



Presentation by Dr. Jennifer Greene

When: September 19th, 2:30 - 3:30 PM

Where: 139 Teachers College Hall

***Just what is being mixed in mixed-methods social inquiry?
From mental models to measures, and beyond***

Abstract

Mixed methods approaches to social inquiry are attracting researchers from fields as diverse as education, nursing, natural resources, public health, and international development. With their work, practitioners are thus importantly shaping the conceptual contours and character of mixed methodology, in ways ever creative and inventive. Among the core issues being shaped interactively by scholars and practitioners of mixing methods is the question – just what is being mixed in mixed methods social inquiry? Is it sensible or even possible to ‘mix’ different ways of knowing, as reflected in individual inquirers’ mental models? Can the integrity of methodologies as different as quasi-experimentation (Thomas Cook and Donald Campbell) and portraiture (Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot) be maintained when ‘mixed’ in the same study? And what does it really mean to ‘mix’ measures and forms of data? These issues will be engaged at both conceptual and practical levels in this presentation. Skeptics welcome.

Dr. Jennifer Greene is a professor of Quantitative and Evaluative Research Methodologies in Educational Psychology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her research interests focus on the intersections of social science and social policy. She works in the domain of educational and social program evaluation, and seeks to advance the theory and practice of alternative forms of evaluation, including qualitative, democratic, and mixed-methods evaluation approaches. Dr. Greene’s current work emphasizes evaluation as a venue for democratizing dialogue about critical social and educational issues, with a focus on conceptualizing evaluation as a “public good.”

Dr. Greene received her doctorate in educational psychology from Stanford University and has held academic appointments at the University of Rhode Island and Cornell University. She has published widely and has several books on program evaluation and mixed-methods. These books include *Advances in Mixed-Method Evaluation: The Challenges and Benefits of Integrating Diverse Paradigms: New Directions for Evaluation, Mixed-Methods in Social Inquiry, Responsive Evaluation: New Directions for Evaluation*, and *The SAGE Handbook of Evaluation*. Dr. Greene has held leadership positions in AERA and AEA and was recently co-editor-in-chief of *New Directions for Evaluation*. In 2003 she received AEA’s Lazarsfeld award for contributions to evaluation theory.

This presentation is part of the Department of Educational Psychology’s ***Century Speaker Series***

