Methods for Studying Sustainable Foodscapes

ANALYZING AND INTERPRETING RESEARCH FINDINGS

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Food for Thought

What is your favourite plant? Why?

What is your least favourite plant? Why?



Herr and Anderson (2015) Identify Six Positionalities in Action Research:

Insider studying their own practice.

Insider collaborating with other insiders.

Insider collaborating with outsiders.

Reciprocal collaboration between insiders and outsiders.

Outsider collaborating with insiders.

Outsider studying insiders.



Qualitative Analysis

Practice Analyzing Research Findings

Coding: What important ideas, experiences, challenges, and opportunities emerge from the interview? Identify passages and assign descriptive codes.

Identifying themes: Which codes can be grouped into broader themes? What relationships or tensions exist between them?

Interpreting findings: What does the interview suggest about the opportunities and challenges of building campus-community food sovereignty?

Connecting findings to research questions: What could campus farms learn from CultivAction? Which practices might be transferable, and what contextual differences should be considered?

Critical reflection: What assumptions does the participant make? What perspectives might be missing? What additional information or interviews would help verify or challenge these findings?



World Café Method

1) *Setting*: Create a “special” environment, most often modeled after a café, i.e. small round tables covered with a checkered or white linen tablecloth, butcher block paper, colored pens, a vase of flowers, and optional “talking stick” item. There should be four chairs at each table (optimally) – and no more than five.

2) *Welcome and Introduction*: The host begins with a warm welcome and an introduction to the World Café process, setting the context, sharing the Cafe Etiquette, and putting participants at ease.

3) *Small-Group Rounds*: The process begins with the first of three or more twenty-minute rounds of conversation for small groups of four (five maximum) people seated around a table. At the end of the twenty minutes, each member of the group can move to a different new table. They may or may not choose to leave one person as the “table host” for the next round, who welcomes the next group and briefly fills them in on what happened in the previous round. They can also remain at the same table to answer the different questions.

4) *Questions*: each round is prefaced with a question specially crafted for the specific context and desired purpose of the World Café. The same questions can be used for more than one round, or they may build upon each other to focus the conversation or guide its direction.

5) *Harvest*: After the small groups (and/or in between rounds, as needed), individuals are invited to share insights or other results from their conversations with the rest of the large group. These results are reflected visually in a variety of ways, most often using graphic recording in the front of the room. At the small groups, note takers record the conversation.

Thank You!

Questions, concerns, comments?