

PHILOSOPHICAL GROUNDING OF PARADIGMS IN RESEARCH

(A “Paradigm” is defined as and ideal or model (Webster’s 21’st Century Dictionary)

	Positivism/Post-Positivism	Constructivism	Emancipatory
Ontology (Nature of Reality)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One reality • Reality knowable within probability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple constructed realities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple realities which include the social, political, cultural, class, economical, gender, etc.
Epistemology (Nature of knowledge, relationship between knower and what can be known)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One “body of knowledge” • Objective is important • Researcher controls and observes in an objective dispassionate manner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge individually or socially constructed • Framework/values of researcher acknowledged/made viable/explicit • Interactive link between researcher and participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge is socially, historically, politically, culturally situated • Interactive/activist link between researcher and participants/context
Methodology (Purpose)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predict • Test • Measure • Prove • Disprove 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand • Describe • Construct Meaning • Understand from participants’ perspectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote social change • Liberate • Emancipate • Critique • Take Political Action
Methodology (Approach or methods)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantitative • Interventionist • Deductive • Design-Single Group, Experimental, Quasi-Experimental, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative • Inductive (Discovery of patterns) • Hermeneutical (Interpretive) • Dialectical • Contextual features important 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative (Primarily) • Quantitative (Can be used) • Contextual/historical features important as they relate to oppression
Axiology (Value and Judgment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value free/theoretically influenced • Suspend judgment until statistical tests prove/disprove 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judgment is based upon consensus of participants and researcher • Varies upon theoretical framework/values held by researcher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judgment is based on experienced oppression by participants • Framed by beliefs/values of all participants • Can be theory driven

Adapted “freely” from Mortens (1998), Kmitta (2000), & Guifoyle (2005)