Research as an Engine for Social Change

No matter what the level or scenario, research plays a key role in laying the pathway to helping us build bridges between communities and ensuring that persons with disabilities and marginalized people can live amongst others on an equal level. It gives us the proper background information we need before embarking on a new mission for social change or advocacy. The possibilities are endless for what can be done when research is applied to reality.

What are some of the issues that researchers face when looking at disability and diversity, and do persons being researched have the same goals? How will the research be used once it is gathered, and will everyone be heard in the results and findings? What are some ways to engage all community members and conduct research in a way that values diversity and everyone involved?

There are two areas to consider when discussing research: a) to take past examples of how far research has come and where it has gotten us thus far, and b) to look ahead into the future and explore the possibilities of how much further we can still go with ways to apply our research.

The topic area committee is interested in the following proposals:

- Best practices to applying research to reality;
- Inclusive community-engaged research which advances self-determination;
- Recommendations for future directions in research, particularly in gathering data;
- Multi-disciplinary collaborative efforts and diversity-centered interdisciplinary research as it relates to cultural identities, physical and mental ability, religion, class, and other intersections;
- Research design and methodology which addresses social, political and economic issues concerning marginalization;
- Identifying ways research is used as an obstacle for social change and ways to combat the misuse of research;
- New research directions in making educational settings more inclusive and the role that teachers and administrators play;
- How research relates to disability and diversity, and ways it can integrate both into society in the most effective way possible;
- Best practices of ways research can be an engine for social change.

We welcome proposals in any presentation format. Please see presentation formats on our webpage at: [http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/presenters/formats/](http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/presenters/formats/). Please check the criteria for each format and ensure that you have the appropriate number of presenters for your chosen format. You may submit proposals online at: [http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/submissions](http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/submissions) or send your proposals via email to prcall@hawaii.edu.

For more information please contact prcall@hawaii.edu.

For general information on the conference, please contact Charmaine Crockett at cccrocke@hawaii.edu, (808) 956-7539.

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