

Statement Describing My Research Agenda

My areas of research interests are multicultural psychology and special education, culturally and linguistically diverse learners (e.g., African American/Urban learners) in general and special education, using cases and personal narratives in research, comparative /international special education, crises intervention/behavior management, and school reform. I am a research intensive scholar who has published in several areas of special education, with a particular focus on multicultural special education. I have more than 150 scholarly publications, including peer-reviewed books, chapters, and articles. In addition, I have presented many peer reviewed works at state, national, and international levels.

I view research and scholarship as service to the profession and humanity. I believe our search for truth must be continuous in our changing world. While I acknowledge that our debates on quantitative and qualitative research methods are necessary, they are not productive because statistical significance does not necessarily depict importance. Put another way, we must value both since they all have generalizability problems and do not individually determine a particular level of importance. In my research, I use cases and personal narratives to explicate real life events, situations, and problems of real people. For example, instead of judging a person's intelligence using units of scores, I may observe how that individual solves problems from multidimensional perspectives. Also, I may talk with him/her and talk with those who frequently interact with him/her to get some perspectives. While cases and personal narratives have generalizability problems across subjects, settings, and treatments like other research methods, they expose real stories and real experiences of subjects.

My scholarly works are well-cited in the literature and they are very much valued and used by scholars, educators, practitioners, and related professionals. My works are landmark and consequential works—they are works that make practical differences in the fields of general and special education. In addition, my books are in many library holdings all over the world. It is no wonder that I get invited to serve on the editorial boards of many refereed scholarly journals, including the internationally known ***Multicultural Learning and Teaching*** (MLT) in which I currently serve as co-founder and co-executive editor.

Finally, as a scholar, I have always enjoyed mentoring and collaborating with others. I am a well-known mentor and leader in the field; and I continue to work with and support faculty members interested in maximizing their scholarly potential. To buttress scholarly and grant writing activities, I have frequently worked with colleagues, served as consultant to funded grants, and connected my departmental colleagues to scholars around the nation. While they are mentored and involved in scholarly projects, they have also mentored and encouraged others, thereby resulting in many scholarly works.

In the end, as a scholar, I believe we are obligated to reach out to others and be known for what we do. Our search for truth must be unending.