

What is INTERCULTURAL INQUIRY?

INQUIRY is a search for understanding in the face of complex, open questions with no “right” answer. It

- Poses problems,
- Seeks rival hypotheses, and
- Constructs warranted, but revisable conclusions

<p>INTERCULTURAL INQUIRY <i>uses</i> difference— cultural, racial, social difference—not to explain difference, but to pose and solve share problems, by creating More inclusive definitions of the problem More generative rival interpretations More diversely accountable conclusions</p>	<p><i>One can not climb a number of mountains simultaneously, but the views had when different mountains are ascended supplement one another,; they do not set up incompatible, competing worlds.</i> John Dewey:</p>
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INTERCULTURAL INQUIRY seeks out the situated, experiential knowledge of diverse people

- in order to question and conditionalize the knowledge couched in generalized claims and abstract concepts, that often blinds us to diverse realities.

<p>INTERCULTURAL INQUIRY elicits situated meanings by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acknowledging the agency of marginalized youth and adults• Seeking and honoring the expertise of everyday people	<p><i>The most significant theme of the new cultural politics of difference is the agency, capacity and ability of human beings who have been culturally degraded, politically oppressed and economically exploited by bourgeois liberal and communist illiberal status quos. This theme neither romanticizes nor idealizes marginalized peoples. Rather it accentuates their humanity and tries to attenuate the institutional constraints on their life-chances for surviving and thriving. (Cornel West, 1993, p. 29)</i></p>
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INTERCULTURAL INQUIRY addresses the problems it poses by

- Engaging in a hybrid discourse in which the voices of research and policy, values and experience, speaking the languages of academic and community literacy alike, meet at a common table and by“
- Constructing negotiated meanings in which diverse voices and good rivals are still heard