

SOAR Research Proposal May/Summer 2013
“How Do Teachers Define Their Values & Virtues?
An Examination of Moravian College Teacher Action Research Studies
2003-2013 and Teachers’ Reflective Responses”

Faculty Researcher

Dr. Joseph M. Shosh
Associate Professor of Education

Student Co-Researchers

Brianne Schoolcraft '15
English and Studio Art Double Major

Brittany Wilczewski '14
English Major with Secondary English Teacher Certification

Project Duration

May 6 – July 12, 2013

Description of the Project

Building on the foundation laid by the 2012 Summer SOAR Project “Teacher Action Research: Contemporary World Leaders & Their Epistemological Belief Systems,” the research team will conduct a review of the literature exploring the ways in which teacher action researchers acknowledge, problematize, and change their values and core beliefs as a result of engaging in classroom research. The team will then read, analyze, and code the “Researcher Stance” and “Findings” statements from the more than 150 action research studies conducted by Moravian College teacher education alumni between 2003 and 2013. The research team will prepare an HSIRB proposal, which when submitted and approved, will allow the team to disseminate an electronic survey to the 150+ Moravian teacher education alumni and engage interested participants in digital video interviews on site in their public school classrooms or on campus. The team will code the digital video interviews and prepare a multimodal presentation of its preliminary research findings at the 3rd International Conference on Value and Virtue in Practitioner Inquiry at Britain’s York St. John University (July 8-10) and develop a manuscript for submission to the *International Handbook on Value and Virtue in Practitioner Inquiry*.

Roles and Responsibilities of Research Team/ Project Timetable

Week 1 [May 6 – May 10]

- Read and discuss Zeni’s *Ethical Issues in Practitioner Research* (Teachers College Press, 2001);
- Conduct initial review of the literature;
- Design and submit HSIRB Proposal.

Week 2 [May 13 – May 17]

- Begin annotated bibliography of key literature review sources;
- Read and code “Researcher Stance” sections of Moravian teacher research studies.

Week 3 [May 20 – May 24]

- Continue annotated bibliography of key literature review sources;
- Read and code “Findings” sections of Moravian teacher research studies;
- Administer electronic survey to 150+ Moravian teacher research alumni.

Week 4 [May 28 – May 31]

- Conclude annotated bibliography of key literature review sources;
- Schedule on-site digital video interviews with study participants;
- Create master coding index of data from Stances, Findings, and Surveys.

Week 5 [June 3 – June 7]

- Analyze electronic survey data;
- Begin on-site digital video interviews with study participants;
- Code digital video interviews;
- Prepare literature review slides for York St. John Conference Presentation.

Week 6 [June 10 – June 14]

- Continue on-site digital video interviews with study participants;
- Code digital video interviews;
- Add digital video interview coding data to master coding index;
- Prepare research methodology slides for York St. John Conference Presentation.

Week 7 [June 17 – June 21]

- Conduct campus digital video interviews with study participants;
- Code digital video interviews;
- Add digital video interview coding data to master coding index;
- Develop preliminary theme statements;
- Identify and prepare key multimodal evidence for York St. John Conference Presentation.

Week 8 [June 24 – June 28]

- Conduct participant checks with study participants via phone and/or final campus digital video interviews;
- Finalize master coding index;
- Finalize theme statements;
- Finalize York St. John Conference Presentation.

Week 9 [July 1 – July 5]

- Travel to London, England with Dr. Shosh & Dr. Reid’s “English Education in London, Oxford, Stratford, & York”
- Create digital video record of key events of the trip;
- Meet British educators and Moravian alumni teaching in the UK.

Week 10 [July 8 – July 12]

- Attend 3rd International Conference on Value & Virtue in Practitioner Inquiry at York St. John University;
- Make Conference Presentation on 2012 and 2013 summer SOAR research;
- Submit study abstract for inclusion in the *International Handbook on Value and Virtue in Practitioner Inquiry*.

Summary of Benefits

To the Students:

- Participation in the design and implementation of a qualitative research study;
- Enhanced understanding of the professional development of in-service teachers;
- Opportunity to meet and interview practicing teachers who have chosen to pursue graduate study in education at Moravian College;
- Summer study abroad with Moravian College faculty and fellow students;
- International research conference attendance and presentation;
- Possibility of publication in international research handbook with faculty co-researcher;

To the Faculty Members:

- Ability to gather and analyze more data than would be practical without co-researcher support;
- Collection of data that will support the faculty members' research agenda as outlined in respective Professional Development Plans;
- Opportunity to report on the study and its findings at the 3rd International Conference on Value & Virtue in Practitioner Inquiry at York St. John University;
- Opportunity to report on the study and its findings in the *International Handbook on Value and Virtue in Practitioner Inquiry*.

To the College:

- Results of the study will be shared with students enrolled in *Student Teaching Seminar* as part of their professional development. Results will also be shared with students enrolled in the thesis sequence within the Moravian M.Ed. program.
- Results have the potential to make a genuine contribution to our understanding of how teacher action researchers' espoused values impact the practitioner inquiry conducted within the context of an inquiry-based graduate education program;
- For the faculty and student co-researchers, this project will embody key aspects of the scholarship, engagement, global perspective, citizenship, diversity, character, personal accountability, personal well-being, and continuous learning that are described in the College's mission statement;
- Publication of the study and its findings in an international research handbook will strengthen Moravian's position as a recognized leader in teacher education.

Budget Items

Student Summer Wages (\$6,000)

Student Travel Stipend (\$2,000)

Student On-Campus Housing (College contribution)

Faculty Supervision (\$1,700)

Total Requested = \$9,700 plus On-Campus Housing for one SOAR student