



Indigenous research

is not simply methodologies used by an Indigenous Person!

In Indigenous research you are not separate from the research you are conducting. Who you are, your viewpoint, experiences and knowledges need to be taken into account. You will need to acknowledge your standpoint.

Appropriate Indigenous methods take the community that you will be working with into account. The community will help set the agenda for your research and will continuously work with you to establish new knowledge from these interactions. Hence, your approach needs to account for the value systems and beliefs of the community you are working with and how what you are doing is going to benefit them.

There are three important factors

- 1 Know your standpoint. Who are you in this research?
- 2 What is your epistemology? This is where your value system and view of the world comes from. It will influence what you need to investigate and how you interpret the data you are generating. The epistemology of your research will help with the identification of your theoretical framework. Ask yourself:
 - > What are my values?
 - > How do I see the world and what influences these views?
 - > How do I make sense of the world?
- 3 What is my theoretical framework?
 - > In which discipline am I researching?
 - > Which theory describes best what I want to do?
 - > Which theory allows me to best anchor my research?

Tips

- > Why do you want to do this research?
- > What is my role as a researcher and how am I fulfilling this role?
- > How am I changed by this research?
- > How does my research empower the community I am working with?
- > How does the research contribute to self-determination?
- > How does the research promote recovery from historical anger, loss of self-esteem, loss of tribal identity?
- > How does the research contribute to cultural values?