2017 Research Week Proposal

Title: PREDICTING DISSERTATION METHODOLOGY CHOICE AMONG DOCTORAL

CANDIDATES AT A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Program of Study: Education (EdD)

Presentation Type: PowerPoint (Remote)

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Category: Applied

Abstract: Limited research has investigated dissertation methodology choice and the factors that contribute to this choice. Quantitative research is based in mathematics and scientific positivism, and qualitative research is based in constructivism. These underlying philosophical differences posit the question if certain factors predict dissertation methodology choice. Using the theoretical framework of intersectionality and the multi-dimensional identity development model, this predictive, correlational study used archival data to determine if biological sex, ethnicity, age, or religious affiliation predicts dissertation methodology choice. A logistics regression analysis was used to review 398 doctoral dissertations and determine if any of the criterion variables predicted dissertation methodology choice. After analysis, it was determined that none of the criterion variables of biological sex, ethnicity, age, and religious affiliation was statistically significant in predicting dissertation methodology choice.

Keywords: doctoral dissertation, research methodology, quantitative research, qualitative research

Christian Worldview:

My Christian worldview informed this research, especially in regards to the predictor variable of

religious affiliation. It is well-known from research that many in the scientific community oppose the Christian worldview because of its inherent conflict with a positivist worldview. In this study, I sought to determine whether Christians avoid quantitative research based on its scientific predispositions and positivist philosophical assumptions that conflict with a theistic worldview. After I analyzed the data, I found that religious affiliation was not a significant predictor of dissertation methodology. This has implications for Christian universities, as they can understand that it is important to focus on both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies and encourage students that quantitative methodologies can be utilized even alongside their Christian worldview.