

Linking Classrooms: Religion and Diversity Project

Dr. Sam Reimer and students in his research methods
class at Crandall University

Dr. Catherine Holtmann and her methods of social
research class at the University of Saskatchewan

Friday 6 February 2015

Outline

1. Introductions from Crandall University .
2. Sam will review/highlight aspects of quantitative research methods and sociology of religion as contained in the article.
3. Questions from students at the University of Saskatchewan.
4. Introduction from the University of Saskatchewan.
5. Cathy will review/highlight aspects of qualitative research methods and sociology of religion as contained in the article.
6. Questions from students from Crandall University.
7. Sam will summarize what has been covered in the class.

Changes in the Spiritual Meaning of Belly Dance

R. Kraus – qualitative research

Research Question: How does the spirituality that some practitioners associate with belly dance change over time?

Research Design: Longitudinal

Methods

- Participant observation
- Snowball sampling:
 - 2006: 75 dancers
 - 2011: 35 dancers
- Short Survey
- Semi-structured interviews

Data

- Survey data coded and used for description of sample:
 - most women between 30 – 40 years old
 - belly dancing for an average of 15 years
 - middle class
 - most do not attend religious services regularly
- Interviews were recorded and transcribed.

Analysis

- Survey data included information on the degree to which the research participants considered belly dancing to be spiritual.
- Interview data used to compare changes in spirituality over time for individuals.
- Four themes were identified based on patterns of change for the sample.

Findings

1. Spiritual stability
2. Spirituality ceases
3. Absence of stable spirituality
4. Spirituality grows?