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## Positioning Research

Shifting Paradigms, Interdisciplinarity and Indigeneity

FIRST EDITION

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Joseph Lo Bianco

Foreword

Margaret Kumar and Supriya Pattanayak

Introduction: Positioning Research

Perspectives from Early Career Researchers

# Originality, Hybridity and Intra-paradigm Shift

*Margaret Kumar*

## Introduction

In this chapter, the author as a researcher maps the journey of her experiences in making an original contribution to a study on undergraduate international students. She does this by deciphering and unlayering the constructs of originality, hybridity and intra-paradigm shift. The pathway of mapping involves an initial process of self-discovery for the researcher before any study into research can be attempted. This is done, first, by backgrounding the researcher's positioning through a postcolonial, hybrid, Hindu, Catholic, and transnational threshold. Through these constructs, the researcher becomes involved in 'unearthing' fractal reasoning that determined this pathway. The author as a researcher and narrator explores what is involved in being 'the researcher' as opposed to what it is to be 'the researched'. The chapter then provides an explanation for the research design. The importance of this discussion and exploration is seen in the conceptualization of the term 'intra-paradigm shift' and the foregrounding of particular essentialisms before the researcher can conduct the study. Drawing from this discussion and exploration, a search for originality is derived through the foregrounding of the concepts of space, historiography, subjectivity, identity and agency (Kumar 2004). The chapter concludes by showing how the search for originality leads to the contribution of new knowledge in the area of international student teaching and learning for 'the researcher' and 'the researched'.

This new knowledge is epitomized in the irreducibility of the term 'international student' and the complexity of their 'being' as depicted