

Research Context and Cultural Competence

Spring 2026 Week 12 for SOWK 460w



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Agenda for Week 12

The Tentative Plan

Why cultural sensitivity in program evaluation

Terms associated with cultural competence

Standards for culturally competent evaluation

An example of culturally responsive evaluation

Application to your program evaluation



Group Check- in Meetings

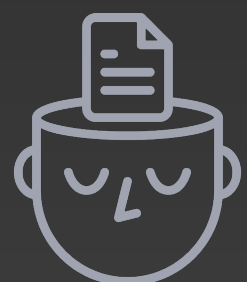
**7 min meetings with each group.
Let's check in on work equity.**

- What have people been doing
- What are the tasks still to be done
- What is the timeline

While you are waiting,
please complete the Tri-
Cities Student Survey



<https://heritage.jotform.com/form/tri-cities-student-survey>



“Identity develops across contexts and time and is shaped by cultural influences including age, generation, gender, ethnicity, race, religion, spirituality, language, sexual orientation, gender identity, social class, education, employment, ability status, national origin, immigration status, and historical as well as ongoing experiences of marginalization”

(Roysircar-Sodowsky & Maestas, 2000 as cited in Royse 2023, pp. 207-208)

Might any one of these variables keep us from experiencing the world differently than the person sitting beside us in a counseling session or those in a classroom?



Important Terms

Cultural humility reflects an attitude of openness and genuine curiosity toward people whose experiences and perspectives may differ from our own. It encourages practitioners to recognize the natural limits of their understanding when it comes to another person's worldview and cultural background. It also calls for ongoing self-reflection about one's own beliefs, assumptions, and unconscious biases.



Important Terms

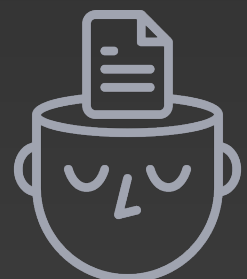
Cultural opportunities are moments when a person shares a cultural belief, value, or behavior that can serve as a “cultural marker,” offering a chance to explore and better understand that individual and their cultural background.

- * What happens when we choose to ask and learn more about what the cultural marker means to the person we are talking with?
- * When we let such opportunities slide?



Important Terms

Cultural comfort refers to the way practitioners who approach their work with cultural humility can engage with cultural opportunities to deepen their understanding of another person's cultural identity through meaningful conversation and self-reflection. When moments of **cultural discomfort** arise, they offer valuable chances to learn more about our own assumptions and perspectives, as well as to gain a deeper understanding of others.



Important Terms

Controversy



Cultural competence refers to working effectively with individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds.



Imagine you are proposing a program evaluation for a program with clients who are distinct racial, ethnic, or cultural minority.

How will you address good culturally competent procedures? Identify the efforts or activities you would make related to the standards.

1

Article
Reading
Jigsaw



Practical Strategies for
Culturally Competent
Evaluation: Evaluation Guide

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014)



Cultural Competency

Attributes for Program Evaluation

Awareness & Acceptance



Dynamics of Differences



Adaptation of Skills



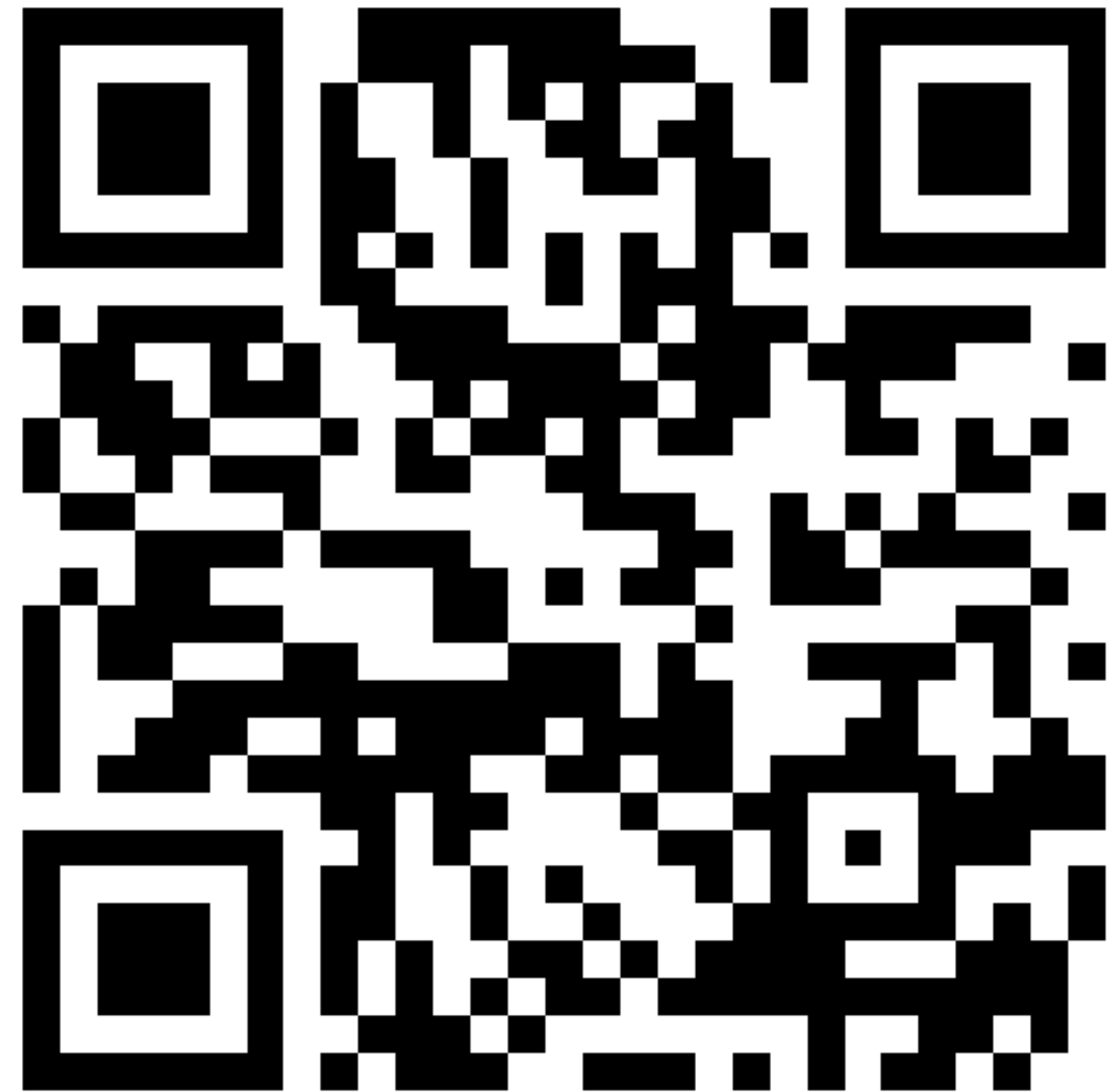
Self-Awareness

Knowledge of Individual Cultures



Empowering Indigenous Communities Through a Participatory, Culturally Responsive Evaluation of a Federal Program for Older Americans

Review the article, focused on section “Methods: Promoting a Culturally Responsive Approach”



<https://doi.org/10.1177/10982140211030557>

(Clarke et al., 2022)



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- Review the study plan and procedures to ensure that the evaluation is inclusive and non-discriminatory about the sample/population characteristics
- Review methods to ensure that the evaluation is inclusive concerning language, literacy, and/or data collection strategies
- Review the evaluation process to ensure that diverse persons are consulted about gaining an understanding of the nature of the program, the design of the program evaluation, and other evaluation strategies
- Educate yourself about the persons being served by the agency and evaluated
- Consider the customs and needs of persons served by the programs being evaluated.
- Identify and discuss the characteristics and strengths of the program in person served
- Include appropriate questions and areas of inquiry about related practices and behaviors that are addressed by the program or have an impact on the program
- Behave respectfully and recognizing how respect is communicated and conveyed is culturally defined and determined
- Identify and appreciate any special vulnerabilities, as well as strengths, about a person's culture in the program
- Demonstrate a respect for confidentiality through the evaluation process
- Consider the value gained from the evaluation and its potential benefits to the participants/community
- Identify and delineate any advocacy implications from the research or the process of conducting the evaluation



Time to work on your program evaluations

