

E-Learning Series Live Discussion

MOVING
THE DIAL

In the March event of the CBRCanada “Moving the Dial” series, Dr. Cynthia Puddu and Cheyenne Greyeyes hosted a webinar and live discussion on how they are **moving the dial on building Indigenous community relationships through community-based research.**

Participants in the live discussion shared their insights on how colonial institutions impede Indigenous methodologies and research, and how we (as community-based researchers) can remove colonial practices from our research when working with Indigenous community partners.

COLONIAL INSTITUTIONS IMPEDE INDIGENOUS METHODOLOGIES FOR RESEARCH THROUGH:

Institutional Pressures

Short funding deadlines and institutional pressures to publish at high qualities conflict with the intentional time and effort required for relationship-building within research projects.

Prioritizing Empirical Evidence

Indigenous knowledge is not as valued as clinical research and systematic reviews. Additionally, the prioritization of written documentation (publications) over oral history devalues Indigenous ways of knowing.

A Lack of Understanding of Indigenous Methodologies

Students and researchers are often not exposed to Indigenous ways of knowing or Indigenous research methodologies since these are often not incorporated into academic curriculum.

TO REMOVE COLONIAL PRACTICES FROM RESEARCH, WE MUST:

1 Challenge the power imbalance in academia:

Academic faculty hold power and prestige, and this power imbalance makes it difficult for marginalized groups (including Indigenous groups) to be felt, seen, or heard. Challenge power imbalances by consulting, listening and meaningfully engaging community groups and by sharing leadership, responsibilities and recognition.

2 Establish collaborative and reciprocal relationships:

Indigenous communities must be engaged “in a good way” from the start of the research process, with honesty and transparency about the goals and motivations of the research and engagement.

3 Adapt institutional research processes:

Traditional research ethics must be augmented with Indigenous ways of ethical review, and should include principles of ownership, control, access, and possession for Indigenous communities that are crucial within Indigenous research.

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The CBRCanada secretariat is located at Wilfrid Laurier University.