Undertaking publishable research: Roundtable discussion for emerging researchers

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This session is an interactive roundtable discussion aimed at emerging researchers.

Bartkus and Stull (1997) described the cooperative education (co-op) and work-integrated learning (WIL) research as sketchy, limited and uncertain, with a focus mostly on programme development and practice. However, Bartkus and Higgs (2011), in their objective overview on research of co-op/WIL research, noted that the state of the published research is now stronger than when assessed in 2004 (Bartkus & Stull, 2004), with a greater focus on theoretical framework development.

It is our view that the state of research has advanced due to a greater educational focus on WIL, particularly in Australia. With this, a new generation of researchers are entering this field of research; however, require some guidance and direction on how they can contribute significantly to the established knowledge in the literature. Thus, the presenters will discuss some key aspects of undertaking research, drawing from their own experiences, and then engage with discussion driven by questions from the session attendees. The discussion will be guided by the following themes:

- How to design a valid research project
- How to form this research into a published outcome
- Discuss fundamental aspects of research design, such as validity and reliability, the types of data and methods of collection, and their limitations

The interactive discussions will be supported by examples provided by the presenters and, where possible, examples of research plans provided by attendees. There will be interactive exercises analysing the rationales and validity of qualitative research questions. The final 20 minutes will be set aside to discuss the publishing process, including advice on what reviewers look for in papers and common reasons for paper rejection. Some resources will be made available for attendees to assist them with their research.

REFERENCES

