

**KNOWLEDGE
BUILDING IN
SOCIAL WORK**

OCTOBER 6TH, 2020

CLASS AGENDA

- Check-in: how's everyone doing?
- Summary of key concepts discussed in weeks 1-4
- Approaches to knowledge building in social work
- Next steps...

HOW ARE YOU?

How are you doing?



HAPPY



MOTIVATED

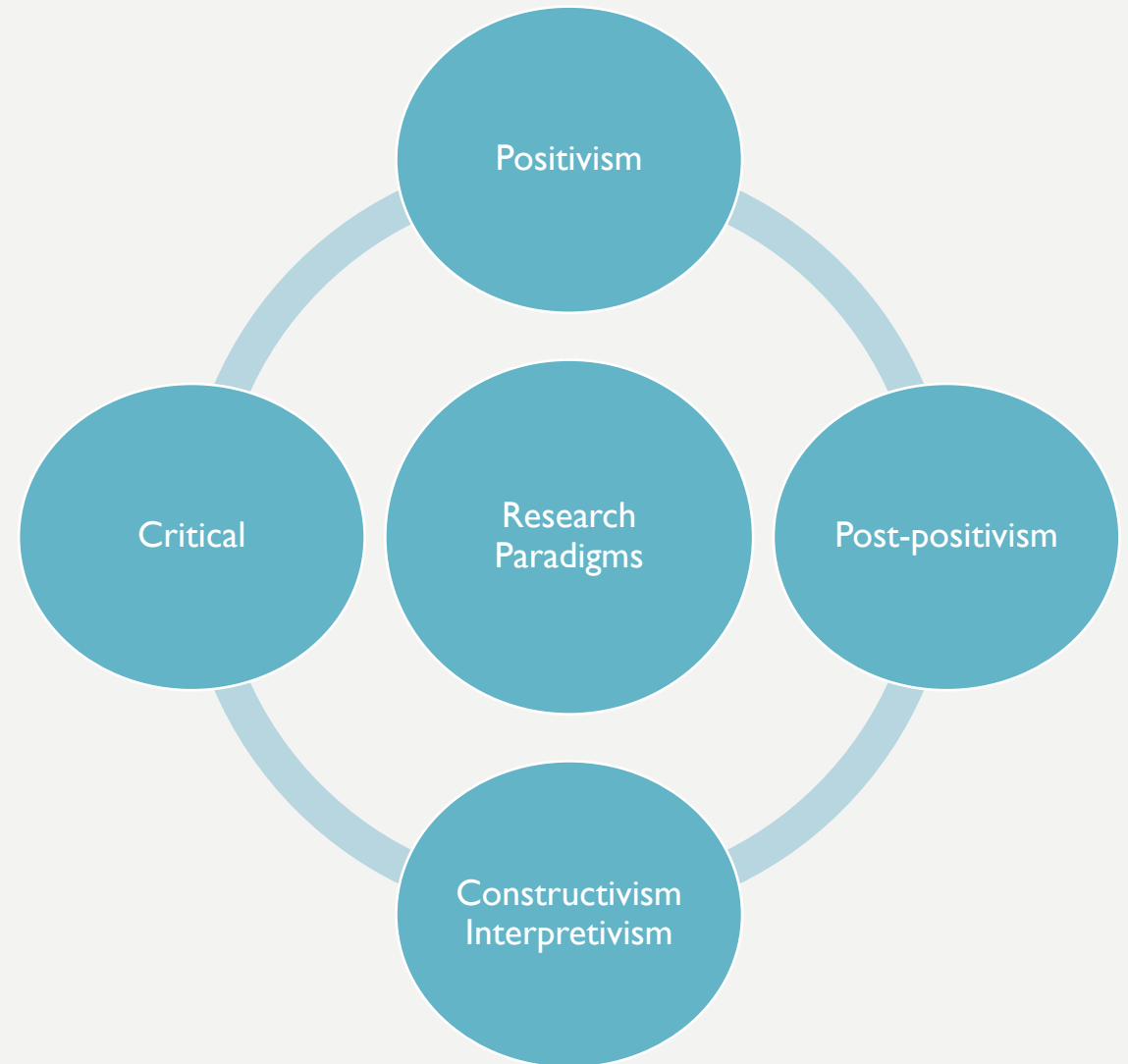


OVERWHELMED

ANY ISSUES, CONCERNS,
CELEBRATIONS, QUESTIONS,
PROVOCATIONS, DESIRES
THAT WE SHOULD KNOW
ABOUT?

SUMMARY OF WEEKS 1 THROUGH 4

- **Research paradigms**
epistemology, ontology,
axiology
- **Critical theory** seeks to
disrupt hegemonic
structures in society



SUMMARY OF WEEKS 1 THROUGH 4

- **Subjectivity, Reflexivity, and Accountability**



Anna Ortega-Williams, PhD
Assistant Professor at SSSW

- ❖ To whom are you dedicating this work?
- ❖ What ancestors' shoulders are you standing upon?
- ❖ How can you interrupt violence within your work and create visions of what is possible in the middle of the political, historical, social, and economic context that we are in?

SUMMARY OF WEEKS 1 THROUGH 4

- **Critical histories, epistemological violence, dominant & counter narratives**

She says she was born free...

**KNOWLEDGE
BUILDING IN
SOCIAL WORK**

**MY GOALS FOR
THIS COURSE
ARE...**

SCIENCE OF SOCIAL WORK

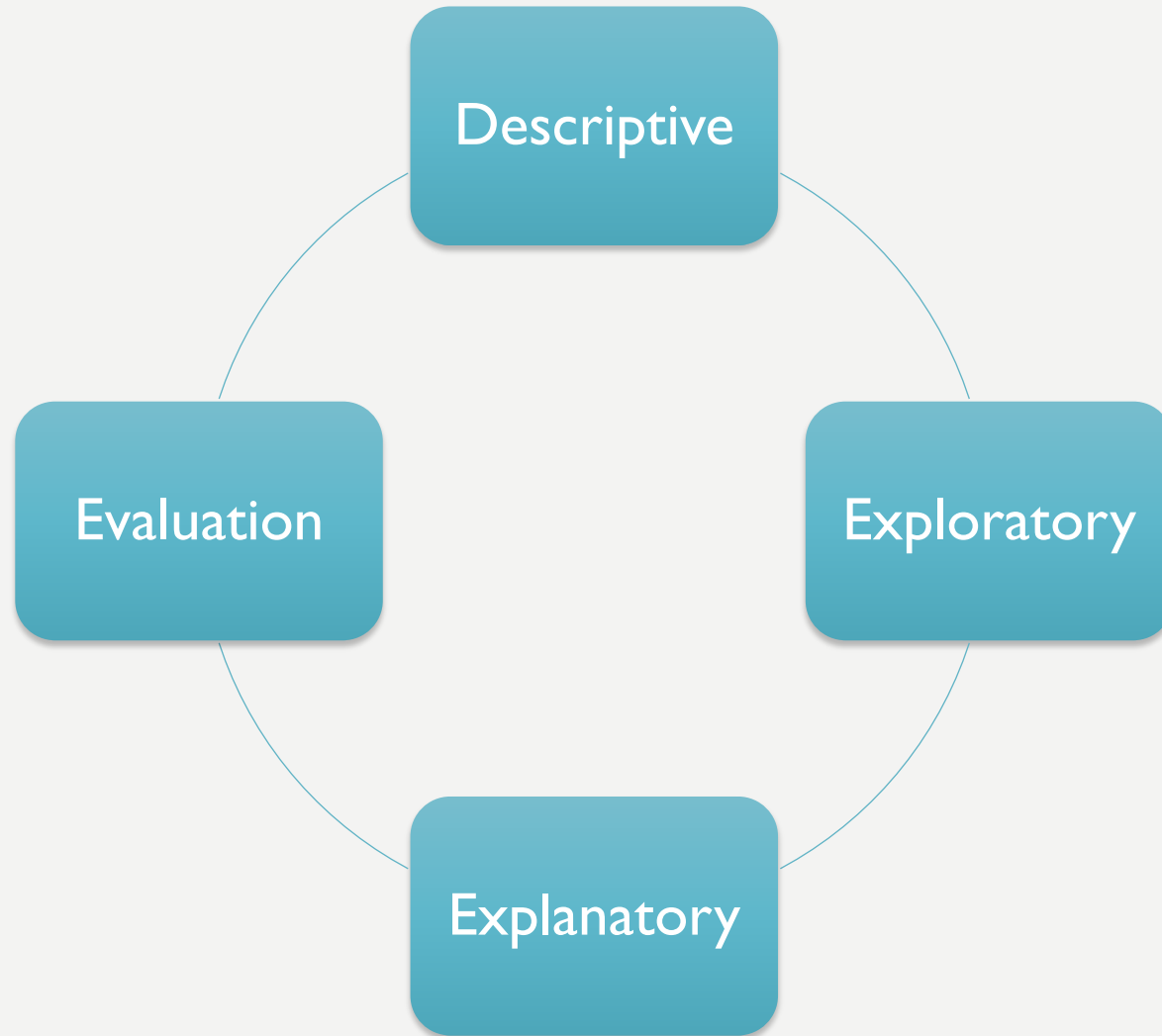
- How do **you** define “science?”

VALIDITY IN SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

Validity Type	Definition
Measurement validity	
External validity	
Internal validity	

❖ What types of validity from our critical framework are missing here?

SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH DESIGNS



Tied to evaluating policies, community organizing, and/or engaging in programs to help individuals and groups

Table 2. Preexperimental, Quasiexperimental, and Experimental Designs: Their Frequency and Design Objectives in Three Social Work Journals (2005–2007) and their Research Articles ($N = 214$)^c

Preexperimental, Quasiexperimental, and Experimental Designs	Design Frequency and Percentages		Design Objectives ^a		
	Percentage Used (%)	Exploration (%)	Instrument Development (%)	Variable Relationship (%)	Program/Practice Evaluation (%)
Posttest without intervention	156 (72.9)	44 (78.6)	47 (85.5)	48 (82.8)	17 (37.8)
Posttest after intervention	20 (9.3)	3 (5.4)	1 (1.8)	3 (5.2)	13 (28.9)
Pretest and posttest	16 (7.5)	4 (7.1)	5 (9.1)	2 (3.4)	5 (11.1)
Multiple pretest and posttest	6 (2.8)	1 (1.8)	0 (0)	1 (1.7)	4 (8.9)
Quasiexperimental ^b	11 (5.1)	4 (7.1)	1 (1.8)	2 (3.4)	4 (8.9)
Experimental	5 (2.3)	0 (0)	1 (1.8)	2 (3.4)	2 (4.4)
Totals	214 (100)	56 (100)	55 (100)	58 (100)	45 (100)

^a These were the primary overall design objectives of the study. There could only be one objective to the overall study.

^b For this design category, the study had three of the four experimental design criteria. It had to include a control group plus two of the following: manipulation of the IV, randomization, and specification of test hypotheses.

^c $N = 38$ research articles were dropped from Table 1 due to their inability to be classified in these categories.

DOMINANT DISCOURSE IN SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH: HEGEMONIC POSITIVISM

TOWARDS A SCIENCE OF SOCIAL WORK

- **Critical theory**
- **Skeptical attitude**
- **Epistemological and methodological pluralism**
- **Reflexivity**
- **Always linked to policy, practice, and community organizing**

CLASS ACTIVITY

- Take a few minutes to think about your research interest and craft a *working* title (no more than 20 words) for a possible research study that you could explore in this class.
- Where do you see your study design aligning at this point in the process – descriptive, exploratory, explanatory, evaluation?

NEXT WEEK

Session	Date	Topic	Assignments Due
6	10/13	Ethics, Power & Privilege, Protection of Human Subjects	<i>CITI training due</i>