

Guest Editorial Preface

Special Issue on Quantitative and Mixed-Method Research

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In this issue of *International Journal of Adult Vocational Education and Technology*, we present seven articles regarding quantitative and mixed-method research designs and methods that are at the cusp of guiding cutting-edge research. The five quantitative research design articles range from longitudinal and single-subject designs to cross-sectional work using MTURK as a data collection tool, and mixed-method and Q-method research designs. The quantitative methods articles, in turn, cover cluster analysis and MANOVAS and Factorial MANOVAs as research tools. The four aims of each paper is as follows: introducing the design or method, specifying links to theory-building and theory-testing, providing practical examples of how to conduct research related to the design, and exploring analysis of the data generated from such research.

To address the first aim of this issue, each paper provides readers with an introduction to the specific quantitative design or method with an eye toward its utility in social science research, namely in organizational settings like workplaces. Understanding that no research design or method is without its drawbacks, particular attention is paid to exploring the advantages and disadvantages of the respective designs or methods in conducting organizational research. Tackling the second aim, each paper specifies how the design or method in question is linked to theory-building and theory-testing; thus, addressing an important dimension of the issue associated with the significance or scientific merit of one's research. Concrete examples helpful for guiding future research studies employing the said research design or method are presented as well to concentrate on the third aim. Finally, to handle the analysis aim, the authors discuss issues of data analysis related to data generated by the study. Overall, each paper is designed to meet a dire need for affording social science researchers with the requisite information to design, and implement the increasingly sophisticated research necessary for moving the field forward theoretically, empirically and practically.

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