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Topic: Indigenous Research Paradigm

Title: Beadworking as an Indigenous Research Paradigm

Abstract: As Indigenous researchers who utilize an Indigenous research methodology (IRM), non-IRM scholars often tell us what we can and cannot do within our research studies. In my experience, I am told that using an IRM limits me on the types of research designs, methods, and analyses that I can use. Instead of letting others dictate to me the types of research that they feel I am limited to as an Indigenous scholar, I designed and published an Indigenous research paradigm grounded in my own positionality as a Blackfoot scholar. In this presentation, I outline three principles that form the conceptual basis of an emerging Indigenous research paradigm that I call Beadworking. I relate how Beadworking informs my understanding of and engagement with an Indigenous research methodology. Beadworking addresses how Indigenous Peoples' creation of beadwork can be used to help Indigenous researchers navigate the research process, while being grounded from within an Indigenous worldview. Specifically, I work within a Blackfoot worldview and express how the Blackfoot natural laws of the universe are integrated into the research process. It is my hope that in sharing my research paradigm, it will inspire other Indigenous researchers to define and articulate their own research paradigms through the unique positionality of their own Indigenous People. I envision a future in which an array of Indigenous research paradigms, methodologies and methods exist, from which future Indigenous researchers may benefit.