

IPRES Tutorial 2: Objectivity and quality criteria in research



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Agenda

- 1.) Check-in and recap
- 2.) What is objectivity in research?
- 3.) Why do we need quality criteria?
- 4.) Group work

Check-in (also Google doc)



Recap Tutorial 1

Ontology	Epistemology

Recap Tutorial 1

Ontology	Epistemology
“what” do we know?	“how” do we know?
What is the nature of the (social) world?	What sort of knowledge of the social world is possible?
What is there to be known? (Anne Loeber, Lecture)	What is the relation between the knower and the known? (Anne Loeber, Lecture)

Recap Tutorial 1

	Positivism	Interpretivism	Realism
Ontological Position			
Epistemological Position			
Implications and examples			

Recap Tutorial 1

	Positivism	Interpretivism	Realism
Ontological Position	Foundationalist	Anti-Foundationalist	Foundationalist
Epistemological Position			
Implications and examples			

Recap Tutorial 1

	Positivism	Interpretivism	Realism
Ontological Position	Foundationalist	Anti-Foundationalist	Foundationalist
Epistemological Position	Relations are directly observable	Relations are dependent on interpretation	Not all relations are directly observable
Implications and examples			

Recap Tutorial 1

	Positivism	Interpretivism	Realism
Ontological Position	Foundationalist	Anti-Foundationalist	Foundationalist
Epistemological Position	Relations are directly observable	Relations are dependent on interpretation	Not all relations are directly observable
Implications and examples	Making causal statements/predictions <i>Relation between globalization and welfare retrenchment</i>	Uncovering understandings of social phenomena <i>Constructions of Gender</i>	Uncovering structures and deep structures <i>Power relations in Global Capitalism</i>

Objectivity and research



Objectivity and research

- World is messy, so are humans
- **But:** important to *strive* for objectivity
- Max Weber (Halperin&Heath, p. 57):
 - values \neq facts
 - Social Science cannot be value-free
 - however: we should try AND REPORT!! (Milan)

What kind of obstacles to objectivity can you think of? (tps)

Quality criteria of research: why?

- How to ensure and assess objectivity?
 - Methodological Literacy (Lecture 1) important (why?)
- Positivist and interpretivist criteria (s. discussion de Goede and Hanegraaff)
- Why different quality criteria? (Guba&Lincoln, p. 235) - do we need them actually?

Quality criteria of research

Positivist criteria	Interpretivist criteria
Internal validity	Credibility
External validity	Transferability
Reliability	Dependability
Objectivity	Confirmability

Source: Guba & Lincoln 1989, pp. 236

Quality criteria of research: group work

- 1.) What is the ontological/epistemological position of the author (positivist, interpretivist, realist)?
- 2.) What kind of methods are used? Qualitative/quantitative/something else?
- 3.) Does the text meet quality criteria?

Positivist criteria	Interpretivist criteria
Internal validity	Credibility
External validity	Transferability
Reliability	Dependability
Objectivity	Confirmability

Wrap-up

- Objectivity is not possible, but desirable (choice)
- Methodological literacy needed to ensure it!
- Quality criteria of research (s. handout)
- Again: no perfect research, but desirable (again: choice)

Sources (all pictures CC license)

Image Wave Emoji: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/48/Emojiione_1F44B.svg/2000px-Emojiione_1F44B.svg.png

Image Max Weber:

https://www.google.nl/url?sa=i&rct=i&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=ria&uact=8&ved=2ahUKFwi46aaCgrngAhXBaFAKHwXzBaU0iRx6BAgBEAU&url=https%3A%2F%2Fnl.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FBestand%3APortrait_of_Max_Wilhelm_Carl_Weber.jpg&psig=AOvVaw3gOHvFJTKHcwSu_kczBTkh&ust=1550157770232682