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Research Speaker Series: Inclusive and Accessible Research

Dr. Afsaneh Sharif
University of British Columbia
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Hosts: Leva Lee & Gwen Nguyen,
BCcampus



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Since time immemorial, the səlilwətaʔt təməx^w (Tsleil-Waututh), Skwxwú7mesh-ulh Temíxw (Squamish), x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), W̱SÁNEĆ (Saanich), and the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations of the Lək'wəŋən (Lekwungen) Peoples have walked gently on the unceded territories where we are grateful to live, work, and play. We are committed to building relationships with the first peoples here, based in honour and respect, and we thank them for their hospitality.



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Welcome

Welcome everyone!

We invite you to share your territorial acknowledgement in the chat

Housekeeping items:

Session is being recorded for sharing on BCcampus website – past events

Live captioning is activated

Survey to provide important feedback on the Research Speaker Series for future planning

Land Acknowledgement



UBC Point Grey Campus (Vancouver)
Is located on the traditional, ancestral,
and uncaded territory of the
xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam) People.



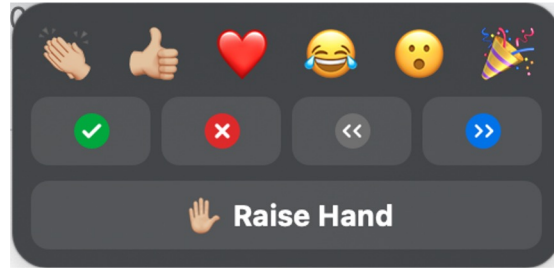
How did I start engaging with research?

Session Objectives

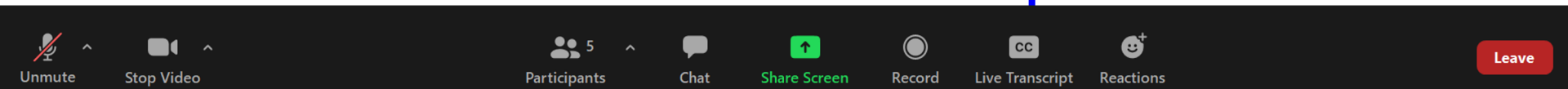
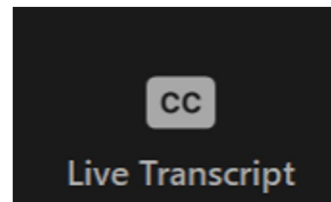
- Describe inclusive and accessible research.
- Recognize and identify barriers to accessibility and inclusion in research, such as traditional/online surveys, and lack of representation.
- Learn how biases can impact research.
- Identify a variety of inaccessible research methods.
- Develop strategies for addressing and overcoming barriers to accessibility and inclusion in your research, such as creating inclusive research teams and recruiting diverse participants.



Zoom Feature: Reactions



Zoom Feature: Live Transcript



Accessible and Inclusive Research



What is inclusive research?



Inclusive Research

Inclusive research refers to a research approach that involves the active participation of diverse individuals or groups, including those who are typically underrepresented or marginalized in research studies. This approach changes the dynamic between researchers and the people who are usually researched and seeks to ensure that the perspectives, experiences, and needs of all participants are considered in the research process, from study design to dissemination of results. Inclusive research also involves creating a safe and respectful environment where all participants feel valued and heard.



A few key barriers to inclusive research

- Lack of representation: One of the biggest barriers to inclusive research is the lack of representation of underrepresented and marginalized communities in research studies.
- Systemic biases: Systemic biases, such as racism, sexism, and ableism, can also prevent marginalized communities from participating in research.
- Accessibility barriers: Research studies may also present accessibility barriers, such as physical, cognitive, or sensory barriers, that prevent individuals with disabilities from participating in the study.
- Researcher biases: Researcher biases and assumptions about certain communities can also hinder inclusive research.
- Power imbalances: Power imbalances between researchers and participants can also prevent inclusive research.



Inclusive Data Collection Tool Design

Institute for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, University of British Columbia

<https://isotl.ctlt.ubc.ca/resources/resource-hub/>

- [General guidelines on asking for demographic information](#) (UBC Equity & Inclusion Office, 2020)
- [Asking about gender](#) (UBC Equity & Inclusion Office, 2020)
- [Sexual orientation guidelines](#) (UBC Equity & Inclusion Office, 2020)
- [Survey design considerations](#) (ISoTL, 2022)
- [Designing and Conducting Focus Group Interviews](#) (Eastern Illinois University, 2002)
- [Data Feminism](#)





What is accessible research?

Accessible Research

Accessible research refers to a research approach that makes research findings and resources available and understandable to a wide range of people, regardless of their background or abilities. This approach seeks to remove barriers to accessing research knowledge and resources, such as language, literacy, technology, and physical disabilities. Accessible research may involve using plain language, providing alternative formats (e.g., audio, braille), ensuring digital accessibility, and involving community stakeholders in the research process to ensure relevance and usability of the findings.



A few key barriers to accessible research

- Inaccessible research materials: One of the biggest barriers to accessible research is the lack of accessibility in research materials, such as papers, posters, and presentations.
- Limited accommodations: Research studies may also present accessibility barriers, such as physical, cognitive, or sensory barriers, that prevent individuals with disabilities from participating in the study.
- Funding limitations: Limited funding for accessibility-related expenses, such as, collaborating with disability-led organization, hiring sign language interpreters or renting/purchasing assistive technology, can prevent research studies from being fully accessible to all individuals.
- Lack of training: Researchers and other stakeholders may not have the necessary training or knowledge to create accessible research materials or to provide accommodations for individuals with disabilities.



Accessibility in Research: From Design to Dissemination

Stefan Sunandan Honisch and Gwen Thompson Hill from Royal Road University

[https://www.royalroads.ca/sites/default/files/2022-06/Accessibility in Research Toolkit.pdf](https://www.royalroads.ca/sites/default/files/2022-06/Accessibility%20in%20Research%20Toolkit.pdf)

The toolkit has three primary aims:

1. To provide researchers with concrete examples of accessibility practices in study design, data-collection, data analysis, and dissemination of findings.
2. To create space for disability-inclusion and accessibility in research practice.
3. To guide the development of learning materials about disability-inclusion and accessibility for research methods courses.



Inaccessible Research Methods and Impact of Biases



Examples of inaccessible research methods

1. Surveys: Traditional surveys may be inaccessible to individuals with disabilities or those who do not speak the language of the survey.
2. Focus groups: Focus groups may be inaccessible to individuals with disabilities or those who are unable to physically attend the group.
3. Laboratory-based experiments: Laboratory-based experiments may be inaccessible to individuals with disabilities or those who are unable to travel to the research site.
4. Online surveys and interviews: While online surveys and interviews can be convenient and accessible to some individuals, they may not be accessible to individuals with disabilities who use assistive technology or who do not have access to reliable internet or computer technology.



Group activity

What are some common barriers to accessible research methods? Identify one solution for each barrier.



Barriers to accessible research methods

1. Exclusionary criteria: Research studies may have criteria for participation that exclude certain groups.
2. Limited accessibility of research materials: Research materials may not be available in accessible formats.
3. Limited community engagement: Researchers may not engage with community members or stakeholders in a meaningful way.
4. Unfamiliarity with diverse research methods: Researchers may not be familiar with diverse research methods that are accessible and inclusive.



Some ways biases can impact research include:

1. Sampling bias: This occurs when the sample used in a study is not representative of the population being studied, resulting in misleading or inaccurate findings.
2. Confirmation bias: This occurs when researchers seek out or interpret data in a way that confirms their pre-existing beliefs leading to biased or false conclusions.
3. Cultural bias: This occurs when research is conducted from a culturally narrow perspective, leading to inaccurate or incomplete understanding of certain groups or phenomena.
4. Publication bias: This occurs when positive results are more likely to be published than negative.



Strategies to Overcome Barriers



Some strategies for removing barriers to accessible research:

1. Use plain language and avoid jargon
2. Provide alternative formats: Make research findings available in different formats
3. Ensure digital accessibility
4. Engage diverse populations
5. Create an inclusive research team
6. Promote inclusive research practices
7. Engage with diverse communities and stakeholders
8. Partner with disability organizations



Resources

- Melanie Nind. **What is inclusive research?**
Bloomsbury Academic, 2014. 1–14. Bloomsbury Collections.
<https://www.bloomsburycollections.com/book/what-is-inclusive-research/ch1-inclusive-research-defined>
- **Inclusive Data Collection tool** - Institute for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, University of British Columbia <https://isotl.ctlt.ubc.ca/resources/resource-hub/>
- Stefan Sunandan Honisch and Gwen Thompson Hill (2022) **Accessibility in Research**. Royal Road University
[https://www.royalroads.ca/sites/default/files/2022-06/Accessibility in Research Toolkit.pdf](https://www.royalroads.ca/sites/default/files/2022-06/Accessibility%20in%20Research%20Toolkit.pdf)
- **UBC Event/Conference Diversity Toolkit** <https://conferencediversity.ubc.ca/>



Thank you!



afsaneh.sharif@ubc.ca