

Research Checklist

Title of Research Project _____

Name of Researcher _____

Big Picture Questions and Initial Issues

Topic or area of interest			
Research question (the problem to be investigated in the study, stated in the form of a question)	“ _____ ?”		
Research objective (what the research attempts to do; select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Exploration (explore more about a new area of research) <input type="checkbox"/> Description (describe social situations, events, phenomena) <input type="checkbox"/> Explanation (explain why something occurs)		
Theoretical perspective(s) (what previously established explanations or models are of use)	Why is this perspective useful?		
Examples of prior research focused on the same topic and/or research question (list citations)	1) 2) 3) 4)		
Research school (select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ideographic – explain an individual, unique, singular instance <input type="checkbox"/> Nomothetic – discover a few central causal relationships		
Research strategy (select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Inductive – move from particular observations to general conclusions <input type="checkbox"/> Deductive – move from general conclusions to particular observations		
Ethical concerns? Note any possibilities.	<u>Voluntary participation?</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (don't do this!) <u>Privacy (select one)</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymity (identities are unknown to you) <input type="checkbox"/> Confidentiality (identities are concealed by you)	<u>Potential harm?</u> (check any that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Social <input type="checkbox"/> Physical <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional <input type="checkbox"/> Psychological	<u>Protected status of research subjects?</u> (State any that may apply; e.g. prisoners, minors, disabled, pregnant, disadvantaged [class, gender, race/ethnicity, sexuality, etc.], immigrants)
	Seeking Institutional Review Board review and approval? (select one) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No; justification for exemption: _____		
Level of analysis (level of social reality of interest; select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Micro (small scale)	<input type="checkbox"/> Meso (medium scale)	<input type="checkbox"/> Macro (large scale)
Unit of analysis (what is to be studied; select any that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Individuals <input type="checkbox"/> Interactions <input type="checkbox"/> Groups <input type="checkbox"/> Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		

Issues of time (what points in time will observations be made or data collected; select one)	() Cross-sectional	<u>Longitudinal</u> () Trend () Cohort () Panel	
Causal arguments (explanatory relationships of cause and effect; write any of interest; IV=independent variable, DV=dependent variable)	IV: DV:	IV: DV:	IV: DV:
Hypotheses? (formal statements describing educated guesses about the relationship between two variables)	H1: H2: H3: H4:		

Measurement

Conceptualization & Operationalization (conceptualizing the theoretical concept as a researchable concept; operationalizing a research concept as a measurable variable in the study; keep each item consist across contingency table)	<u>Theoretical concept</u> Concept _T 1: Concept _T 2: Concept _T 3: Concept _T 4:	<u>Research concept</u> Concept _R 1: Concept _R 2: Concept _R 3: Concept _R 4:	<u>Operational definition</u> Variable1: Variable2: Variable3: Variable4:
Data types included (select either or both)	[] Qualitative (<i>non-numerical</i> estimates)		[] Quantitative (numerical estimates)
Constructs (sophisticated operationalizations of theoretical concepts; describe by name any that may apply)	Indexes?	Scales?	Typologies?

Sampling

Sampling strategies (how the population will be sampled, in practice; select one)	<u>Non-probabilistic</u> () Convenience () Purposive () Snowball () Quota	<u>Probabilistic</u> () Simple Random () Systematic () Stratified	<u>Probabilistic, clustering</u> () Multi-stage cluster
Sampling rationale (reasons for selecting the sampling strategy; argument for the strengths of a strategy, over the weaknesses of others)			
Theoretical Population (targeted group to sample; describe in detail)			
Sampling Frame (list or record of a population from which sampling units are drawn; describe in detail)			

Methodology

Methods (strategy for collecting data to answer research questions; check any that apply)	<u>Field Research</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnography / Observational <input type="checkbox"/> Focus group	<u>Unobtrusive</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Content Analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Comparative / Historical	<input type="checkbox"/> Experiment <input type="checkbox"/> Survey
Field Research	Involvement vs. detachment	<input type="checkbox"/> complete participant <input type="checkbox"/> participant-as-observer	<input type="checkbox"/> observer-as-participant <input type="checkbox"/> complete observer
	Gaining access? (how will subjects be approached, treated)	Gatekeeper: Sponsor: Cover story:	
	Interviews (nature; select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Structured	<input type="checkbox"/> Semi-structured
Unobtrusive	Type (what is to be analyzed; select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Content Analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Narrative Analysis	<input type="checkbox"/> Discourse Analysis
	Efforts to guarantee inter-rater reliability? (describe)		
	Coding schedule/chart	Attach to this checklist separate pages with mock-grid	
Experiment	Stimulus? (the experimental treatment of a group; describe)		
	Pre- and/or post-test (circle)	Pre-test? Yes No	Post-test? Yes No
	Double-blind? (the person presenting the experiment to the subjects does not know the purpose of the experiment.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes; how? _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No; why not? _____	
	Participant selection (into control and experimental groups; describe process)		
	Special designs (select one design, if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/> Solomon Four Group <input type="checkbox"/> Factorial designs	<input type="checkbox"/> Vignettes
Survey	Administration (select one approach)	<input type="checkbox"/> self-administered <input type="checkbox"/> in-person	<input type="checkbox"/> telephone <input type="checkbox"/> Internet
	Types of questions (select any that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> behaviors <input type="checkbox"/> attitudes/beliefs/opinions <input type="checkbox"/> characteristics <input type="checkbox"/> expectations	<input type="checkbox"/> self-classification <input type="checkbox"/> knowledge <input type="checkbox"/> affect
	Nature of questions (are answers provided or not; select any that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Close-ended	<input type="checkbox"/> Open-ended
	Strategies for improving survey participation and completion? (describe)		
	Pilot-study? (will a trial run be done ahead of time; select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes; what sample? _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No; why not? _____	

Postscript

Comments (anything of additional concern to the research study; describe in detail)

Motivations for doing this research:

Concerns with doing this research:

Strategies to do this research:

Timing issues:

Projected financial costs:

Risks to the researcher(s):

[template version: August 24, 2014 dmwilliams@csuchico.edu]