentanyl, and synthetic opioids in drug seizure reports and toxicological results increased drastically from 2018 to 2022. Qualitative analysis highlighted fentanyl presence, wound care awareness, need for greater naloxone education, person-centered language, and challenges with Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD). Stigma continues to negatively impact the lives of people who use drugs (PWUD). Further research is needed to analyze specific health policies in Oklahoma and the United States as a whole.

Author(s): Harini Senthil, High School Senior, Jenks High School

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Title: PEACH (Pregnancy Equity Accelerator for Codman Health): Improving Group Perinatal Care at an Urban Federally Qualified Health Center

Brief Synopsis: Through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews, this qualitative study explores the experiences of former Group Prenatal Care (GPC) patients at Codman Square Health Center in Boston, MA to identify ways to improve the clinic's continued GPC offerings. Key themes emerged, including the importance of social support, access to resources, and adjustments to the timing of topics discussed during GPC, as well as involving fathers in the process. Preliminary FGD data emphasizes the need to consider cultural contexts and specific patient risks when designing GPC programs.

Abstract: Group Prenatal Care (GPC) is a model of care proven to positively influence perinatal and peripartum health outcomes. This qualitative study seeks to use Focus Group Discussion (FGD) methodology to understand the experiences former GPC patients have had at Codman Square Health Center (CSHC), a Federally Qualified Health Center in Boston, MA. Key informant interviews alongside FGD data will be collected to guide GPC improvement efforts to best meet the needs of the patients at CSHC. Three participants attended one FGD that was conducted via zoom, recorded and transcribed. A rapid qualitative data analysis approach was employed, which included using the FGD question guide and constructs from Social Cognitive Theory to identify codes and themes from the FGD transcription. Aspects of Community-Based Participatory Research principles were adopted to craft plans for intentional data dissemination and post-study engagement of participants. Four dominant themes were identified: beneficial social support and friendships, beneficial access to information about resources, changing GPC to improve the timing of introducing certain topics, and changing GPC to include and educate fathers on supporting their partners. Preliminary FGD data highlight the importance of considering cultural contexts and particular risk factors of one's patient population when planning GPC programming.

Author(s): Kayla Johnson, MD, MPH, Boston Medical Center; Samuel Gonzalez, MD; & Jennifer Vanderweele, MD, Codman Square Health Center

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Title: Exploring Barriers, Attitudes, and Preferences in Suicide Prevention for AI/AN Male Youth: A CBPR and Qualitative Study (Student P\project in process)

Brief Synopsis: American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) male youth experience disproportionately high suicide rates among all the ethnicities. This study uses Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) and qualitative methods to explore barriers, perceptions, and preferred interventions among AI/AN male youth (ages 15-24). Preliminary findings will highlight key themes from in-depth interviews, informing the development of culturally responsive, community-driven suicide prevention strategies.

Abstract: Suicide is an important public health issue and American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) male youth have higher suicide rates compared to other racial and ethnic groups. This study employs Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) and qualitative approaches to explore barriers, perceptions, and preferred interventions for suicide prevention among AI/AN male youth (ages 15-24). A community advisory board made up of AI/AN youth and community leaders will prioritize community collaboration. Data collection includes AI/AN male youth with direct experience in suicide prevention services. Grounded in pragmatism, this study utilizes semi-structured, in-depth interviews to examine issues such as stigma, isolation, and institutional injustices that impact help-seeking behaviors. The sample size is 10-15 participants. Data will be analyzed qualitatively using thematic analysis to identify key patterns and themes, ensuring that findings reflect the experiences of AI/AN youth.

Author(s): Navya Jeldi, MPH, Department of Health Promotion Sciences, The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences

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Title: “I think most people want to feel heard…and then they could have the choice to take it or leave it:” Examination of COVID-19 Vaccine Perceptions among Rural Oklahoma Residents for Development of a Motivational Interviewing-Based mHealth Intervention

Brief Synopsis: The purpose of this study was to identify perceptions of mobile health (mHealth) among key stakeholders and/or community members in rural Oklahoma counties for development of a Motivational Interviewing (MI) and Social Cognitive Theory (SCT)-based mHealth intervention to target vaccine hesitancy in rural adults. Participants completed semi-structured interviews, which analyzed to classify perceptions into barriers and facilitators to mHealth uptake.

Abstract: *Purpose*: The purpose of this study was to identify perceptions of mobile health (mHealth) among key stakeholders and/or community members in rural Oklahoma counties for development of a Motivational Interviewing (MI) and Social Cognitive Theory (SCT)-based mHealth intervention to target vaccine hesitancy in rural adults. *Methods*: This qualitative study used the broad community model to recruit individuals from counties in Oklahoma with low rates of vaccination using snowball sampling via collaboration with Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension and Center for Rural Health. Participants completed semi-structured interviews, which were transcribed verbatim and coded using deductive content analysis to classify perceptions into barriers and facilitators to mHealth uptake. *Results*: Sixteen interviews were completed with representatives of 13 counties. The majority (87.5%) of respondents were women, ranging from 20-85 years of age (mean: 51.1 years). Salient barriers to mHealth uptake included internet access/stability, technological difficulties/concerns, preference for in-person conversation, unfamiliarity with new technology, limited knowledge of mHealth uses, and age range. Salient facilitators included easy and quick access, convenience, cost, necessity, and thorough training to mHealth application. *Conclusion:* This study documents barriers and facilitators to utilizing mHealth that provide critical information for development of an mHealth intervention targeting vaccine hesitancy.

Author(s): Sarah Corcoran, BS; Cade McNeese, BS; Cameron Jernigan, BS; Tina Le, PharmD; Tu Doan, BS; Ashlea Braun, PhD, RD; Thanh Bui, MD, DrPH, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

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Title: Training Interdisciplinary Research Teams in Applied Qualitative Integrative Health Research - A Predoctoral Fellow's Perspective

Brief Synopsis: Training interdisciplinary collaborative teams in applied qualitative integrative health research requires methodologies that are highly adaptable and rigorous. A multi-year mixed-methods Integrative Pain Management Program study has provided a rich training ground through the utilization of multiple qualitative data sources (interviews, focus groups and participant-observation) and analytic approaches including flexible coding and lightning reports. Challenges navigated, lessons learned, and implications for research and training goals are outlined through the perspective of a long-term pre-doctoral fellow.

Abstract: Training interdisciplinary collaborative teams in applied qualitative research can accelerate meaningful progress in today's fast-paced healthcare environments. Interdisciplinary training challenges include ensuring ethical and rigorous conduct of qualitative research, using shared language and concepts, evolving research and training goals, navigating varied familiarity with qualitative research, and time constraints. Our presentation describes a multi-year study of an Integrative Pain Management Program in safety-net clinics that uses interviews, focus groups, and participant-observation within randomized trials that have enrolled over 100 participants to date. We demonstrate the use of two applied qualitative analysis approaches - flexible coding, and the Stanford lightning report method - as guideposts for data collection and analysis. We draw from three cohorts of an applied integrative health research training summer fellowship and the perspectives of mentors, summer fellows, pre-doctoral fellows, and clinical research coordinators. Using my perspective as a former short-term summer fellow turned long-term pre-doctoral fellow with a disciplinary background in bioethics and sociology, I will provide an overview of the anticipated strengths and limitations of these approaches, challenges that arose and how they were navigated, implications for diverse qualitative research products, and the impact on my training and professional development as a qualitative health researcher.

Author(s): Jhia Jackson, MS, PhD(c); Maria Chao, DrPH, MPA; & Ariana Thompson-Lastad, PhD, Osher Center for Integrative Health, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of California San Francisco