

Cultural Competence in Effective Research

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Portland, Oregon

June 1, 2007

Science and Communities: Challenges

- Different World Views
- Different Life Experiences
- Poverty may be universal, but racism and discrimination is not
- Culture may be universal experience, but cultural oppression is not

General Considerations

- Impact of misrepresentation, paternalism, and historical trauma on tribal communities
- Not including tribal members in design, methodology, and information dissemination is affront and invalidates findings
- What impact will study have on community? Short and long term consequences?

Critical Question for Researcher

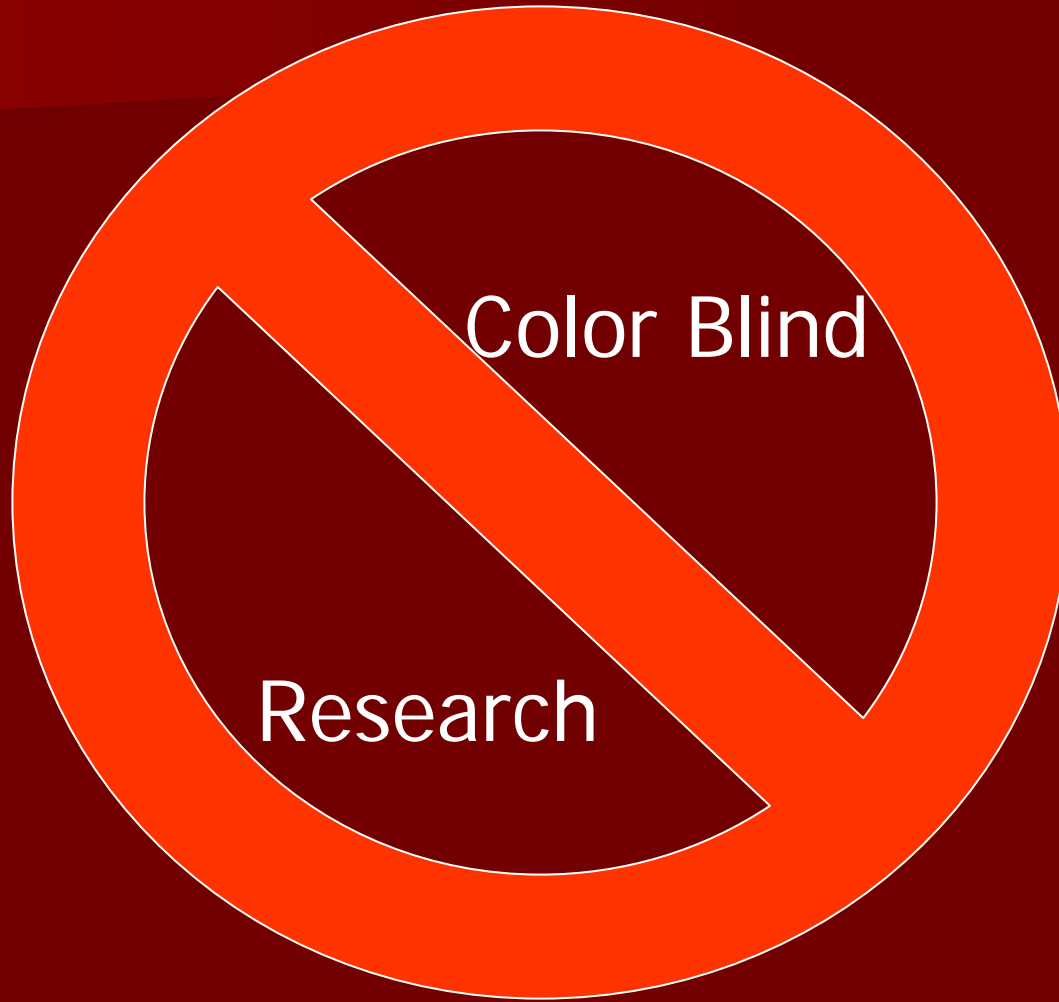
- Is research design and research questions culturally relevant, sensitive and appropriate?
- “I don’t know” means STOP

Unique Challenges in Tribal Communities

- Instrumentation selection – most not normed on tribal people; also consider tribal diversity and bi-culturalism
- Length of instrument – who benefits?
- Tribal IRB process – less reliance on universities, more emphasis on tribal self-determination

Changing Role of Scientist

- Acceptance of local community as “expert”
- Appreciate void of culture in Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) and foundation of culture in Practice Based Evidence (PBE) as community-defined evidence
- Social Advocate role: Good for the “field” or good for the “community”
- Capacity Building: build research and program evaluation capacity with (not for) tribal communities



Color Blind

Research

How to Improve . . .

- Understand dynamics of post-colonial and historical trauma
- Commit to community collaboration as active participation, not passive acceptance
- Enthusiastic re: tribal role in design, data collection, data interpretation
- Prominent attention to strengths and protective factors
- Value culture-specific interventions and locally meaningful constructs
- Attention to community feedback loops (respect for participants; tribal government decisions)

Great Need . . .

- Infuse Cultural and Linguistic Competence research philosophy into higher education
- Setting a collaborative agenda; Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health
www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca

Resources

- *A Model for Conducting Research with American Indian Participants* (1998); Justin D. McDonald, PhD; Society of Indian Psychologists
- AIRPEM Work Group on American Indian Research and Program Evaluation Methodology (2002); compilation of papers on cultural considerations and best practices in tribal research and evaluation

More Resources

- NARCH -Native American Research Centers for Health; www.ihs.gov
- University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, American Indian and Alaska Native Programs, Dr. Spero Manson
<http://aianp.uchsc.edu>
- University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Indian Country Child Trauma Center; Dr. Dolores BigFoot
www.icctc.org

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