



Personal as Methodological: Embracing Subjectivity for Mixed Methods Innovation

Peggy Shannon-Baker, PhD

Keynote Speaker

Mixed Methods International Research Association

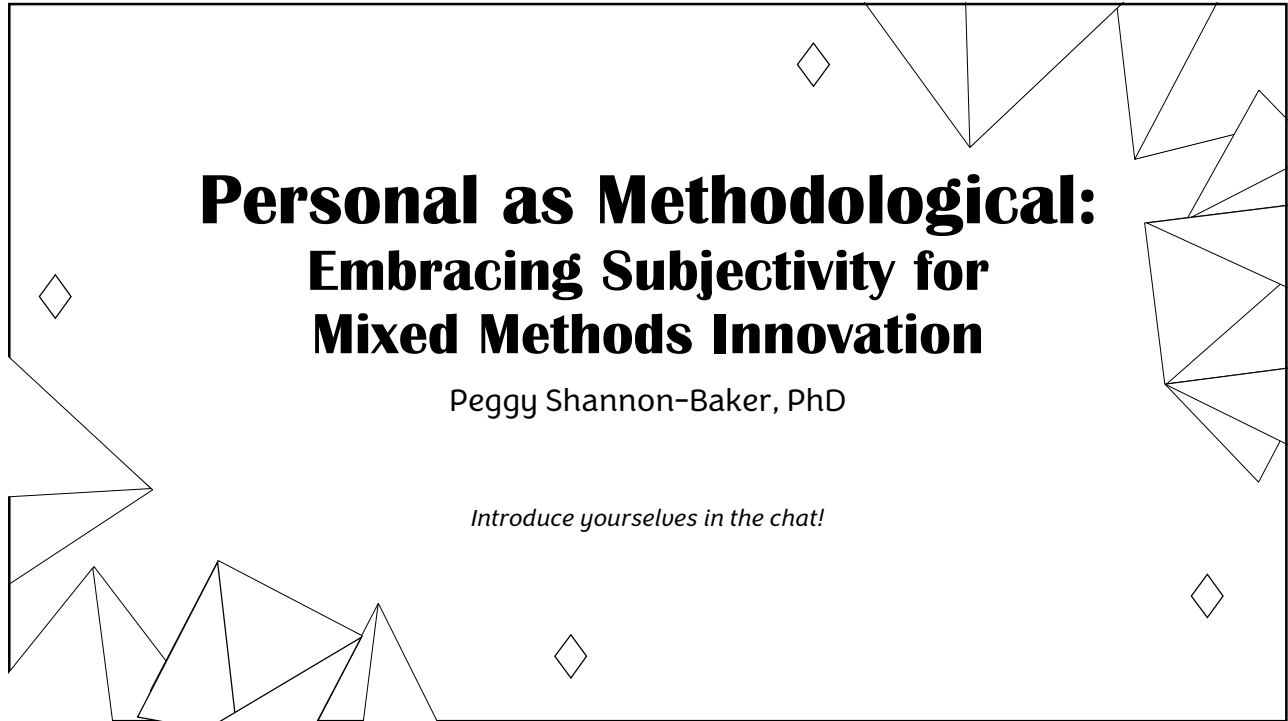
Oceania Chapter Regional Conference, Dec. 2023

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Giving Thanks

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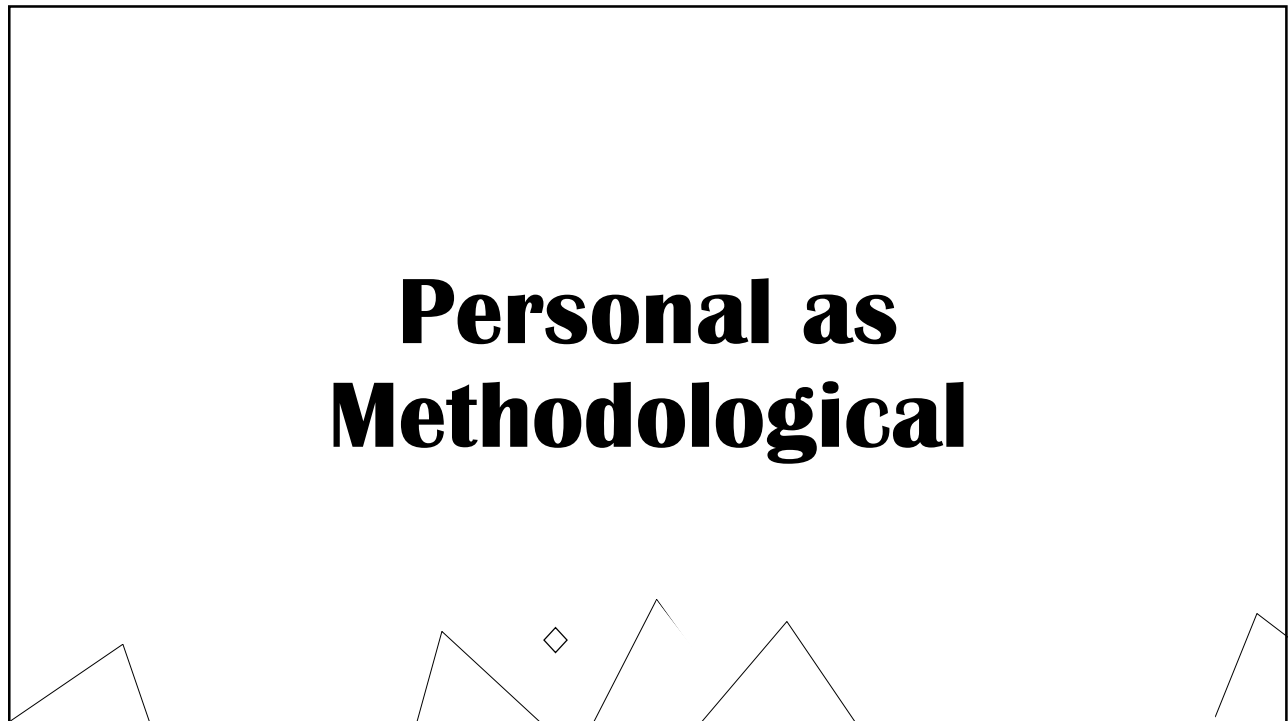


**Personal as Methodological:
Embracing Subjectivity for
Mixed Methods Innovation**

Peggy Shannon-Baker, PhD

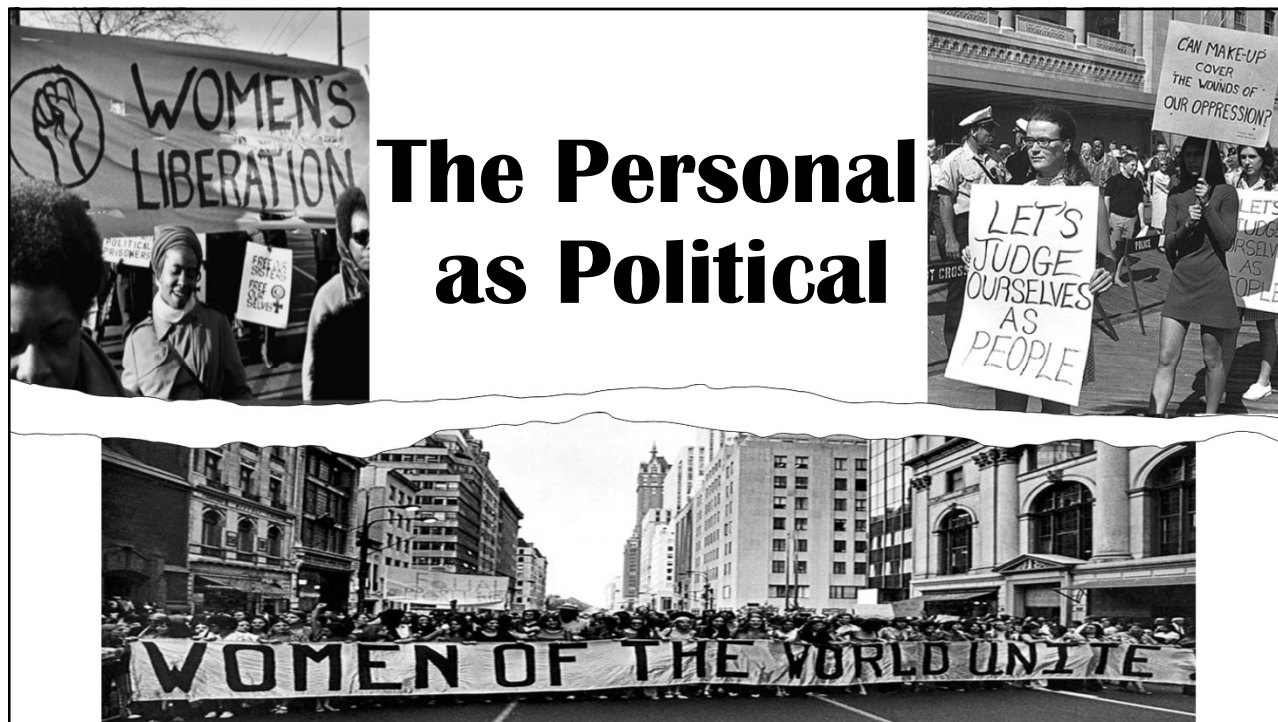
Introduce yourselves in the chat!

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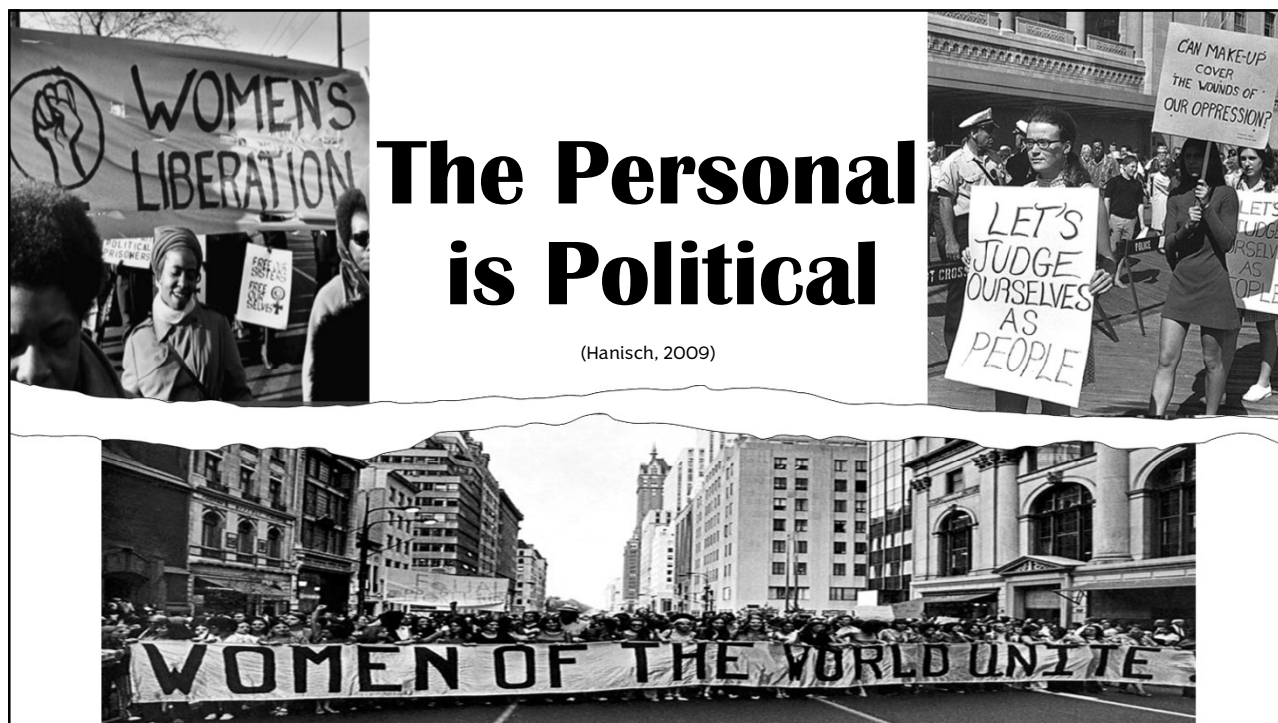
**Personal as
Methodological**

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The Personal as Political

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The Personal is Political

(Hanisch, 2009)

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Personal is Powerful

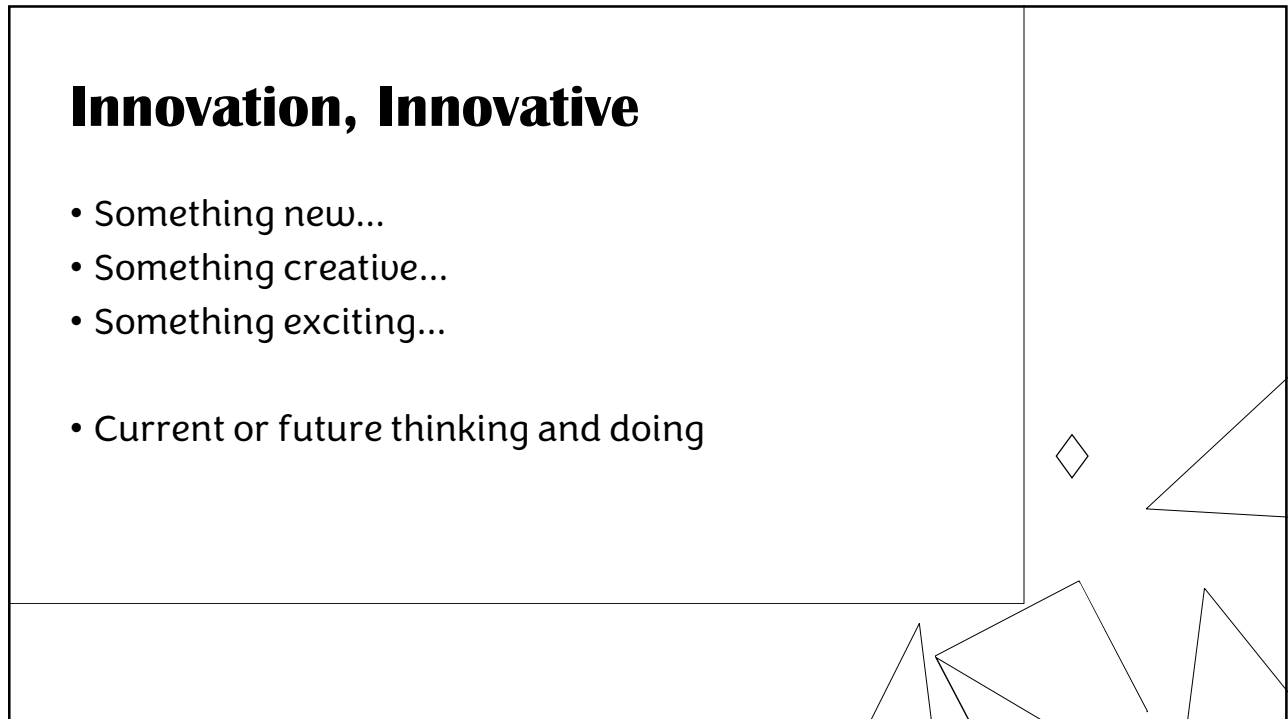
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More innovative mixed
methods work by
embracing the Personal
as Methodological

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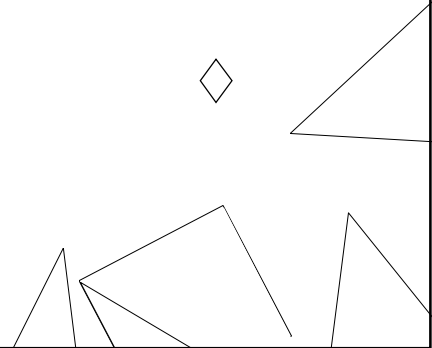


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What am I doing that's Innovative?



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Imagining the Future

Share what questions you were asked as a child in the chat.



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Imagining the Future

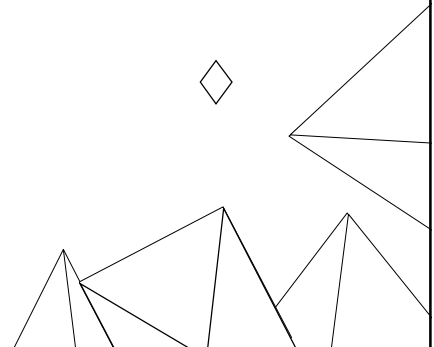
Share what questions you were asked as a
an adult in the chat.



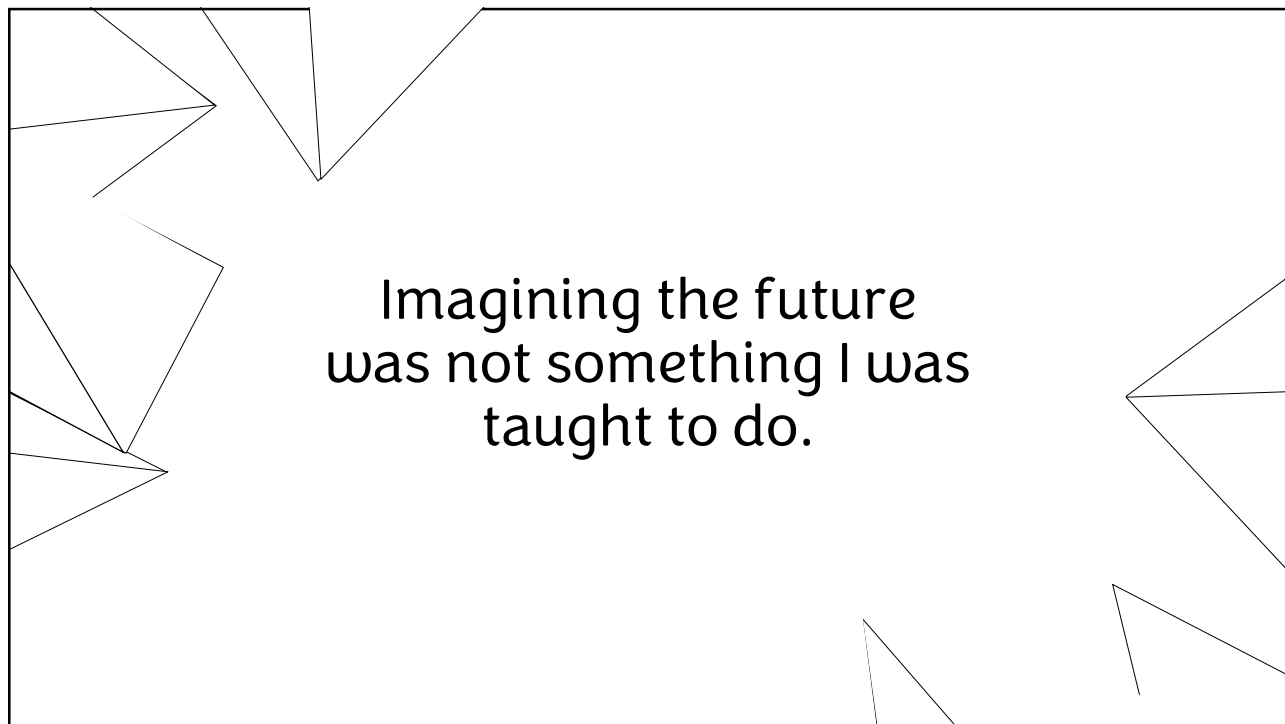
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Imagining the Future

- Where is the next meal going to come from?
- How can I avoid bullies or abusers?
- How will I afford rent, groceries, medical bills?



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Anti-Queer Legislation

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Having critical hope is
one possibility.

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Critical Hope: Merging Emotion & Action

- Use emotions like hope, anger to fuel activism (West, 2004)
- Anger at violence, injustice is righteous, but it cannot consume us (West, 2004)
- Not naïve hope, which ignores daily struggles (Duncan-Andrade, 2009)
- *Need to grow in community with others*

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Importance of Communal Spaces

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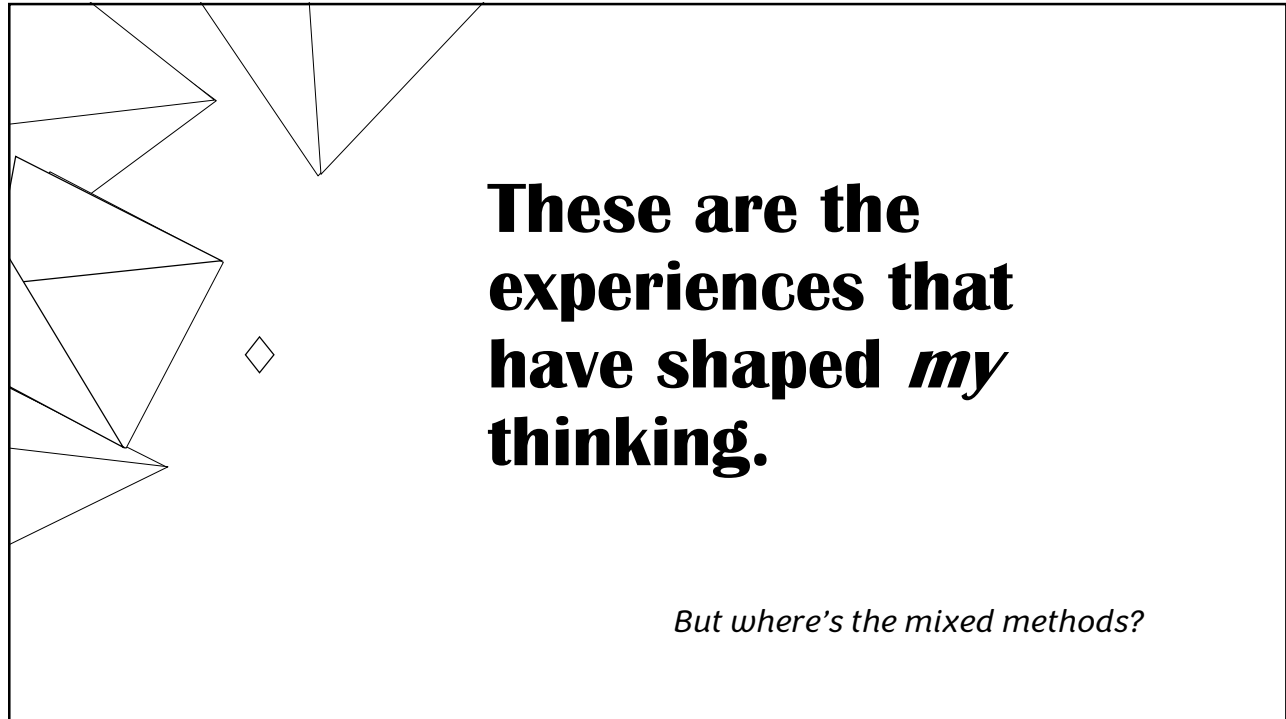
Yet, my own future remained unclear...

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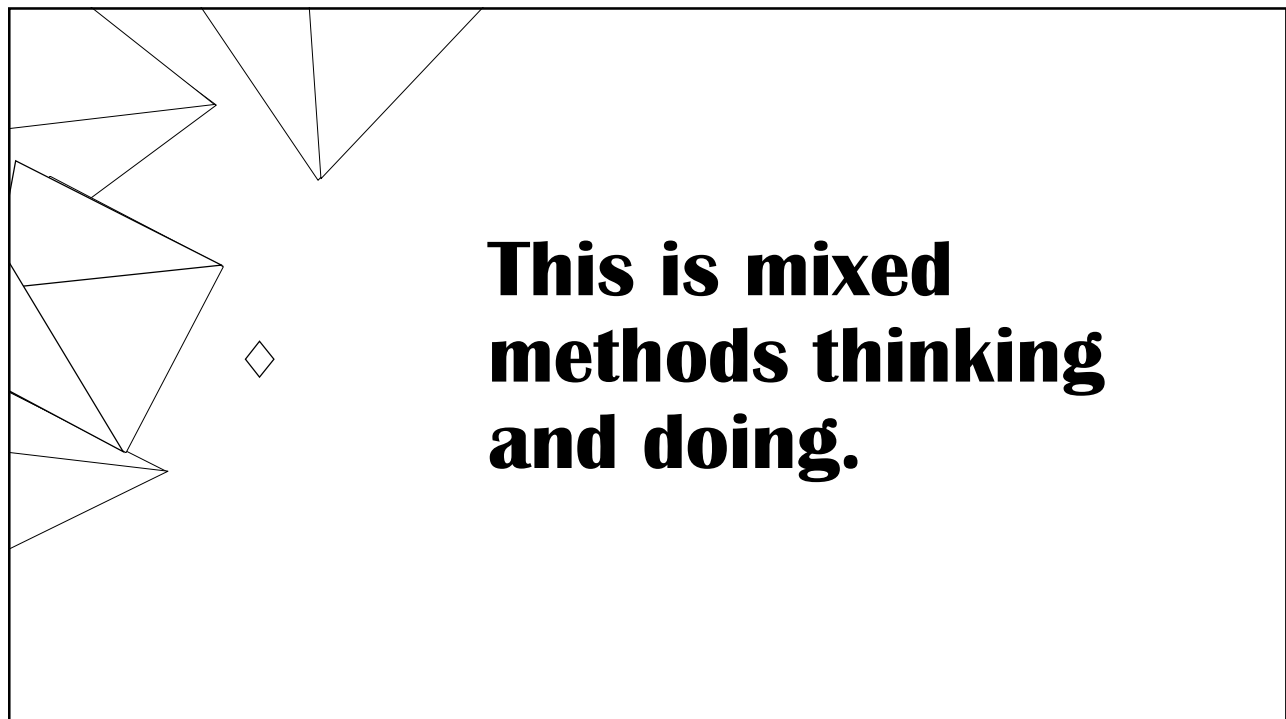
It took a change...

(Shannon-Baker, 2021)

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Mixed Methods Thinking

- Thought processes before, during, and after engaging in mixed methods research
- Informed by our values, our learning and research experiences, our doing of mixed methods
- We engage in mixed methods thinking when we design studies, do them, write and represent them
- (Greene, 2005, 2007)

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When we embrace mixed methods thinking, we can promote creative ideas *about and with research.*

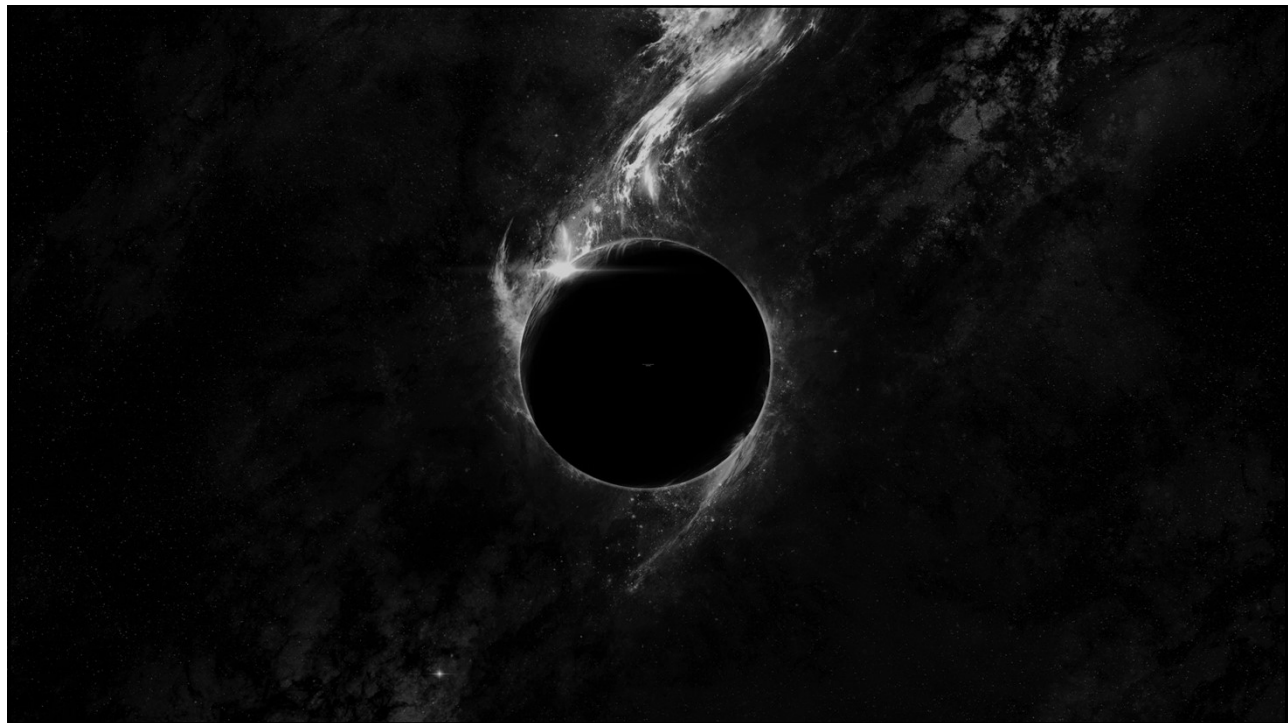
(Greene, 2005)

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Embracing Mixed Methods Thinking

- Created typologies about defining mixed methods (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2017; Plano Clark & Ivankova, 2016b; Tashakkori et al., 2021a)
- And rationalizing mixed methods (Bryman, 2006; Creswell & Plano Clark, 2017; Greene et al., 1989; Shannon-Baker, in press; Tashakkori et al., 2021b)
- Showcased our learning about mixed methods (Walton et al., 2020)
- Engaged in specific learning activities (Shannon-Baker, 2023b)

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Our mixed methods
thinking

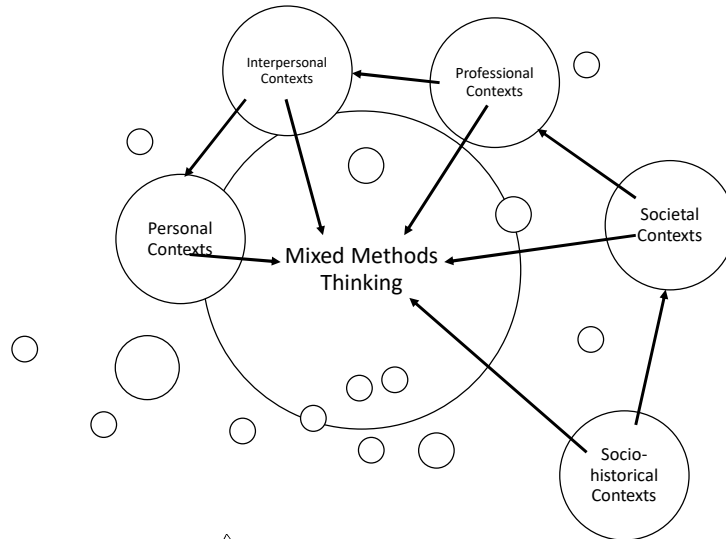
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Our subjectivities are too
powerful to be removed.

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Spheres of Influence

If mixed methods takes place within a socioecological framework (Plano Clark & Iuankova, 2016a), so too does our mixed methods thinking.

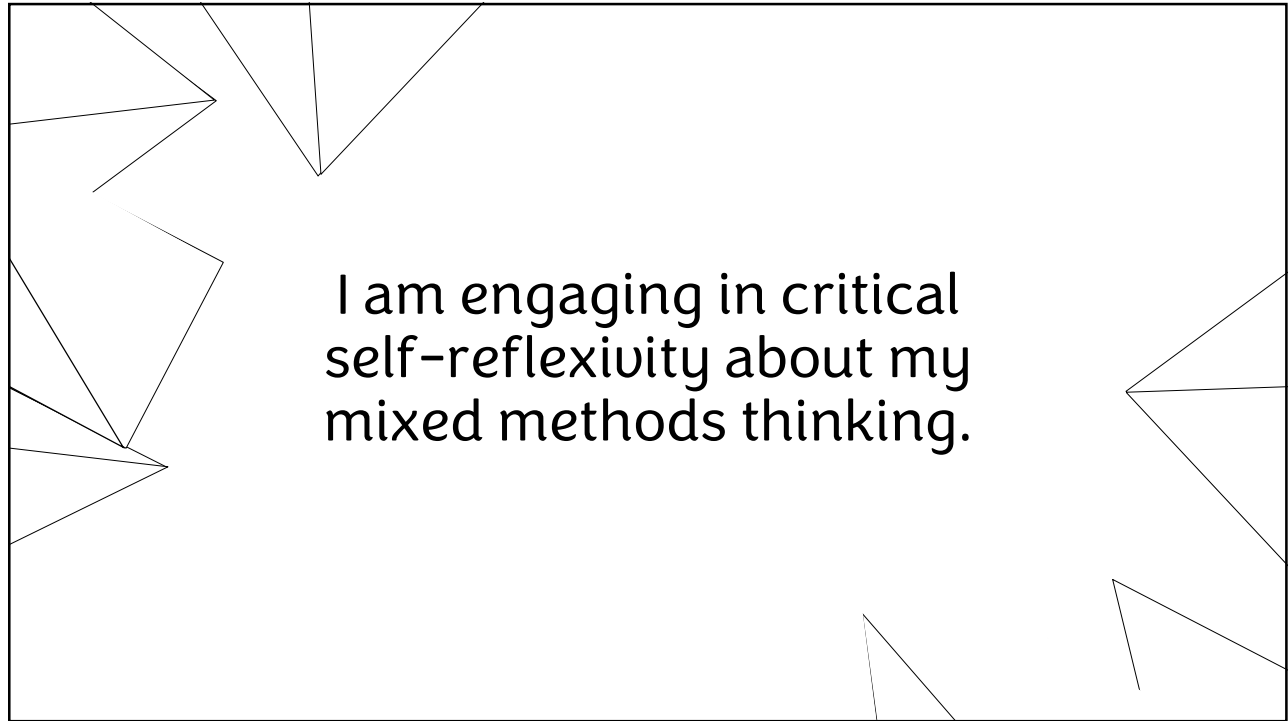


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Mixed Methods Thinking and Reflexivity

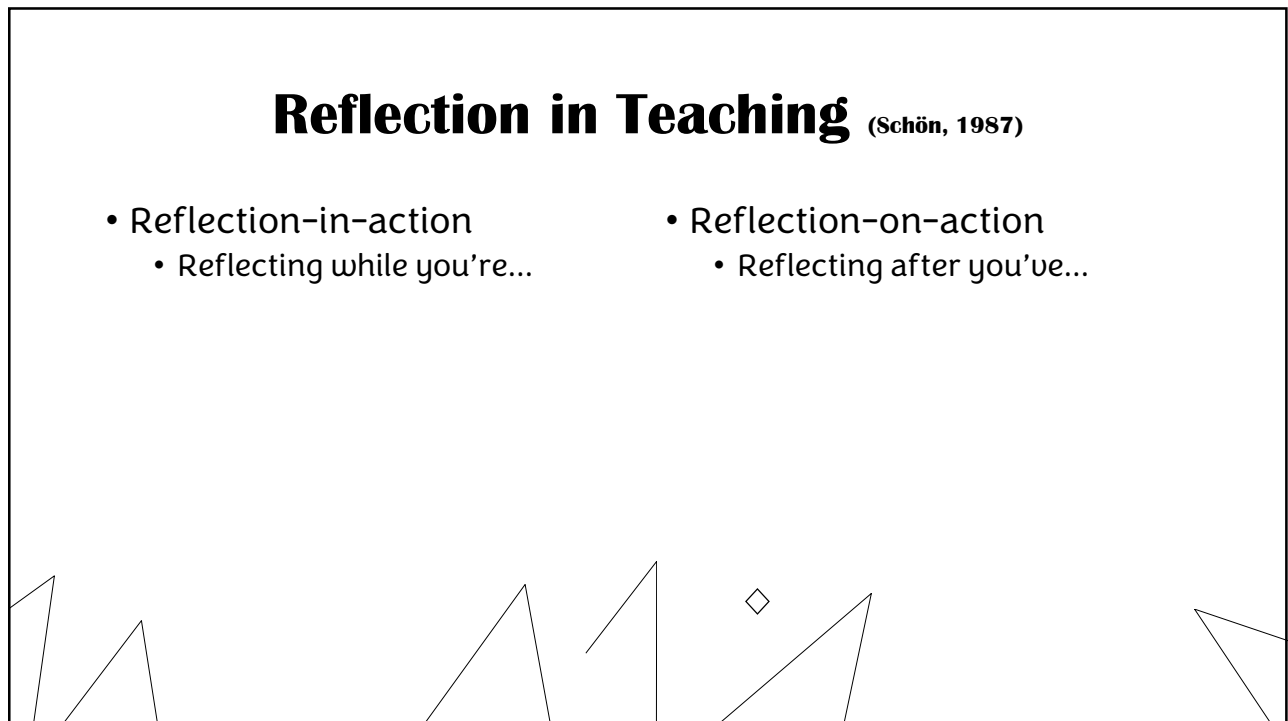
What is the connection?

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I am engaging in critical self-reflexivity about my mixed methods thinking.

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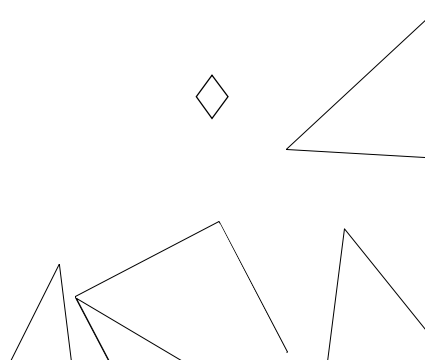


Reflection in Teaching (Schön, 1987)

- Reflection-in-action
 - Reflecting while you're...
- Reflection-on-action
 - Reflecting after you've...

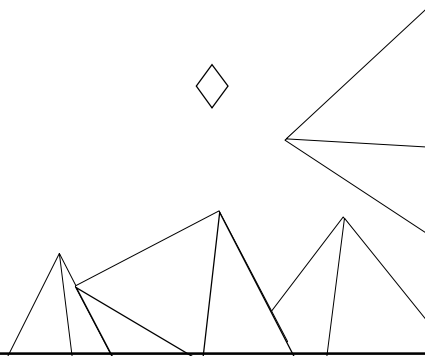
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Reflexivity as a Process

- “critical reflection both on the kind of knowledge produced from research and how that knowledge is generated” (Guillemin & Gillam, 2004, p. 274)
 - Explore one’s personal research ethics (Cain et al., 2019; Guillemin & Gillam, 2004)
 - This personal exploration “helps researchers get in touch with their research assumptions by making them more conscious of what values, attitudes, and research concerns they bring to a given research endeavor” (Hesse-Biber, 2010, p. 32)
 - As a learning process (Watt, 2007)
- 

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Reflexivity to Enhance Rigor

- Reflexivity can encourage more transparent discussions about methods, methodological decision-making (Cain et al., 2019; Finlay, 2002; Olaghere, 2022)
 - Create an audit trail of decisions (Walker et al., 2013)
 - Make decision-making more intentional (Popa & Guillermin, 2017)
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Reflexivity for Application

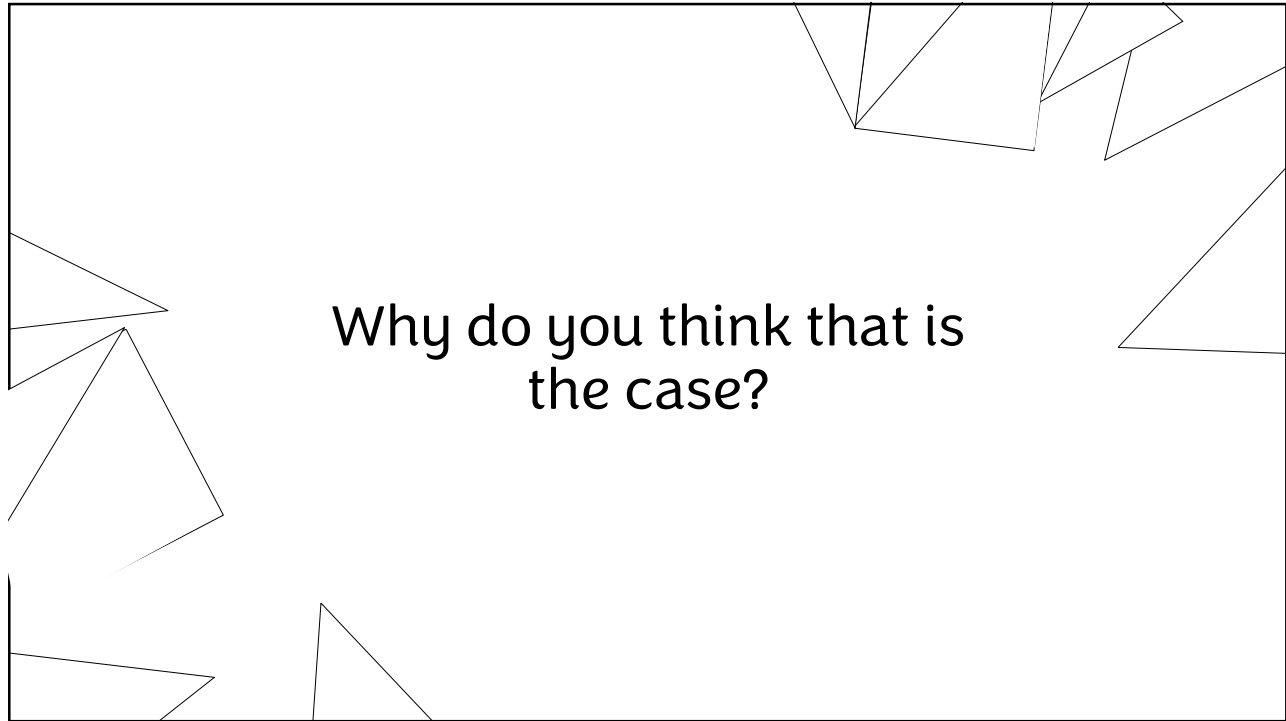
- Use reflexivity to ensure that research is directly engaging in problem-solving around social issues (Popa & Guillermin, 2017)
- Just engaging in reflections is not enough; those reflections need to be put into action (Biddle & Schafft, 2015; Popa & Guillermin, 2017)

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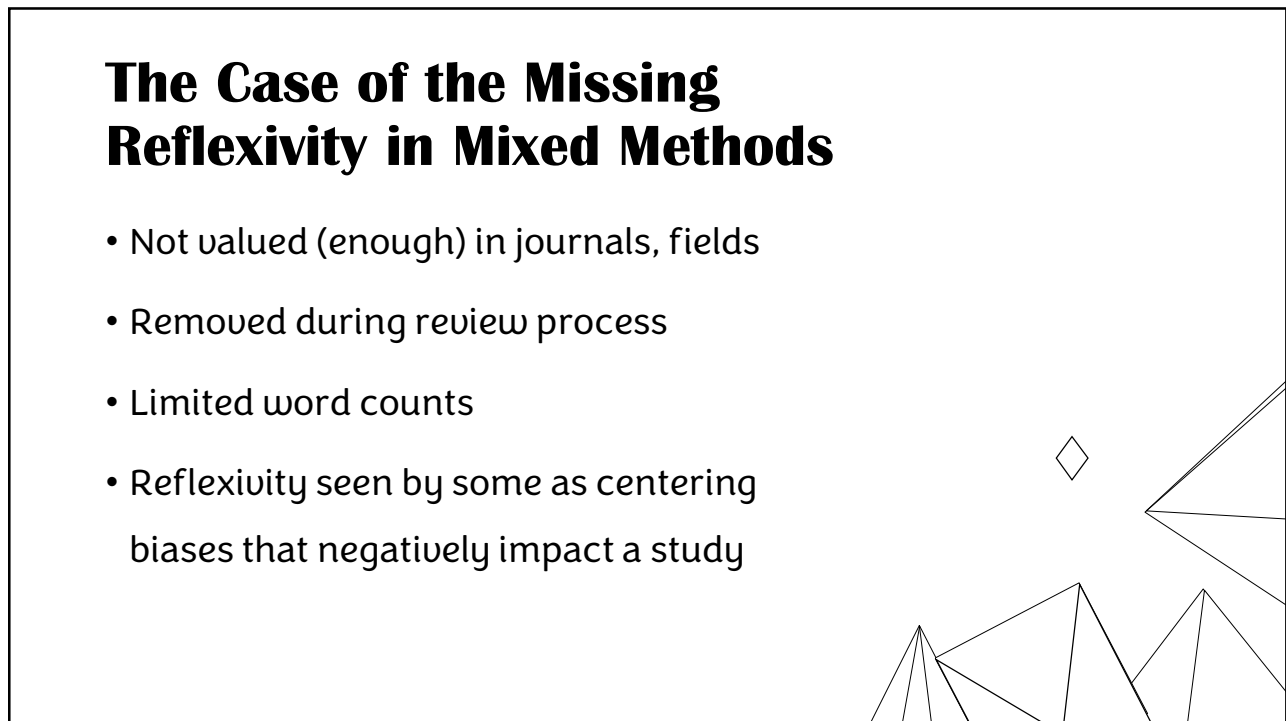
We do not see reflexivity documented enough in mixed methods.

(Cain et al., 2019; Cayir et al., 2022; Cheek et al., 2015; Hesse-Biber, 2010; Olaghere, 2022).

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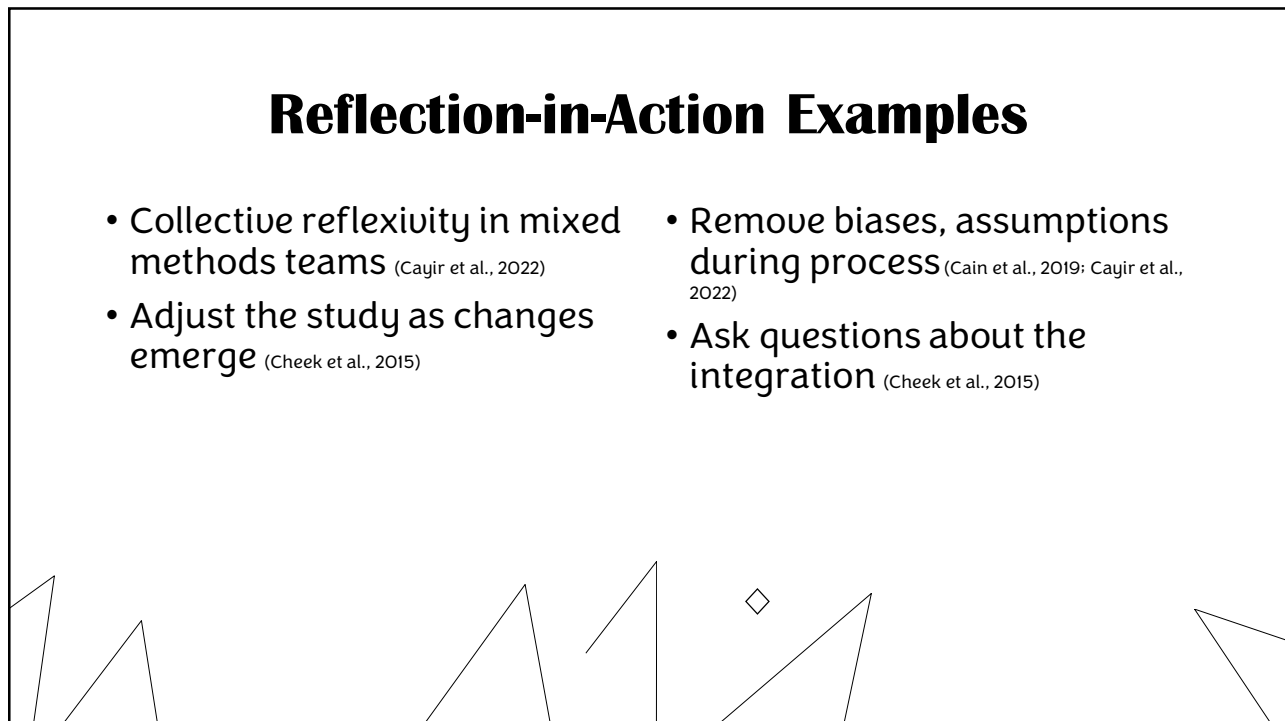
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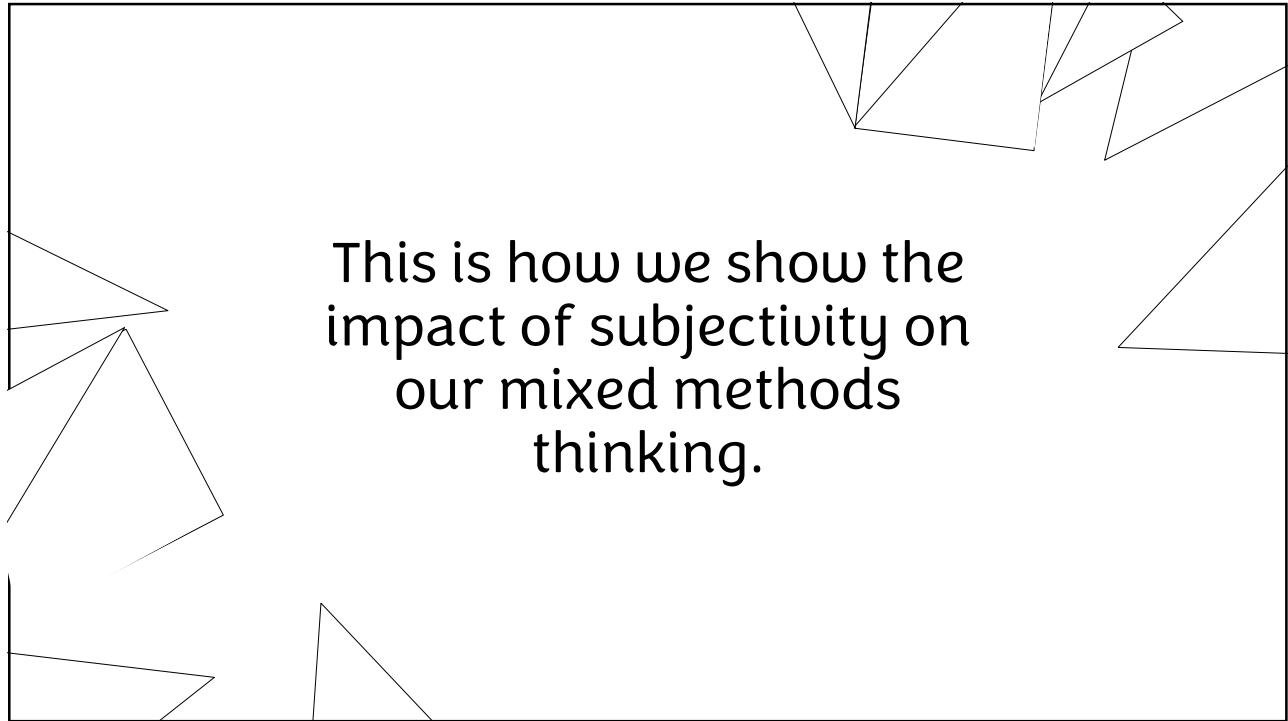
Reflection-on-Action Examples

- Describing researchers' positionalities related to participants, methods to enhance credibility (Cain et al., 2019)
- Make methods process more transparent, credible (Cain et al., 2019)

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What about connecting
to the broader beliefs
about mixed methods
research?

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Methodological Level (Shannon-Baker, 2023a)

- What is mixed methods research?
What is being “mixed” to make it mixed methods?
- Why do we need mixed methods research?
- What are the important components of mixed methods research?
- What is rigorous or high-quality mixed methods?

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Methods Level

- What is the timing or sequence of research methods in the mixed methods study?
- What is being mixed at the methods level?
- How will you represent your methods and findings in ways that demonstrate your beliefs about rigorous mixed methods research?

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Influences on My Mixed Methods Thinking

How does my subjectivity impact my mixed methods thinking?



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Influences on My Mixed Methods Thinking

How does my subjectivity impact my mixed methods thinking?



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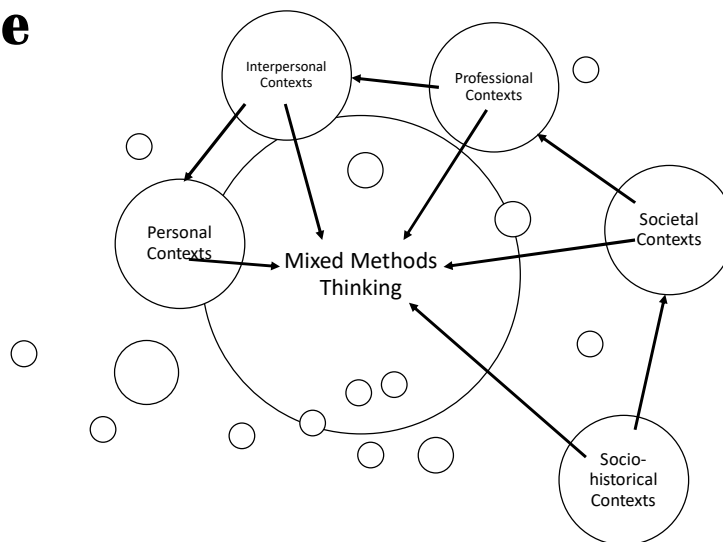
Influences on My Mixed Methods Thinking

How does my subjectivity impact my mixed methods thinking?



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Explore Some of My Mixed Methods Thinking



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Which question should I talk through? List the number in the chat.

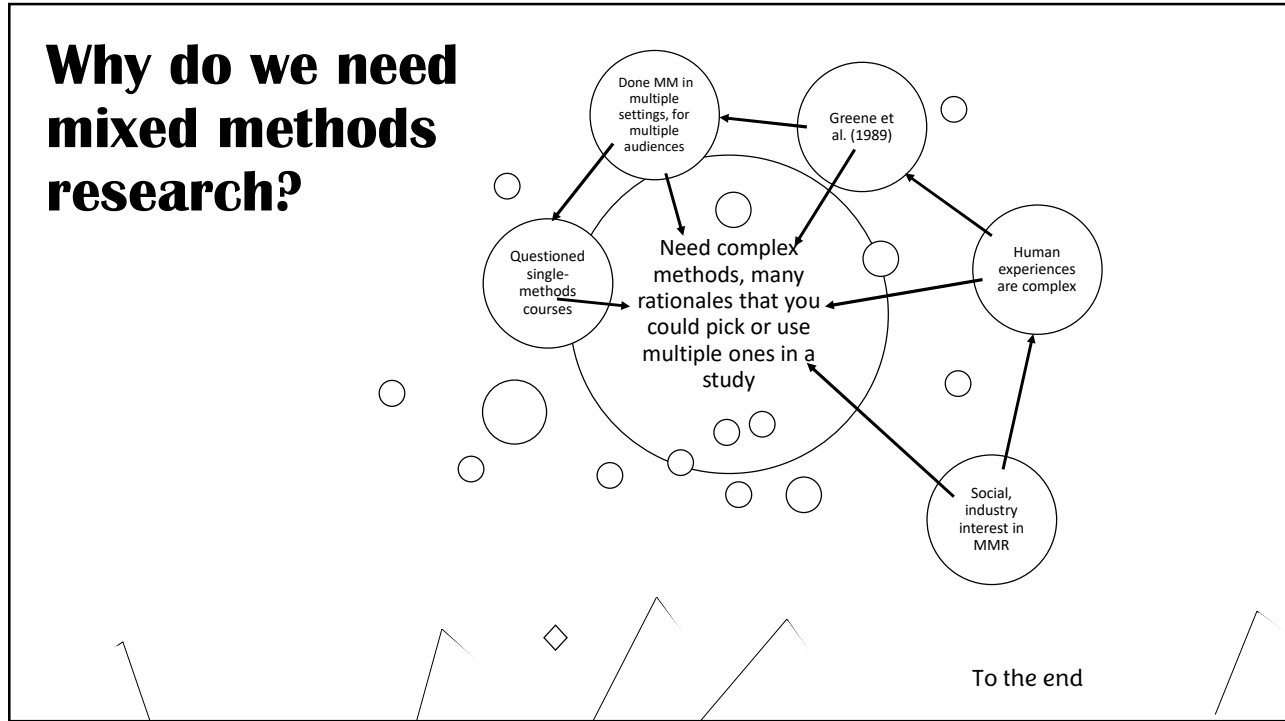
- 1 What is mixed methods research?
What is being "mixed" to make it mixed methods?
- 2 Why do we need mixed methods research?
- 3 What are the important components of mixed methods research?
- 4 What is rigorous or high-quality mixed methods?

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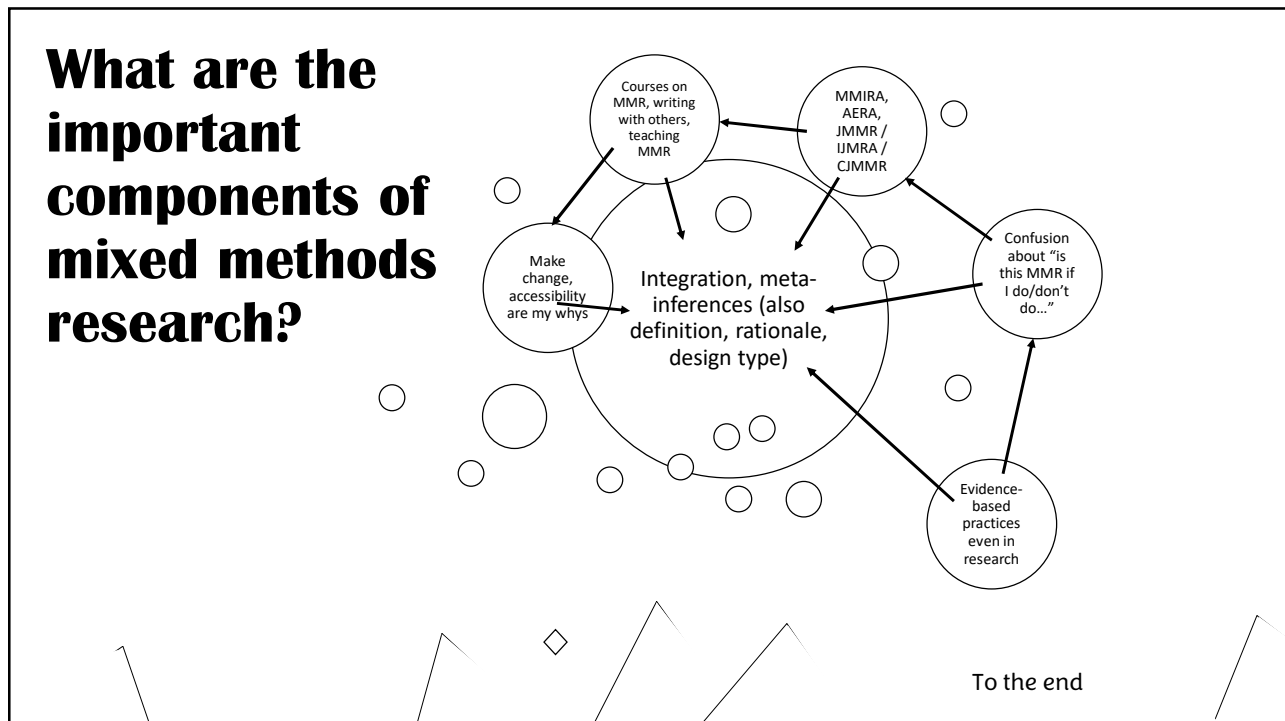
What is mixed methods research?

To the end

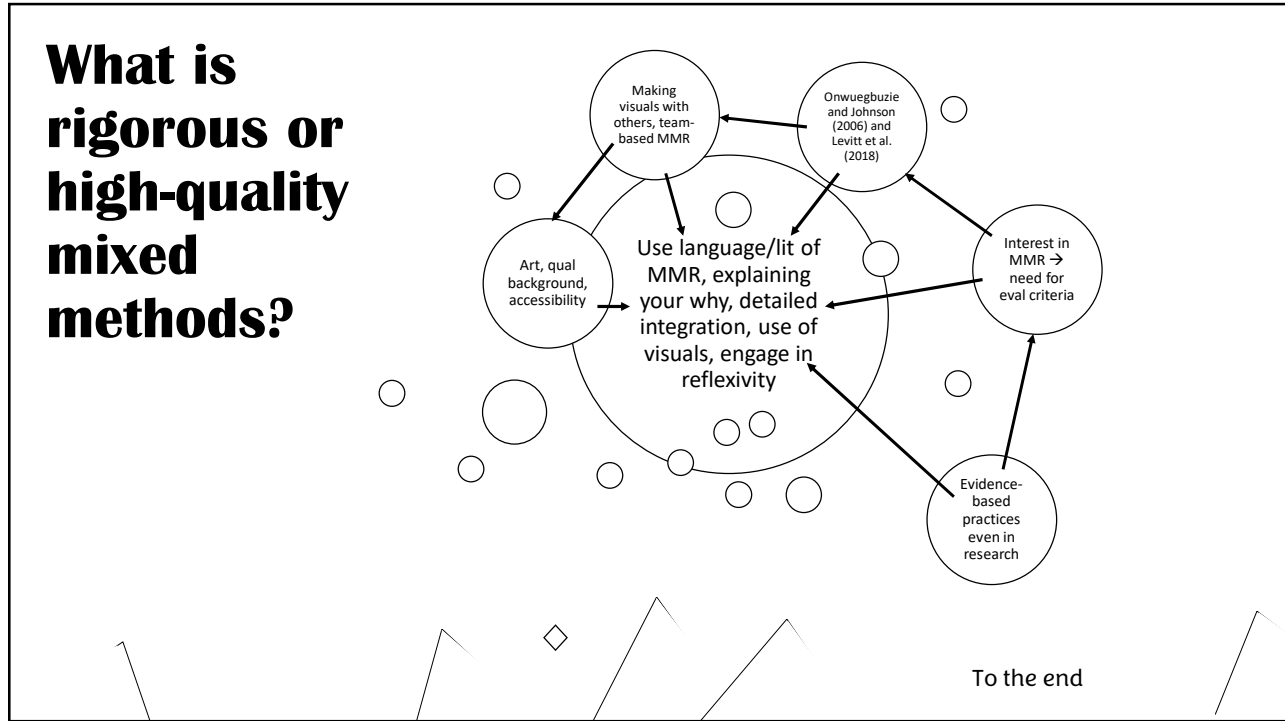
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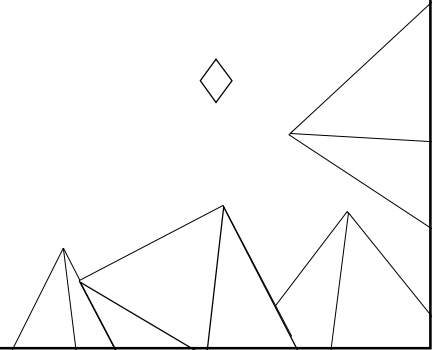
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Why do I need to engage in this kind of reflexivity about my mixed methods thinking?

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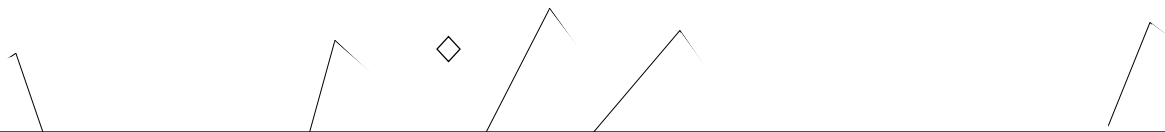
My Whys

- Interpret responses to my work, especially criticisms.
- Identify gaps in my influences.
- Demonstrate my own ideas about rigorous mixed methods.
- Track my learning, growth in my mixed methods thinking.



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Personal is
Powerful



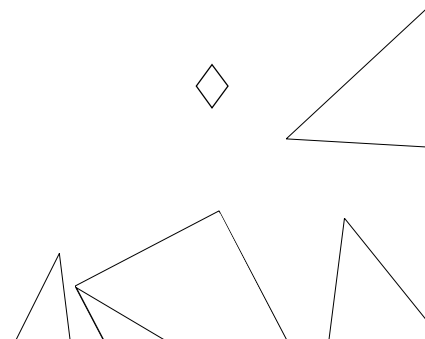
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Personal is **Methodological**



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Key Takeaways

- Our mixed methods thinking is impacted by many spheres of influence, from the personal to the sociohistorical contexts.
 - Reflexivity in mixed methods is not just about reflection-in and on-action.
 - We can engage in critical self-reflexivity about our mixed methods thinking at the methodological and methods levels.
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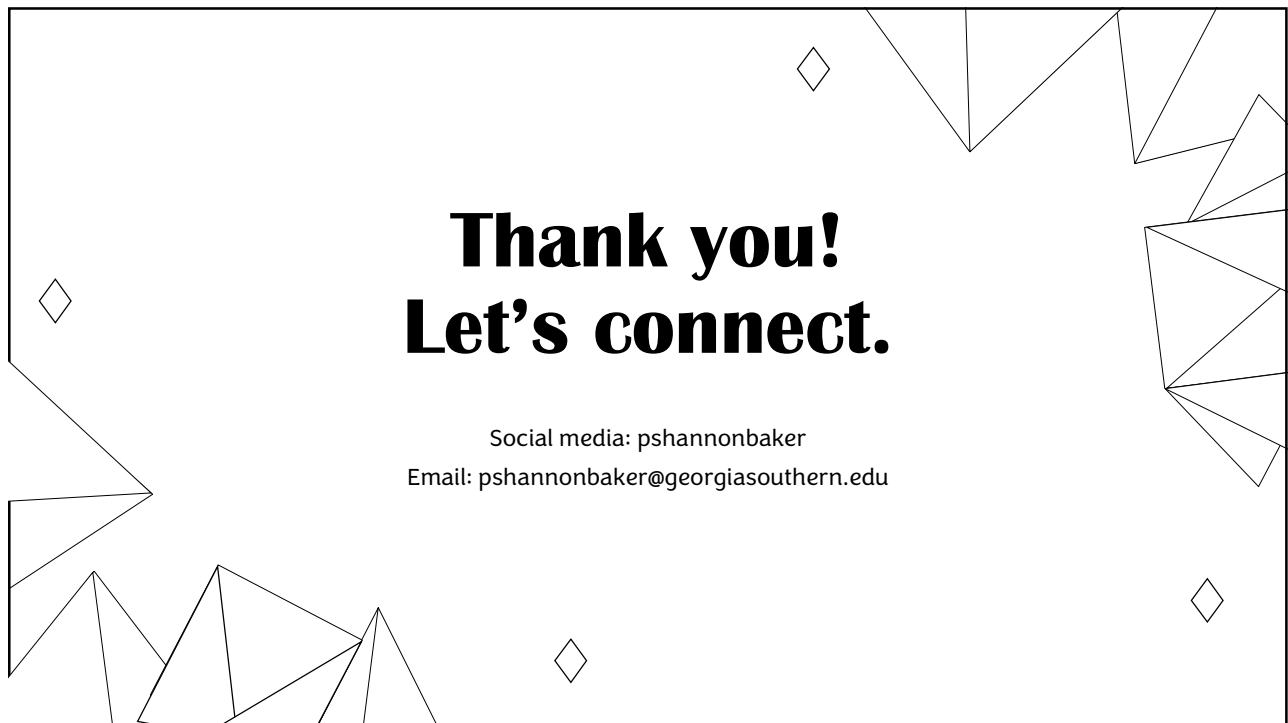
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