Research is ceremony: Indigenous research methods

Shawn Wilson, Southern Cross University

Document Type
Book

Publication details

Peer Reviewed
Peer-Reviewed

Abstract
Indigenous researchers are knowledge seekers who work to progress Indigenous ways of being, knowing and doing in a modern and constantly evolving context. This book describes a research paradigm shared by Indigenous scholars in Canada and Australia, and demonstrates how this paradigm can be put into practice. Relationships don't just shape Indigenous reality, they are our reality. Indigenous researchers develop relationships with ideas in order to achieve enlightenment in the ceremony that is Indigenous research. Indigenous research is the ceremony of maintaining accountability to these relationships. For researchers to be accountable to all our relations, we must make careful choices in our selection of topics, methods of data collection, forms of analysis and finally in the way we present information.

When researchers engage their positionality as part of the research process, they are building trust (Wilson, 2008). Such research should examine the ways in which researchers embark on relationship building with participants for an end goal of completing the research project, or toward more altruist...
pursuits in a shared emancipation and liberation with participants (Denzin & Lincoln, 2008). Online Research Supervisor Engagement: Fostering Graduate Student Researcher Positionality. Chapter. Feb 2019. The project researches Indigenous Education in Canada, documenting Indigenous life time experience in the education systems. My Indigenous family are collaborators on the subject providing memories...’ [more]. View project. Article. Full-text available. Portraying indigenous researchers as knowledge seekers who work to progress indigenous ways of being, knowing, and doing in a constantly evolving context, this examination shows how relationships both shape indigenous reality and are vital to reality itself. These same knowledge seekers develop relationships with ideas in order to achieve enlightenment in the ceremony of maintaining accountability. Envisioning researchers as accountable to all relations, this overview proves that careful choices should be made regarding selection of topics, methods of data collection, forms of analysis, and th...