

TERMINOLOGY, RESEARCH PARADIGMS, CRITICAL THEORY

Social Work Research

September 1st, 2021

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CLASS AGENDA

- Check-in: how's everyone doing?
- Discussion of assigned readings
- Overview of key terminology, research paradigms, and critical theory
- Next steps...



HOW ARE
YOU?

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

FACILITATED DISCUSSION



[Image](#) by Volodymyr Hryshchenko via Unsplash, shared under the Unsplash license.

KEY TERMINOLOGY USED IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

How would you define qualitative and quantitative research?

Qualitative Research	Quantitative Research
❖ An approach for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem	❖ An approach for testing objective theories by examining the relationship among variables



REASONING

- Inductive
- Deductive
- Abductive

INDUCTIVE (QUALITATIVE)

Make
Observations

Collect and
Explore Data

Describe
Patterns

Generate
Theory

DEDUCTIVE (QUANTITATIVE)

Theory

Develop
Hypotheses

Operationalize
Concepts

Test Theory

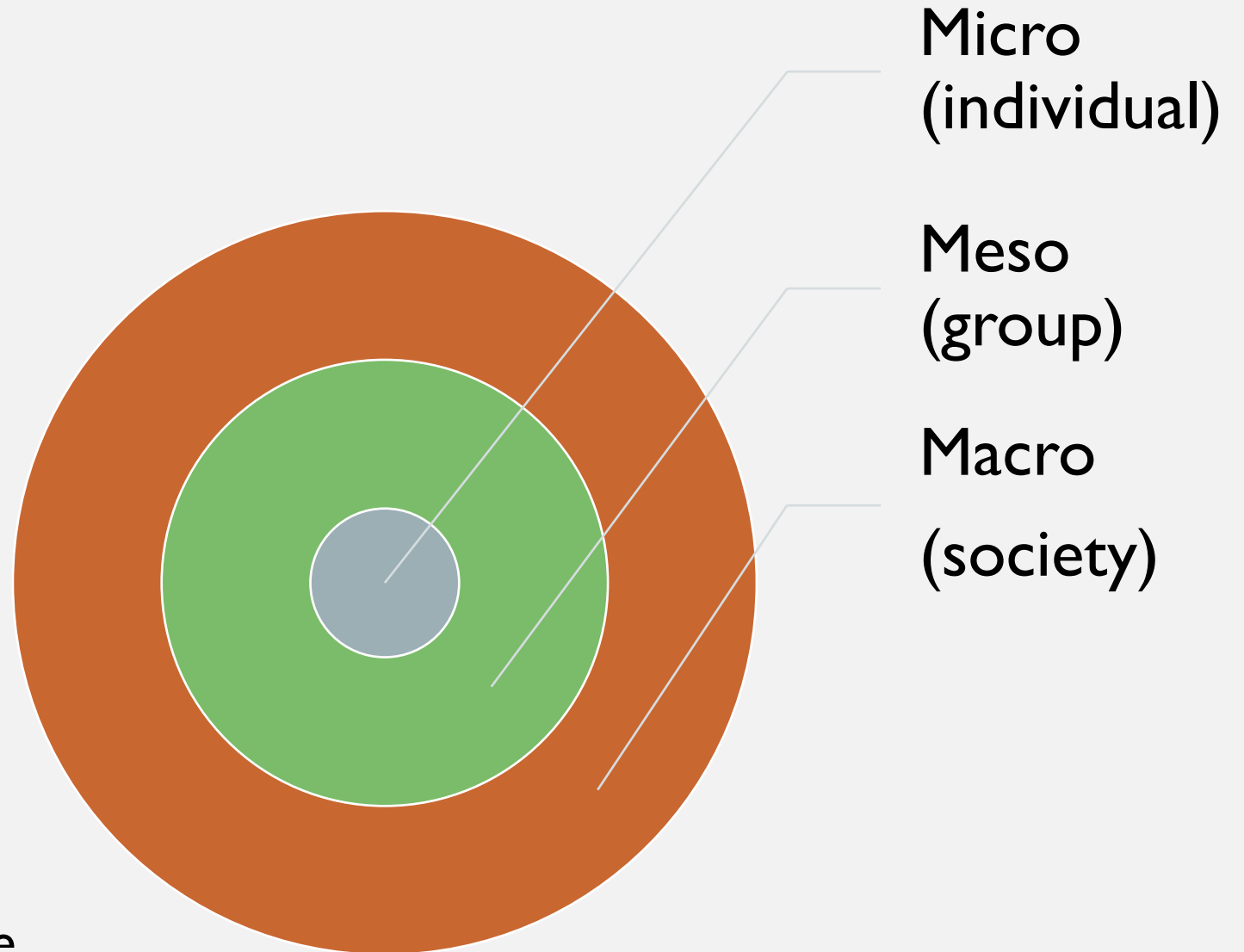
ABDUCTIVE (QUAL/QUANT)

Make Observations

Collect and
Explore Facts

Choose a
Hypothesis that
Fits the Facts

MICRO, MESO, &
MACRO
CONTEXTS



Social work research addresses issues of injustice at all levels, sometimes multiple levels at once.

KEY TERMINOLOGY USED IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Term	Definition
Paradigm	
Ontology	
Epistemology	
Axiology	

KEY TERMINOLOGY USED IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Term	Definition
Paradigm	A set of interrelated assumptions about the world; Researcher's worldview; Conceptual framework to organize the study
Ontology	
Epistemology	
Axiology	

KEY TERMINOLOGY USED IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Term	Definition
Paradigm	
Ontology	Concerned with the nature of reality and being: “what is the form and nature of reality, and what can be known about it?”
Epistemology	
Axiology	

KEY TERMINOLOGY USED IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Term	Definition
Paradigm	
Ontology	
Epistemology	Concerned with the knowledge building process and the relationship between the researcher and researched: “What is knowledge and how is it acquired?”
Axiology	

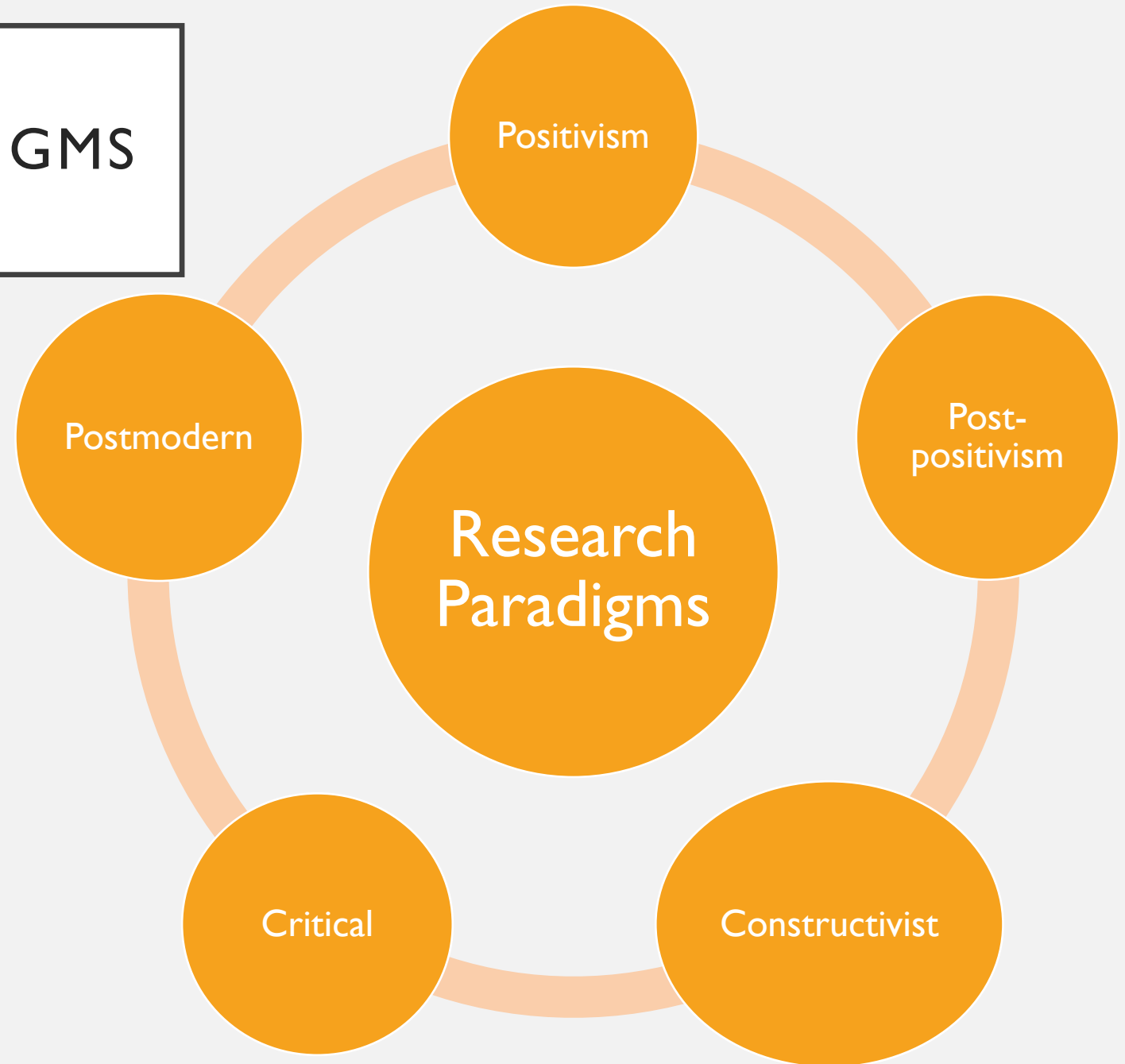
KEY TERMINOLOGY USED IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Term	Definition
Paradigm	
Ontology	
Epistemology	
Axiology	The role of researcher values throughout the scientific process

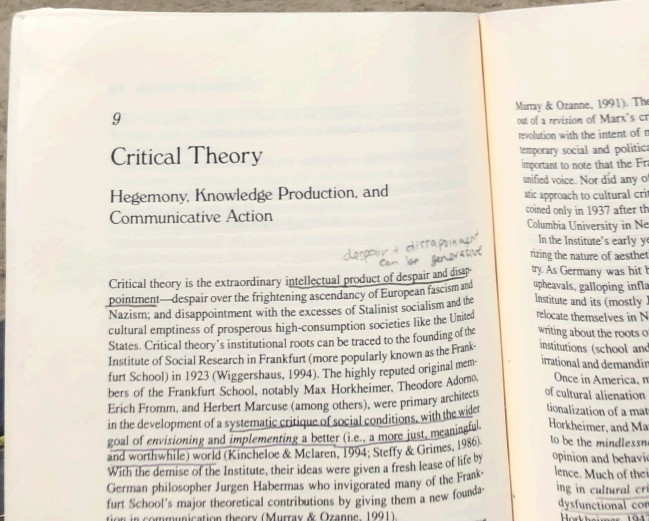
WHERE DOES CBPR/PAR FIT?

Term	Definition
Paradigm	
Ontology	
Epistemology	
Axiology	

UNPACKING PARADIGMS



What paradigm are you operating from?



CRITICAL THEORY

- Critical theory is committed to the goals of social justice (axiology – value laden science)
- There is no single way to “do” critical theory
- Ideology-critique: “the incessant and systematic critique of ideological forces in every aspect of social life”
- The goal is to enhance public awareness of the sources of domination and initiate changes

CRITICAL RACE THEORY

- A lens or framework developed by Dr. Bell in the 1970s and 1980s for examining how systemic racism is woven into American law and institutions and how those systems perpetuate an uneven playing field for people of color.

NEXT WEEK

Session	Date	Topic	Assignments Due
3	9/22	Knowledge building in social work	<i>Blog Post #2</i>