

# SSW751 Facilitated Discussion

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## Micro Level

Investigating the smallest level of interaction : The Self

## Meso Level

Investigating small groups + communities

## Macro Level

Social Structures, institutions + large scale patterns : Policy

Intuition



Practice Wisdom

GUESSING



# Cognitive Bias

## ***Confirmation Bias:***

Observing and analyzing in a way that confirms what you already think is true

## ***Selective observation:***

Paying attention to the information that fits a preconceived idea and ignoring all the rest

## ***Overgeneralizing:***

Making hasty observations


## ***Authority:***

Is NOT always accurate



# Scientific inquiry

Organized, logical way of knowing that involves both theory and observation



*"WITHOUT ANY SYSTEMATIC PROCESS FOR OBSERVING  
OR ASSESSING THE ACCURACY OF OUR OBSERVATIONS*

*WE CAN NEVER REALLY BE SURE THAT OUR INFORMAL OBSERVATIONS ARE ACCURATE"*



Social work is informed by:

**social science**

Science of Humanity

Social Interaction

Social Structures

Objective

truth

vs

Subjective

truth



How do we find truths when  
everyone has unique  
interpretations?

PATTERNS



# EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

Involves understanding client characteristics using  
practice wisdom & existing resources & adapting to  
environmental context



Qualitative

VS

Quantitative

Whether we know it or not, our  
everyday lives are shaped by  
social scientific research



# Understanding research methods & social science



Important for competent and ethical social work practice

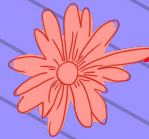


Can help us become more astute & more responsible consumers of information

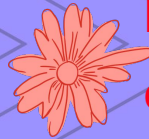


Ensures interventions are based on evidence

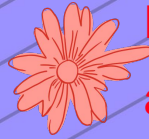
# UNDERSTANDING RESEACRH



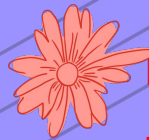
All Social Workers rely on social science research to engage in competent practice



No one already knows research, it's something you learn through practice, it's challenging for everyone



Research is relevant to me because it allows us to figure out what is known about any topic you want to study



If the topic you choose to study is important to you, you will be more interested in research

# Takeaways - Understandings - Main Points

- Focus on Research vs. Praxis and policy application (what are the intentions/ behind this? effects?)
- Qualitative vs. Quantitative
- Intentionality around the structure of this research paper. How does this paper function as a disruption to the norm and or privileged that aligns and dictates what becomes dominant ideology? (“participatory and intersectional approach to analyzing data” how can approaches to research like these expand the way we analyze data?)
- Pedagogical gatekeeping or the “methodical divide and Hierarchy”
- Autoethnography and Intentionality - Personal stories, all people add to knowledge building

# Historical Context of Paradigm Shifts in Research:

- Is there significance? In what ways do we see social justice movements influence the dominant ideology and/or conversation about curriculum in social work education?
- Take notice of any patterns, how might apply this knowledge to our own interests in research?
- Emergence of radical pedagogy, the push for Decolonization, anti-racist and abolitionist social work



# Historical Context of Paradigm Shifts in Research:



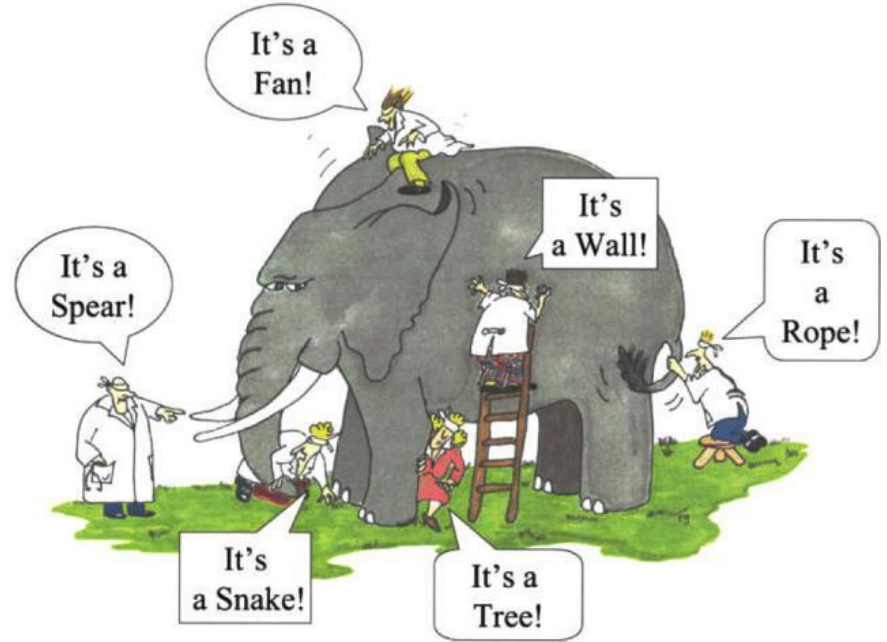
# Disrupting Research

- Quantitative Research *and* Qualitative Research
- Biases in research
- Disrupting the norm



# Discussion Thoughts

- Reading through two lenses
- Finding “Truth”
- Challenging ourselves
- Challenging our education



# Discussion Questions

What is “Truth” and can it be determined through research?

What is “Research” and is there such a thing as a method that is “right” for any given circumstance?

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