

University of Texas at Tyler

Scholar Works at UT Tyler

Human Resource Development Faculty
Publications and Presentations

Human Resource Development

8-12-2016

Methods matter: Call for research methods submissions

Kim Nimon

University of Texas at Tyler, knimon@uttyler.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.uttyler.edu/hrd_fac



Part of the [Human Resources Management Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Nimon, Kim, "Methods matter: Call for research methods submissions" (2016). *Human Resource Development Faculty Publications and Presentations*. Paper 9.

<http://hdl.handle.net/10950/2328>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Human Resource Development at Scholar Works at UT Tyler. It has been accepted for inclusion in Human Resource Development Faculty Publications and Presentations by an authorized administrator of Scholar Works at UT Tyler. For more information, please contact tgullings@uttyler.edu.

Methods Matter: Call for Research Methods Submissions

Kim Nimon

I have borrowed the first part of the title for this editorial from Richard J. Murnane and John B. Willet (2010), who authored what I consider to be an important book for social science researchers—*Methods Matter: Improving the Causal Inference in Educational and Social Science Research*. While my editorial is not a book review of *Methods Matter*, its title is relevant, as I am pleased to announce on behalf of my fellow co-editors, Drs. Valerie Anderson and Jon Werner, that *HRDQ* has launched a call for research methods articles. As noted in the call for submissions, we encourage authors to submit articles that demonstrate a quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-method technique that is applicable to human resource development (HRD) and/or related fields including, but not limited to, career development, industrial-organizational psychology, organizational development, and training and development. Where applicable, we encourage authors to provide illustrative examples that demonstrate an emerging or innovative technique along with sample data sets, computer syntax, and detailed steps that prospective readers can replicate in their own research. Note that these submissions will undergo the full peer review process, and, as with all submissions, we will seek outside reviewers as necessary to ensure that authors receive reviews from experts in the appropriate fields.

Our aim in providing this call for research methods articles is twofold. First, we endeavor to provide a vehicle by which scholars in HRD and related fields can keep up with innovative and emerging techniques to collect and analyze data. Second, we seek to provide an ongoing peer-reviewed publishing outlet for research methods articles that are relevant to HRD and related fields. In short, it is our hope to see new and innovative ways of addressing new and innovative questions relevant to HRD.

Our call for research methods articles is consistent with Reio's (2009) challenge for HRD research journals to "seek proactively and publish emergent methods research." We echo the sentiment of Reio and invite submissions that "examine emergent methods as up-and-coming research tools or techniques (both quantitative and qualitative) that innovatively address complex organizational research problems and develop new knowledge" (Reio, 2009,

p. 145). Our call is also not dissimilar to Reio's (2010) call for research methods submissions for the Instructor's Corner section of *Human Resource Development Review*. However, a notable distinction is that the Instructor's Corner is nonreferred, and submissions that respond to the *HRDQ* call will be referred by scholars in the HRD field as well as outside the field as necessary.

In announcing this call, it is important to acknowledge those who have come before us in improving HRD theory, research, and practice by organizing relevant research methods publications. For example, Wang and Spitzer (2005) published an issue in *Advances for Developing Human Resources* that considered HRD measurement and evaluation. Swanson and Holton (2005) published a book focusing on foundations and methods of inquiry for research in organizations. In 2012, I co-published a special issue on research methods in *Career and Technical Education Research* with Dr. Jeffery Allen (Nimon & Allen, 2012). Along with Drs. Thomas G. Reio Jr. and Brad Shuck (2015), I also co-published an issue in *Advances for Developing Human Resources* that focused on quantitative data-analytic techniques to advance HRD theory and practice. Just this year, Reio published a special issue for the *International Journal for Adult Vocational Education and Technology* that focused on quantitative and mixed-method research (Reio, 2016).

While we appreciate the work that has gone into publishing special issues related to methods in HRD-related journals as a response to Reio's (2009) challenge, we believe that having a regular peer-reviewed outlet for research methods publications that is relevant to HRD and related fields is a natural next step in our field's development. Our plan is to create a regular section in the journal for methods articles that will support scholars who are on a path of continuous learning. We believe that it is critical for scholars to keep up with new and evolving methods if we are to make meaningful contributions to the field and answer the call from Gubbins and Rousseau (2015) to develop "generalized empirical research capable of supporting evidence-based HRD practice" (p. 112). We are hopeful that having a regular outlet for research methods will help advance the scientific rigor of our field.

I also want to announce on behalf of my fellow co-editors some other important news for *HRDQ*. Perhaps the most exciting news is that the 2015 Thompson Reuters Social Sciences Impact factor for 2015 is 1.135. Special thanks goes to Dr. Andrea Ellinger, as the 2015 impact factor was computed by citations to articles that were published during her term as editor, namely, 2013 and 2014. We also want to thank the authors of the articles that were published in that time frame, especially those scholars who contributed editorials and featured articles to the silver anniversary edition of *HRDQ*. In addition, please be advised that, beginning with Volume 28, Issue 1, the forum pieces and media reviews will only be published online. This allows the limited print space available each year to be more fully devoted to peer-reviewed work.

In closing, please do share the journal's call for research methods articles with your colleagues in and outside the field of HRD. If you have any questions regarding a potential submission, feel free to contact me at knimon@uttyler.edu.

Author Note

The author thanks Drs. Valerie Anderson, Thomas G. Reio Jr., and Jon Werner for reviewing an earlier version of this editorial.

References

- Gubbins, C., & Rousseau, D. M. (2015). Embracing translational HRD research for evidence-based management: Let's talk about how to bridge the research–practice gap. *Human Resource Development Quarterly*, 26, 109–125. doi:10.1002/hrdq.21214
- Murnane, R. J., & Willett, J. B. (2010). *Methods matter: Improving causal inference in educational and social science research*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- Nimon, K., & Allen, J. (2012). Notes from the editors. *Career and Technical Education Research*, 37, 185–186.
- Reio T. G. Jr. (2009). Contributing to the emergent research method conversation. *Human Resource Development Quarterly*, 20, 143–146. doi:10.1002/hrdq.20012
- Reio T. G. Jr. (2010). The ongoing quest for theory-building research methods articles. *Human Resource Development Review*, 9, 223–225. doi:10.1177/1534484310371448
- Reio T. G. Jr. (2016). Guest editorial preface: Special issue on quantitative and mixed-method research. *International Journal of Adult Vocational Education and Technology*, 7(2).
- Reio T. G. Jr., Nimon, K., & Shuck, B. (2015). Preface: Quantitative data-analytic techniques to advance HRD theory and practice. *Advances in Developing Human Resources*, 17, 3–11. doi:10.1177/1523422314559653
- Swanson, R. A., & Holton, E. F. (2005). *Research in organizations: Foundations and methods of inquiry*. San Francisco, CA: Berrett-Koehler.
- Wang, G. G., & Spitzer, D. R. (2005). Human resource development measurement and evaluation: Looking back and moving forward. *Advances in Developing Human Resources*, 7, 5–15. doi:10.1177/1534484308330018