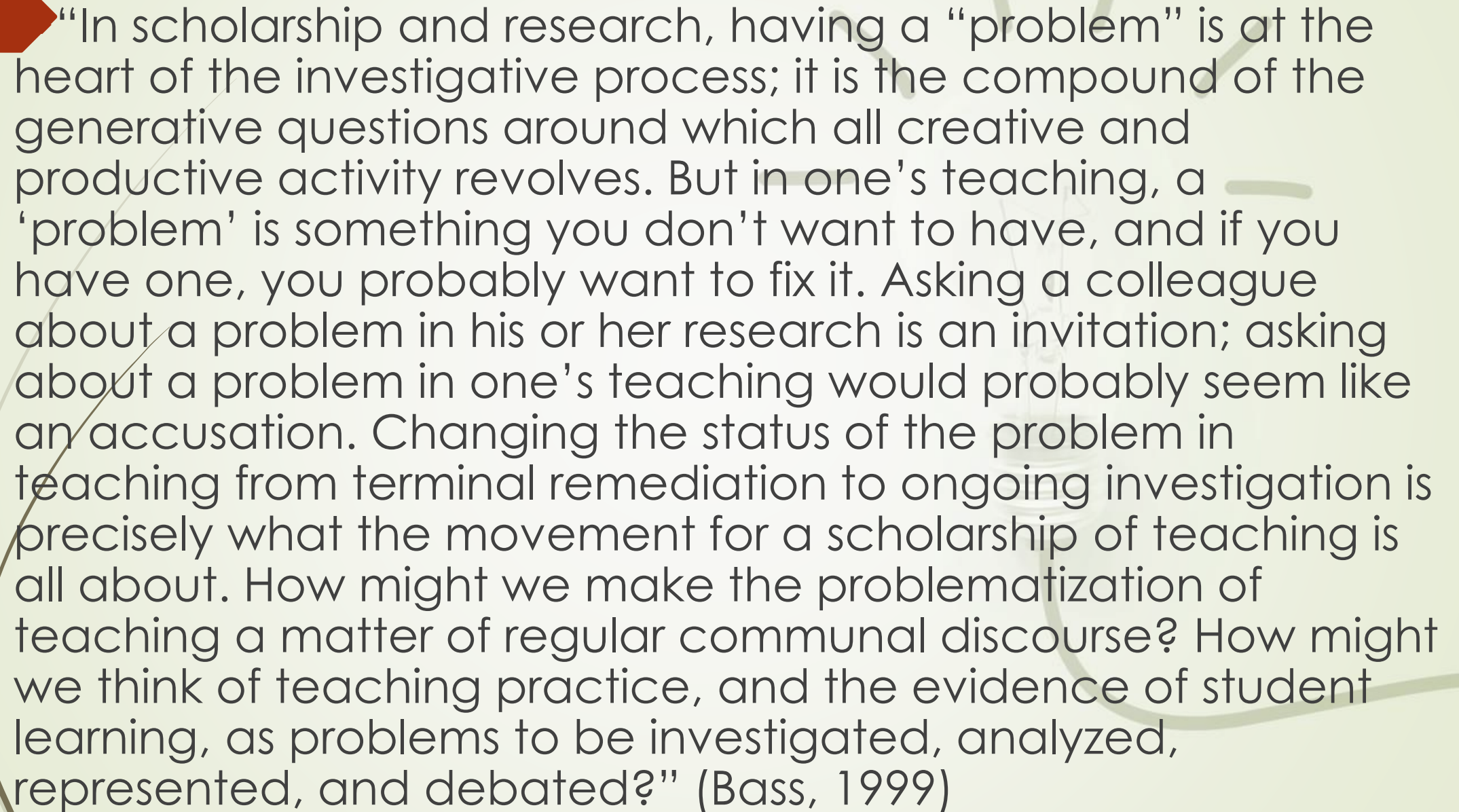




SoTL Planning for Failure

Facilitator: Shujuan (Olivia) Wang



“In scholarship and research, having a “problem” is at the heart of the investigative process; it is the compound of the generative questions around which all creative and productive activity revolves. But in one’s teaching, a ‘problem’ is something you don’t want to have, and if you have one, you probably want to fix it. Asking a colleague about a problem in his or her research is an invitation; asking about a problem in one’s teaching would probably seem like an accusation. Changing the status of the problem in teaching from terminal remediation to ongoing investigation is precisely what the movement for a scholarship of teaching is all about. How might we make the problematization of teaching a matter of regular communal discourse? How might we think of teaching practice, and the evidence of student learning, as problems to be investigated, analyzed, represented, and debated?” (Bass, 1999)

Inquiry Questions in SoTL

Hutchings Taxonomy of SoTL

- ← “What works?” questions: – seek evidence to show the effectiveness of a particular method or approach
- ← “What Is?” questions: – examine a situation in an attempt to understand it better and to describe it as fully as possible.
- ← “What could be?” questions: – show what is possible in a certain situation; not to argue that it will always happen in such a situation
- ← “Theory building” questions: - formulate new conceptual framework

Taxonomy of Questions from the Intro to Opening Lines:

- ← https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCxPttq_e_Y



Conduct a Literature Review

- ▶ Conducting an advance literature review
 - ▶ Examine journals that publish in your area of interest
 - ▶ Refine the study hypotheses and methodology
 - ▶ Understand the most common methods used for SoTL work in your discipline



Design a Study

- Select a methodology (e.g., experimental, correlational, observational, etc.) that will best help you to answer your research question(s)
 - It's common to use a mixed methods approach.
 - Confounding variables should be controlled if possible.
 - Instruments should be validated.



Collecting the Data



Will I design your own data collection instrument or use a preexisting one?



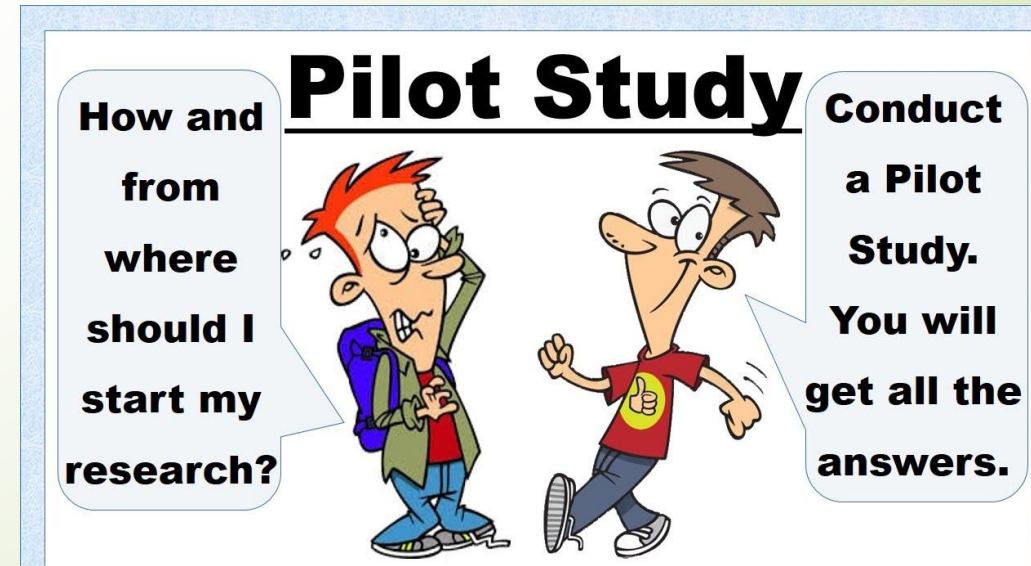
What is the reliability and validity of my instrument?



How will I define and operationalize my variables?

Using a Pilot Study

- Using a Pilot Study can help you:
 - Design a new instrument
 - Shape a future experiment
 - Identify or refine a research question or set of questions
 - Identify and resolve as many potential problems or issues as possible
 - Produce preliminary results





Obtain Grants and Helpers

- ▶ Is there funding to support your project?
 - ▶ External funding agencies
 - ▶ Funding from colleges and universities
- ▶ Do you need help in the process of doing SoTL project?
 - ▶ Literature searches?
 - ▶ Collecting data?
 - ▶ Data analysis?
 - ▶ Digitization of ethics records?



Collaborating with others

Partnership with Students

- Analyzing classroom practices
- Examining student experiences in learning environments
- Studying learning outcomes of a class project, assignment, or unit

Collaborate with colleagues

- Within your own department (e.g., be willing to collect data in their classes)
- Outside of your disciplinary
 - Faculty in other disciplinary
 - Center for Teaching and learning
 - Institutional Assessment offices
 - Conferences with sessions on teaching and learning



Ethics

- Obtain Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval before the study begins
 - Contact IRB office and discuss the project
 - Attend SoTL IRB workshop: November 19, 2022 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
- Get informed consent from all study subjects
- IRB approval is required for a pilot project



Constructing a Timeline and Building Dissemination Strategy

Constructing a timeline for critical “action items”

- Complete the literature search
- Submit an IRB application
- Collect data
- Analyze the data
- Choose a conference or journal
- Write a draft article

Building dissemination strategy

- Discipline-specific or general SoTL?
- Orally? Written? Multimedia?
- Local? National? International?

My Experiences with SoTL

Conducting SoTL research has provided:

- insights into aspects of my students' perceptions and preferences
- a construct for conducting research with limited funding
- a supportive community of educators
- the opportunity to learn new research methods
- collaboration with educators across campus
- clarity on my future research and career goals



Insights on Conducting SoTL Research

- Conduct research on a question that interests you
- Invest time in reading about the topic before starting a new project
- Reach out to others for help with perceived hurdles to conducting research
- Although it is best to have a larger sample size, you also want to balance the time required to analyze and publish your research
- Make your assessment tools as focused and short as possible to answer your questions
- Realize that unless research is a major aspect of your workload, it will take years to finish SoTL projects.



HOW? WHERE? Where?
WHEN? WHERE? WHO? WHAT? WHEN? What? WHERE? WHAT? WHERE? HOW? WHEN? Where?
QUESTIONS? What? When?
When? WHERE? Why? WHEN? When? WHAT? What? When? When? What? When?
WHO? HOW? WHAT? Why? where? HOW? WHAT? WHERE? Why? WHEN? When? Why? When? What?
HOW? WHERE? HOW? HOW? WHAT? What? WHEN? Why? WHERE? When? HOW? What?



Upcoming SoTL Events

SoTL Qualtrics Workshop

- Friday, November 19, 10 – 11:00 am

SoTL IRB Workshop

- Friday, November 19, 1:30 – 2:30 pm

SoTL Consultations – Designing the SoTL Study

- Tuesday, November 30, 10 – 11:30 am
- Friday, December 3, 2:30 – 4:00 pm