

23 August 2024

Impact statement: Integration of research conducted by Dr John Williams in initial teacher education programs

I am a member of the Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (ACHPER) Active and Healthy Schools Committee (AHSC) and under Dr John Williams's leadership and mentorship, I have not only developed a deeper understanding of educational research methodologies but I have also gained valuable insights into applying these methods in the field of HPE. Dr. Williams's expertise in figurational sociology and his innovative approach to research have been instrumental in advancing my own research skills.

Dr John Williams's research, particularly his works with preservice teachers in Health and Physical Education (HPE), has been utilised as literature which has framed the development of HPE courses which I coordinate. At the University of the Sunshine Coast, we have two undergraduate, and one masters course in HPE which are compulsory units in Primary generalist teaching programs. I have found that Dr Williams's research with preservice teachers, whilst often focussed on students who are in specialist physical education teacher education programs, has relevance to the generalist preservice teachers in my courses.

His research using figurational sociology is of interest to me in my courses and my own research, as I am faced with preservice teachers in courses who have a range of perspectives on teaching HPE based on their own experiences of participating in HPE as students themselves. Unfortunately, many of these perspectives are negative and figurational sociology can assist us to better understand preservice teacher's teacher identity and how it might impact on their teaching practices in the delivery of HPE curriculum in primary schools. In my HPE courses, preservice teachers are encouraged to reflect on their past experiences in HPE and critically examine their perspectives and understandings of how to create inclusive learning environments in HPE which respect the diversity of students in their classes and encourage participation and engagement of all students. I look forward to reading his future research outputs.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Natalie McMaster', written in a cursive style.

Dr Natalie McMaster

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