

Theory Question

In his 2001 Pearlin Award essay, Blair Wheaton argues that sociologists who study mental health have a responsibility to communicate to sociologists working in other sub-disciplines how crucial mental health is for their areas. Specifically, he writes, “mental health is everyone’s ultimate dependent variable” (Pp. 228). Using the reading list to support your argument, construct a persuasive case for Wheaton’s position. Nearly a decade after Wheaton’s assertion of sub-disciplinary imperialism, have mental health sociologists been successful in persuading other sociologists that mental health is the “ultimate dependent variable?” Finally, use the readings to provide a critique of Wheaton’s position. Briefly, include your own views on the subject, too.

Methods Question

The nature of the question should dictate the nature of the research design – this remains as one of the fundamental expectations surrounding most scientific inquiries. With this in mind, design a study in the area of mental health. First, choose a research question and explain its theoretical and conceptual significance in the field of mental health. Second, discuss the potential research designs (at least two, one qualitative and one quantitative) you may use to address this question. In doing so, attend to issues, such as sampling, data collection, the multiple ways to assess reliability and validity, and the measurement of key variables. Lastly, address the strengths and weaknesses of these research designs in answering your research question.