

# **Walk with me: The "walking" interview and the future possibilities of incorporating Indigenous knowledge in AOD research**

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## **Introduction:**

Indigenous pedagogy and practices have long been maligned by mainstream professional and academic bodies. In recent years, there has been growing recognition of the merits of Indigenous ways of knowing; this has been particularly well reflected in the alcohol and other drugs (AOD) space. Nevertheless, Indigenous knowledge continues to be treated as an “alternative” to traditional mainstream approaches, and is often not awarded the same legitimacy as other frameworks or practices. This orientation not only perpetuates the lack of mainstream “respectability” awarded to Indigenous knowledge, but also limits the possibilities of research and practice.

## **Methods:**

This presentation will use the “walking interview” method – an alternative to traditional qualitative interview methodologies – as an example of how Indigenous knowledge, practices, and worldviews can inform and enrich wider AOD research and practice. While the concept of walking interviews does not directly originate from Indigenous practices, the interactions it facilitates embody fundamental elements of Indigenous worldviews (e.g., yarning). Furthermore, walking interviews (and the data they generate) invite both participants and researchers to consider the mutual relationship between the person and the place in which they inhabit – a concept that is central to the epistemology of many Indigenous peoples across the world.

## **Discussions and Conclusions:**

Drawing on perspectives from both local First Nations communities and from the principal author's own Native community (Quechua Collao), this presentation will analyse the ways in which Indigenous knowledge, worldviews, and practices can underline both research and practice, and can produce richer and more innovative results.

## **Implications:**

The goal of this presentation is to encourage further recognition and integration of Indigenous knowledge in mainstream spaces – particularly in the sphere of AOD research and practice.

## **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

*None to declare.*