



## Mixed Methods International Research Association - Oceania Chapter (MMIRA-O)



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Chapter Newsletter *Special Edition* | August 2021

# The 2021 Regional Conference

## ‘Looking to the Future’

8-9 December 2021 | Virtual

Mixed methods researchers in Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Nations are invited to participate in our biennial Regional Conference on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2021. Workshops will be conducted on 8<sup>th</sup> December, followed by a virtual meeting across multiple sessions on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

The theme ‘Looking to the Future’ encourages us to think through and beyond the current pandemic. The theme challenges us to envision what our world might become and how we, as mixed methods researchers, might impart our special knowledge and skills to promote a safer, more equitable society, both locally and globally.

The conference has five streams, with each stream designed to explore and contribute to an aspect related to the future of mixed methods research (MMR).

1. The role of technology in MMR in the future
2. Laying the foundations for a robust MMR future
3. Fostering mixed methods researchers of the future (MMR pedagogy)
4. Addressing “wicked problems” affecting our future
5. ‘Mixing it up’ – other issues relevant to the future of MMR

## Keynote speakers

We are delighted to announce the following keynote speakers for the conference.



**MICHELLE NICHOLS**  
***President of MMIRA***  
***Medical University of South Carolina, USA***

(Further details to come)

*Dr. Michelle Nichols teaches at the College of Nursing for the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), including its Ph.D. programme. Dr Nichols is also Director of the MUSC's Community Engaged Scholars Research programme, under the South Carolina Clinical and Transnational Research Institute. She is the 2021–22 President of MMIRA.*



**DONNA MERTENS**  
***Professor Emeritus***  
***Gallaudet University, Washington, DC***

### **The Future of Mixed Methods: An Embarrassment of Riches and Fraught with Challenges**

Increasing disparities in wealth between rich and poor, more devastating and frequent natural disasters, immigration crises, violations of the rights of women and people with disabilities, and a global pandemic demand our attention and leave us with the question, what can we do as a community of researchers to be part of the solution? Mixed methods do not provide a panacea to these problems; however, they do provide researchers with an opportunity to engage in critical reflection on the challenges of conducting research as a means of supporting transformative change. The advancements in mixed methods toward increasing research impact are recognized, along with the need to continue creative thinking as a means to increased social, economic, and environmental justice in the future.

*Donna M. Mertens, Professor Emeritus at Gallaudet University, specializes in research and evaluation methodologies designed to support social, economic, and environmental transformation. Her recent books related to social, economic and environmental justice and human rights include Program Evaluation Theory and Practice (2nd ed.); Mixed Methods Design in Evaluation; and Research and Evaluation in Education and Psychology (5th ed.).*

## Pre-Conference Workshops (8<sup>th</sup> December)



Tim Guetterman  
***Associate Director of the Mixed Methods Program  
University of Michigan***

Developing joint displays to facilitate and represent mixed methods integrative analysis

Joint displays are a visual means of integrating qualitative and quantitative research. Developing joint displays is a promising method that relies on visuals including tables, matrices, and figures represent integration in manuscripts, theses, dissertations, and other mixed methods reports. This workshop will focus on selecting the joint display that is most appropriate to address your research questions in a mixed methods study. We will review templates to assist with the process of developing a joint display. The workshop will encourage participants to work on their own projects and applying concepts to their own joint displays. Participants will exit with at least one draft joint display to use in their proposal or manuscript. The instructor will provide feedback as well.



Peter Rawlins  
***Director Academic Programme, Institute of Education  
Massey University, New Zealand***

Designs and research questions in mixed methods research

This workshop gives a brief overview of mixed methods research as the 'third' paradigm. It then introduces and unpacks three common mixed methods research designs. Lastly, the nature of research questions within a mixed methods study are explored. Participants are encouraged to bring their own ideas about a possible research study to work on during this workshop. This workshop is suited to those relatively new to mixed methods research (e.g., postgraduate students) as well as those new to supervising mixed methods studies.



Pat Bazeley  
***Director, Research Support P/L  
Adjunct Professor, Western Sydney and Torrens Universities***

Integration strategies for mixed methods research

Integration, seen as interdependence of varied data, methods, and analyses within a project, is a core feature of mixed methods research. This workshop will review and illustrate strategies for constructing, combining, comparing, and converting data and analyses in ways that foster integration. The principles, tools, and techniques involved in these core strategies are also foundational for more complex designs.

## Conference Programme (9th December)

All presentations will be given virtually. Registered participants will be able to view papers in other streams for three months following the conference.

Times listed are Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT); New Zealand is 2 hours later; Philippines will be 3 hours earlier.

### Morning programme

9.00 – 10:30 am      Welcome; Keynote address by Michelle Nichols  
11.00 – 12:30 pm      Oral Paper streams (up to 5 streams).

### Mid-day programme

1:00 – 1:30 pm      Opportunities for student mentoring.

### Afternoon programme

2.00 – 3:00 pm      Keynote address by Donna Mertens, followed by a brief business meeting.  
3:30 – 5:00 pm      Oral Paper streams; Lightning papers

## Registration

Registration for the conference is free. Formal registration will occur in November.

To register your interest in receiving updates to information about the conference either:

- a) [Become a member of MMIRA-Oceania here](https://canterbury.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_79z8sfDZQPfRpR4) or copy this link into your browser:  
[https://canterbury.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_79z8sfDZQPfRpR4](https://canterbury.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_79z8sfDZQPfRpR4) OR
- b) Send an email with 'Conference updates' in the subject line to [mmira.oceania@gmail.com](mailto:mmira.oceania@gmail.com)

## To submit an abstract

Determine whether you wish your paper to describe how you conducted an empirical study, or to elaborate on a theoretical or methodological issue. Guidelines for each type of paper follow.

A. For a theoretical/methodological paper, please provide

- Title of contribution
- Author name, title, institution, email
- Paper type and suggested stream
- Keywords
- A 300–500-word abstract that describes:
  - The problem, learning experience, or issue you are addressing
  - The methods, solutions, or strategies that contribute to resolving this
  - An example of how this has worked or will work
  - What this will contribute to advancing a wider mixed methods agenda (future orientation).

B. For an empirical paper, please provide:

- Title of contribution
- Author name, title, institution, email
- Paper type and suggested stream
- Keywords
- A 300–500-word abstract to include:
  - Background
  - Aim
  - Method
  - Findings
  - Conclusion

Send submissions as an attachment in an email to [mmira.oceania@gmail.com](mailto:mmira.oceania@gmail.com)

Submissions should be forwarded as attached documents in MS Word® or a compatible format.

Presenting authors must be a member of either MMIRA ([www.mmira.org](http://www.mmira.org)), or of the Oceania Chapter of MMIRA (joining is free – see details above).

*Note that even though you will be presenting the details of an empirical research project, the emphasis for this **methodologically-oriented conference** – where participants come from diverse disciplinary backgrounds – should be on **the methods used in the study**, with some reflection in your conclusion on how well those methods worked.*

Key dates for abstract submission

Submission of abstracts closes 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

Review of abstracts – returned to authors with feedback 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2021

Detailed outline required for provisionally accepted papers 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2021

Confirmation for presenters 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2021

Circulation of draft programme 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2021

As the number of full papers that can be presented is limited by the format of the conference, participants might choose to alternatively showcase their work as a “lightning paper”, displaying a single slide with a 5-minute presentation (i.e., comparable to a 3MT presentation).

## Join MMIRA-Oceania!

MMIRA-Oceania is a relatively new Chapter of the Mixed Methods International Research Association, for researchers coming from Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Nations. The objectives of the Chapter are to:

1. Build a community of, and share expertise amongst, mixed methods researchers throughout the region;
2. Support and build mixed methods research (MMR) capacity for researchers and research students throughout the Oceania region;
3. Contribute to civil society through enhancing the mixed methods research skills of those working professionally in development and policy work, and in practice more generally; and
4. Connect members to the wider global networks of mixed methods researchers.

Interested researchers wishing to become members of MMIRA-O can click on [https://canterbury.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_79z8sfDZQPfRpR4](https://canterbury.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_79z8sfDZQPfRpR4).