

KNOWLEDGE BUILDING IN SOCIAL WORK

Social Work Research
September 22nd, 2021

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CLASS AGENDA

- Check-in: how's everyone doing?
- Research Meditation
- Review from last week
- Overview of key concepts
- Facilitated discussion
- Research presentation
- Next steps...



HOW ARE YOU?

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

RESEARCH MEDITATIONS



[Image](#) by Dr. Anna Ortega-Williams

- ❖ 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? (Dr. Ortega-Williams, 2020)
- ❖ How can we build a knowledge society that is accessible and inclusive of multiple perspectives? (SSW 751 02, Spring 2021)

[Toni Blackman Good Morning Mindfulness Meditation](#)

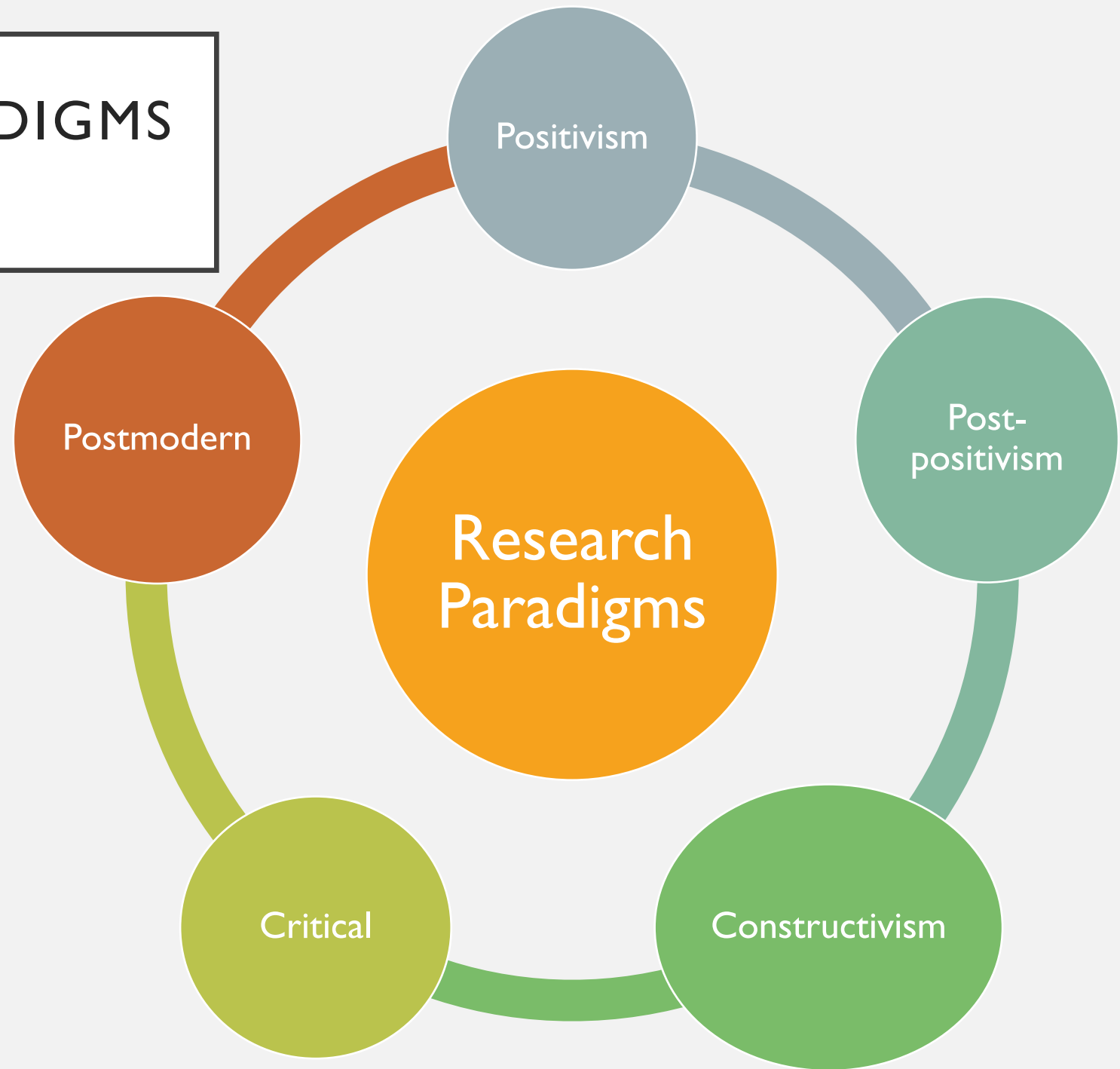
RECAP FROM LAST WEEK

Term	Definition
Paradigm	
Ontology	
Epistemology	
Axiology	

RECAP FROM LAST WEEK

Term	Definition
Paradigm	A set of interrelated assumptions about the world; Researcher's worldview; Conceptual framework to organize the study
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	Concerned with the knowledge building process and the relationship between the researcher and researched: "What is knowledge and how is it acquired?"
Axiology	The role of researcher values throughout the scientific process

UNPACKING PARADIGMS (AGAIN)



WHAT ARE KEY ASPECTS OF SOCIAL
WORK RESEARCH?

GRAND CHALLENGES

To harness the ingenuity, expertise, dedication, and creativity of individuals and organizations within the field of social work and beyond to **champion social progress powered by science**



[UW research inspires Seattle's first LGBTQ senior center](#)

BIASES

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

Confirmatory bias

Selective observation

Paying attention to information that fits preconceived ideas and ignore information that does not fit.

Using limited observations to make assumptions about broad patterns

Overgeneralization

Relying on authority

Naively following the advice of authorities without healthy skepticism

SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

To find and explain patterns in data to build evidence-based practice.

Qualitative Research

- In-depth understanding
- Small sample size
- Context dependent
- Transferability
- Description
- Linguistics
- Subjective
- Social sciences

Quantitative Research

- Less depth of understanding
- Large sample size
- Context stripping
- Generalizability
- Prediction and explanation
- Mathematics
- Objective
- Natural sciences

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

Reflection



Practice Wisdom

EBP involves making decisions on how to help clients based on the best available evidence using critical thinking to examine the literature, client, self, and context to inform interventions.

FACILITATED DISCUSSION



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

NEXT WEEK

Session	Date	Topic	Assignments Due
4	9/29	Identifying and formulating a problem statement <i>Guest lecture with Hunter librarian Sarah Johnson</i>	<i>Blog Post #2 09/24</i> Watch these videos and complete this survey