

TRANSFORMATIVE RESEARCH MENTORSHIPS

A ROUNDTABLE PRESENTATION

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ABSTRACT

Three faculty and three students share stories of their STLR research experience on this roundtable. Students not only learned research experientially through the research process and reflection, they gained practical education through the implementation of research with an “a-ha” moment in mind (Mezirow, 1991). The panel will focus on the mentorship by three faculty: Drs. Teresa Pac in CFAD, Jicheng Fu in computer science and John Wood in political science. They partnered with their respective students, Michael Litzau, Marcus Ong, and Heather Barras, all of whom were transformed by their projects. The unique faculty-student relationship built through research collaboration was transformative as it created authentic and trusting relationships (Taylor, 2009) and empowered students (King, 1997). All three research teams have presented at conferences. Fu’s team even created a smartphone app and game platform based on their project. Pac and Litzau researched and presented: “Examining Human Migration Trauma by Boat since 1970s in the United States.” Fu and Ong researched, presented and produced: “Achieving Practical and Effective Assessment of Power Wheelchair Users’ Activity Levels,” and Wood and Barras researched and presented “Taxonomy of Perceptions of Human Nature: Operationalizing a Deep Structure in Public Administration.”

SELECT REFERENCES

King, K. (1997). *Examining activities that promote perspective transformation among adult learners in adult education*. *International Journal of University Adult Education*, 36(3), 23-37.

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Taylor, E. (2009). *Fostering transformative learning*. In J. Mezirow, E. Taylor, & Associates, *Transformative Learning in Practice* (pp. 3-17). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

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