

Abstracts

2024 Colloquium on Qualitative Health Sciences Research

May 3, 2024 from 10am-2pm Central Time

Hudson College of Public Health

University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

801 NE 13th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73104

Oral Presentations

Keynote Address: “Using a two eyed seeing approach in collaborative qualitative research”

Abstract: Scholars have been transparent in describing the tension between Indigenous and non-Indigenous ways of knowing. Teams of Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars have navigated using a Two-Eyed Seeing framework that embraces the contribution of Indigenous and non-Indigenous systems of inquiry. In August 2015, the Gold King Mine Spill released three million gallons of contaminated water into the Animas River in Colorado, a tributary to the San Juan River that flows across the Navajo Nation in New Mexico, Arizona and Utah. Using principles of community-engaged research, a community-university team co-developed a culturally anchored approach to conduct focus groups designed to document the socio-cultural impacts of the Spill in three Diné (Navajo) communities along the San Juan River within 9 months of the Spill. Diné social and cultural etiquette and concepts of relationality were used to adapt qualitative data collection methods and to develop a Two-Eyed Seeing codebook for qualitative analysis. Findings describe community perceptions of short-term impacts of the disaster, as well as past and present injustices and concerns of persistent threats to Diné lifeways. The culturally anchored approach was critical in fostering trust and creating a safe space for Diné to express their fear and continued concerns on the safety of a water source on which their lives depend.

Invited Keynote Speaker: Nicolette Teufel-Shone, PhD, Northern Arizona University

Title: Promoting youth-led sexual and reproductive health research: A qualitative research training program in Kisumu, Kenya

Brief Synopsis Building on principles of YPAR, the Future of Sexual and Reproductive Health (FOR) Kenya program aims to establish a pipeline for young women in Kisumu, Kenya to build careers in SRH research through training in qualitative methods. FOR Kenya promotes justice and belonging in qualitative health research by: 1) deepening meaningful youth engagement in research to improve SRH services for Kenyan youth; 2) developing a model for youth-led SRH research; 3) building technical qualitative research skills for trainees' career development.

Abstract: Although youth participatory action research (YPAR) is increasingly used in sexual and reproductive (SRH) health research, many projects assume a process wherein adults lead, and youth are

engaged as meaningful participants.¹⁻⁴ This leaves a gap as youth are rarely involved in actually generating research topics and questions. Building on principles of YPAR, the Future of Sexual and Reproductive Health (FOR) Kenya program aims to establish a pipeline for young women in Kisumu, Kenya to build careers in SRH research through training in qualitative methods. Ten older adolescent trainees were enrolled in an 8-month certificate program at Maseno University. Participants were trained in qualitative research and key topics in adolescent SRH through a combination of online lectures and in-person workshops co-developed by UCSF and Maseno lecturers. With support from program staff, participants identified SRH service improvement topics that were most relevant to them, drafted research protocols, learned how to collect and analyze their own data, and disseminate findings. FOR Kenya promotes justice and belonging in qualitative health research by: 1) deepening meaningful youth engagement in research to improve SRH services for Kenyan youth; 2) developing a model for youth-led SRH research; 3) building technical qualitative research skills for trainees' career development.

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Title: "It's not as much of a struggle right now as it has been:" Metaphor use by women with chronic health conditions

Brief Synopsis: This presentation focuses on Lakoff and Johnson's Conceptual Metaphor Theory and metaphors of chronic conditions. This study examines interview data from 10 young women with chronic conditions to examine metaphor use; participants use more common "JOURNEY" metaphors in medical contexts, but in daily life use the under-researched "CYCLE" conceptual metaphor.

Abstract: Conceptual metaphors (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980, 1999) are one of the most useful linguistic tools to express the inexpressible, whether that be physical or emotional illness or pain. Regarding metaphors of health, while much has been done to investigate the conventional conceptual metaphors used to talk about cancer and illness (Semino et al, 2017; Demmon et al, 2018; Hendricks et al, 2018; Charteris-Black, 2012), much less has been done in regards to metaphors of chronic pain or chronic illness. Indeed, conventionalized metaphors for cancer or illness like ILLNESS IS A JOURNEY are often rejected by people with chronic conditions. To better understand how people with chronic conditions use conceptual metaphor, this study utilizes data from 10 interviews with young women (ages 18-40) with a variety of chronic conditions. This study found that JOURNEY metaphors were used in reported doctor-talk or in regards to cancer, participants were more likely to use CYCLE metaphors to talk about their everyday lived experience with chronic conditions. Unlike JOURNEY metaphors which have a discrete beginning and end point, CYCLE metaphors recur, with no end point in sight. This CYCLE metaphor has implications for medical practitioners, especially as many are developing chronic conditions with long-COVID.

Author(s):

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Title: Qualitative insights on tobacco control from community stakeholders in rural California: Strategies, barriers, and policy implementation

Brief Synopsis: This community-engaged qualitative study explores tobacco control and prevention efforts in rural California, specifically the San Joaquin Valley (SJV), through one-on-one interviews with 13 SJV-based stakeholders. It uncovers the challenges these stakeholders face in adopting and implementing tobacco prevention and control policies, such as socioeconomic and political hurdles, and highlights their strategies for overcoming these barriers, including community collaboration and tailored health education. The findings aim to inform more effective tobacco control policies and interventions tailored to the unique needs of rural communities, addressing health disparities and improving public health outcomes.

Abstract: We qualitatively investigated tobacco-related disparities in rural California, focusing on the San Joaquin Valley (SJV), a region with 4 million people and characterized by higher smoking rates, racial/ethnic/linguistic diversity, and limited health resources compared to California. Through semi-structured interviews with 13 SJV-based stakeholders, we elicited their views about policy adoption and implementation, identifying challenges and strategies unique to the SJV region. Thematic analysis revealed six key themes: intricacies of policy adoption, socioeconomic and political barriers, the significance of health promotion and information dissemination, operational challenges (e.g., limited resources, cultural/linguistic barriers), the value of community-academic collaboration, and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on tobacco prevention and control efforts.

Our findings emphasize the need for informed strategies that address the barriers that the SJV faces, such as political conservatism, limited resources, and norms that influence tobacco use. Stakeholders highlighted the importance of grassroots engagement, education, and collaboration with providers and public safety as effective methods for advancing tobacco prevention and control initiatives. Our study contributes to the understanding of how rural disparities in tobacco use and cessation efforts can be mitigated, offering insights for public health professionals and policymakers to develop more inclusive and effective tobacco prevention and control programs.

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Title: Exploring quality of life among ethnically diverse black prostate cancer survivors: A constructivist grounded theory study

Brief Description: Using Charmaz's constructivist grounded theory methodology, this study examines the experiences of ethnically diverse Black men with prostate cancer (CaP), revealing a comprehensive

model called "Journeying through Unfamiliar Terrain" that captures the pre-diagnosis awareness and post-treatment adaptation among survivors. It sheds light on the unique trajectories and challenges faced by Black CaP survivors, offering valuable insights for improving patient-centered care and addressing gaps in survivorship research.

Abstract: Prostate cancer (CaP) disproportionately affects Black men (BM), yet limited data exist on the experiences of ethnically diverse Black CaP survivors, including those who are immigrants. This study aimed to address this gap by exploring and modeling the experiences of Native-born Black men (NBBM), African-born Black men (ABBM), and Caribbean-born Black men (CBBM) with CaP. Thirty-four participants were interviewed, and analysis was conducted using Charmaz's constructivist grounded theory methodology. The resulting model, "Journeying through Unfamiliar Terrain," delineates the entire CaP survivorship process, comprising three phases and 11 sub-phases. These findings underscore the need for tailored interventions and patient-centered care to support ethnically diverse CaP survivors effectively, contributing to the advancement of survivorship research and healthcare practices.

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Title: Truth-telling as empowerment for sexual and/or gender minoritized adults in Oklahoma

Brief Synopsis: Research on how SGM (sexual and/or gender minoritized) people conceptualize empowerment is vastly limited; yet, targeted interventions leveraging Empowerment Theory are growing. Participants, after completing a novel smoking cessation pilot intervention, provided insights about how they perceive empowerment as an SGM-identifying person living in Oklahoma. The results show that empowerment is embodied as acts of truth-telling, rooted in community, and expressed in public spaces.

Abstract: Empowerment Theory-based approaches are increasingly used in health behavior interventions among sexual and/or gender minoritized (SGM) communities. However, little is known about how SGM people conceptualize empowerment, particularly within stigmatizing environments. In-depth, semi-structured interviews were conducted with SGM-identifying adults (N=14) in Oklahoma upon completion of a novel pilot intervention that included SGM-serving volunteer activities as an adjunct to standard smoking cessation treatment. Exit interviews elicited how empowerment is defined, perceived, and embodied in Oklahoma. 'Truth-telling' as an SGM person living in Oklahoma was an essential framing of empowerment. Honesty and confidence, core attributes underpinning

empowerment, were fully realized in the public domain and through community solidarity (e.g., expressing physical affection, participating in street protests). Consequences to truth-telling, such as countering and encountering stigma, were nested in socio-political contexts of place, and therefore, varied across participants, with some identifying limited opportunities to embody empowerment in Oklahoma as desired. Rather than a self-centered endeavor, empowerment in Oklahoma was constructed with multifaceted meanings that relied on interactions with the broader environment. Tailoring health-promoting interventions for SGM communities in high-stigma places to include opportunities for embodying empowerment through authentic community-building and advocacy is suggested.

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Title: A grounded theory of enduring involuntary childlessness in couples with infertility

Brief Synopsis: Couples who experience involuntary childlessness as a result of infertility are challenged to manage the biological, sociological, and psychological implications of the situation. Nurses and other healthcare providers play a key role in supporting couples as they manage infertility and involuntary childlessness yet there is a paucity in the literature to explain how couples process through this life crisis. This presentation will explain a grounded theory of how couples with infertility endure involuntary childlessness.

Abstract: Nurses and other healthcare providers play a key role in supporting couples as they manage infertility and involuntary childlessness. Since infertility and subsequent involuntary childlessness is a couples' experience, healthcare should aim to meet the needs of both partners. However, there is a lack of evidence to suggest how couples experience this phenomenon. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to describe and explain the basic social process used by couples with infertility experiencing involuntary childlessness.

The grounded theory approach of Strauss and Corbin was used to guide this study. Data were collected from 13 couples who experienced involuntary childlessness despite trying to conceive for at least one year using semi-structured video-conference interviews. Data analysis revealed the basic social process of Enduring Involuntary Childlessness. The process consists of three stages starting with the initial loss of not being able to conceive a biological child. Next, couples enter the emotionally and physically demanding stage of managing where they navigate alternative family-planning options, experience recurrent grieving, and cope with loss, stigma, and pressures to conceive. Eventually, the couple redirects life goals and by taking on their new normal. This research provides healthcare providers with a theory to provide care for infertile couples.

Author(s):

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Poster Presentations

Title: Social dynamics of adolescent friendship groups

Brief Synopsis: Friendship in adolescence is crucial to personal development and wellbeing. Largely, there exists a gap in the research regarding non-dyadic friendship dynamics. The current study aims to understand these social dynamics through a focus group approach

Abstract: Research has shown that friendships in childhood and adolescence are an important contributor to development and personal wellbeing across the lifespan. Friendship dynamics as a group process, as well as the functions individuals serve within these groups, are largely understudied. A quantitative pilot study highlighted ten functional roles present in young adult friendship groups. Using a qualitative approach, the current study aims to extend these findings and identify recurring roles in adolescent friendship groups. Additionally, this study aims to clarify the adolescent understanding of friendship versus best friendship. Focus groups (N=5) were conducted with established high school friend groups consisting of three to eight teenagers, recruited via key informant and snowball sampling methods, through local teachers, administrators, and parents. Transcripts were coded to identify defining features of friendship versus best friendship, as well as key characteristics of various friendship roles and their responses to various social scenarios. The most common descriptors of best friendship included comfortability, trust, and deeper friendship. Example friendship roles include mom friend, logical friend, spokesperson, and punching bag. Going forward, this project aims to identify gender-based role differences, as well as connect friendship roles to individual outcomes, such as friendship quality and perceived social support.

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Title: Media perception of weight loss drugs: A qualitative analysis about Ozempic discourse in popular print newspapers

Brief Synopsis: Ozempic, a GLP-1 agonist that was originally approved for diabetes treatment, has sparked a media frenzy due to its weight loss benefits. This study qualitatively analyzes the recurring themes about Ozempic in popular print newspaper sources. The authors utilized the coding software, NVivo 14, to identify emerging themes of Ozempic discourse within newspaper articles.

Abstract: Ozempic, a GLP-1 agonist, has surged in popularity recently. While it was originally approved for diabetes treatment, its weight loss benefit has fueled a media frenzy. This qualitative study set out to use content analysis techniques to analyze how popular print newspapers discuss the drug, and how this might influence patients' perceptions of the drug. The authors compiled newspaper articles from the top three US news outlets based upon circulation factor: Wall Street Journal, New York Times, and USA Today. 70 articles fit study criteria (WSJ=40, NYT=20, and UT=10). The authors created a coding framework and thematic analysis of articles was conducted using NVivo14. Coding concordance was captured from a random sampling of articles. Preliminary analysis identified three broad categories of

discourse regarding the drug: social, financial, and medical implications. Social themes included celebrity and influencer endorsement. Cost, shortage, and insurance coverage comprised financial implications. Weight loss was the largest medical theme (n=66). Readers and, by extension, patients are being inundated with a variety of information about GLP-1 drugs. It is imperative that physicians understand the preconceived beliefs their patients may have about different aspects of these in order to better improve patient-centered communication and care.

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Title: Eliciting community input on food and nutrition for neighborhood revitalization with PhotoVoice and qualitative mapping methods

Brief Synopsis: This study collected residents' photos and perceptions of healthy food and eating in their neighborhood to call attention to the barriers many face to their healthy eating goals and the need for this input to be used when local governments and organizations are planning revitalization efforts.

Abstract: Background: Community input is an essential part of successful neighborhood revitalization efforts. This mixed methods pilot study reports on residents' perceptions of neighborhood characteristics that impact barriers to and facilitators of healthy eating and nutrition.

Methods: Residents of Monongahela Valley, Pennsylvania (n=9) were asked to take photos of things in their neighborhood related to food and eating using the Survey123 smartphone app. Photos were visualized in Google Earth. Subsequent semi-structured interviews explored and discussed maps of participants' own photos. Transcripts were analyzed with an inductive-deductive thematic approach.

Results: Participants described interacting geographical, temporal, and financial neighborhood barriers to healthy eating and nutrition that compound residents' difficulty in achieving healthy eating goals. Municipal and grass-roots programs were described as working to overcome these barriers through the creation of access-expanding programs, such as mobile markets, and new opportunities for increased health education and communal eating.

Discussion: Local governments and non-profit organizations have and continue to create programs to help residents overcome the barriers they face against healthy eating and nutrition. However, this study highlights the special attention that should be given to under-resourced communities when implementing these programs.

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Title: For the love of dogs: Exploring the impacts of an integrated pet therapy program on a college campus

Brief Synopsis: Extensive research shows the positive impact of pet therapy, or a guided interaction between a person and a trained animal, on people's mental health in general, and this relationship is especially strong among college students who often face numerous stressors. Data from the present study draws on a mixed methods case study of Pete's Pet Posse (P3), an institutionally integrated pet therapy program with yearlong events located at Oklahoma State University (OSU). P3 has been providing pet therapy programming since 2013, so the current project utilizes data from feedback surveys (n = 1,900), in-depth interviews (n = 30), and focus groups (n = 2) to explore the decade of P3's impact on the OSU community.

Abstract: College students widely face a variety of life stressors and challenges, including mental health struggles tied to navigating college life. Institutions implement an array of resources to support student wellbeing, with emerging studies showing the novel benefits of how interactions with non-human animals shape student's health. Extensive research shows the positive impact of pet therapy, or a guided interaction between a person and a trained animal, on people's mental health in general, and this relationship is especially strong among college students who often face numerous stressors. Data from the present study draws on a mixed methods case study of Pete's Pet Posse (P3), an institutionally integrated pet therapy program with yearlong events located at Oklahoma State University (OSU). P3 has been providing pet therapy programming since 2013, so the current project utilizes data from feedback surveys (n = 1,900), in-depth interviews (n = 30), and focus groups (n = 2) to explore the decade of P3's impact on the OSU community. Our findings reveal that P3 helps to provide the OSU community with joy and happiness in their everyday lives, a sense of community and connection, and critical support in managing college-related stressors.

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Title: The shift towards temporary employment in healthcare

Brief Synopsis: The qualitative work considers how healthcare changed during COVID-19. Interviews with health workers across the United States provided insights into the growth of the Traveling Independent Contractor.

Abstract: The Covid-19 pandemic altered the organization of healthcare work relatively quickly. The onset of COVID-19 exacerbated existing problems such as insufficient staffing, fatigue, and inadequate compensation. Significant transformations in the healthcare industry began with privatization and quality initiatives. COVID-19 may become the impetus for innovative solutions to the problems in healthcare. The shift toward Temporary Independent Contractors offered healthcare workers greater autonomy through short-term, higher-paying contracts. Within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic paradigm shift, the following study examines the rationale and personal experiences. Through twenty-one online surveys and follow-up in-depth interviews of healthcare professionals, findings suggest a departure from traditional employment, resulting in increased personal job satisfaction while simultaneously becoming alienated from the larger organizational culture. The gigification of healthcare work, the subdivision of tasks into smaller contracted jobs, has important implications for hospital organizations and patient care quality.

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Title: Exploring pharmacy student reflections of their immunization clinic experiences for professional identity formation

Brief Synopsis: Reflection papers written by pharmacy students at the completion of the Immunization Advocacy Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) were explored using thematic analysis to identify themes. Preliminary themes included opportunity to practice vaccination skills, student confidence grew during the IPPE, value of spending time with preceptors, and feeling and acting like a pharmacist. These themes illustrate factors described in the literature that contribute to students' professional identity formation.

Abstract: Pharmacists are uniquely positioned to impact low vaccination rates because of their knowledge of medications, their integrated role in healthcare, and accessibility by the general public. Immunization training for pharmacy students begins in the first-year curriculum and continues in the Immunization Advocacy Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) during the fall of the third year. This IPPE gives students authentic clinical experiences with focused time to hone immunization administration skills, practice clinical communication, to engage with diverse patients and healthcare professionals under the mentorship of preceptors. At the completion of the immunization clinics students are required to write a reflective paper that can include memorable experiences, lessons learned, and immunization advocacy. Instructions did not include prompts related to professional identity formation. Thematic analysis was employed to examine 89 student reflections from 2014 - 2019. During preliminary analysis researchers identified four primary themes: opportunity to practice vaccination skills, student confidence grew during the IPPE, value of spending time with preceptors, and feeling and acting like a pharmacist. These themes illustrate factors described in the literature that contribute to students' professional identity formation. Analysis of the remaining reflections is continuing.

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