



ART FACILITATING COMMUNITY BUILDING TO ALLEVIATE ALIENATION IN CHINESE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



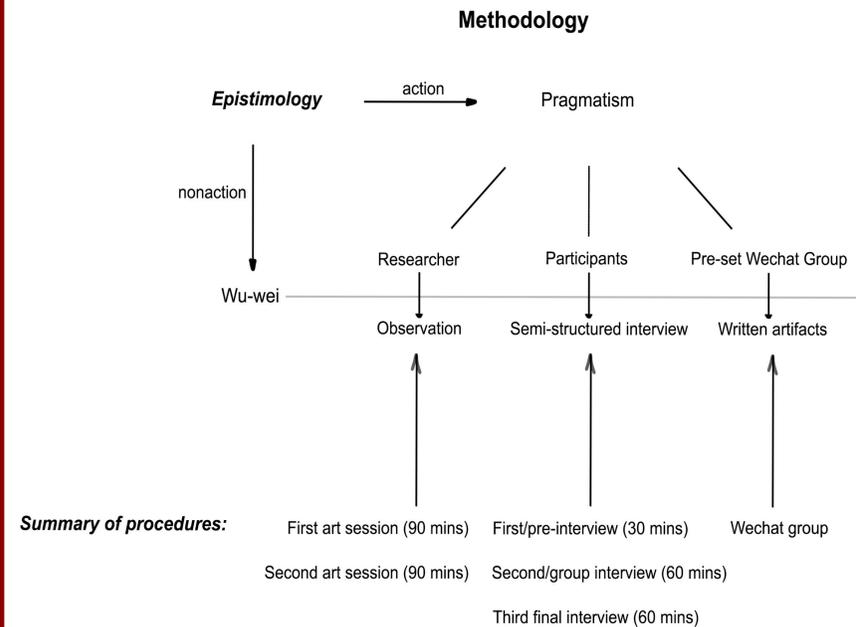
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Abstract

Art holds a fundamental role in art therapy, distinguishing it from other mental health professions. The primary objective of this dissertation project is to examine how art can facilitate community building and foster connectedness — concepts that have gained significant recognition in recent years (Lowe, 2000). Chinese International Students (CIS) forgo immense change in culture in pursuit of advancing their education. This change leads to alienation. The focus is to study how the art community helps aid alienation within the Chinese International students. While existing research has examined various strategies for helping these students cope with feelings of isolation, there remains a noticeable gap in the literature regarding a comprehensive exploration of the underlying cultural factors within the Chinese context.

This study will employ the data triangulation method to investigate the potential role of art in facilitating community building among CISs. The procedures for data collection include written artifacts from WeChat (an international messaging and social media platform), group interviews, and observations during two art sessions. The research is ongoing, with a hypothesis that art will help alleviate Chinese students' alienation.

Methodology



Results

Our results are currently unavailable. Research is still underway as we are collecting data to test our hypothesis. We are still in the process to collect data and create art groups with the Chinese International Students at Florida State University. Once this data is collected, we will complete an analysis and present the results to the public.

References

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Introduction

The cause and solution of alienation is often overlooked in society, (and even more in international students coming to America trying to adapt to the new culture). Art Therapy PHD candidate Cui Jing is conducting research on the understanding of how community building through art can facilitate community building in order alleviate alienation among Chinese International Students. Exploring how art groups can help alleviate and understand alienation among CISs through community building art meetings, the researcher hypothesizes that art will help create community through CIS's.

Methods

Methods

- Pre - Interview
- First Art Session
 - Group Discussion
- Second Art Session
 - Group Discussion
- Third Art Session
- Final Interview

Participants

- 6 - 8 participants
- Chinese International Students (unmarried, without children, 28 or younger)

Acknowledgments

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