Reflections on Social Sciences Research: Past, Present and Future

After more than 45 years of researching and writing on design and data analysis, the following represent my reflections on research in the social sciences. Reflection One: 100 years of statistical analysis – really! Reflection Two: Research has become too quantitative. Reflection Three: Weak conceptualization and research designs. Reflection Four: Theory development needs to become more of a priority. Reflection Five: New methods are emerging – and a lot more data.

Epistemology and Qualitative Research Design

There is an increasing demand on students to possess sound knowledge of various philosophical perspectives and to demonstrate the ability to apply these to research. Attending to philosophical matters, however, is one of the most vexing tasks. In this seminar, Tomas Pernecky will focus on the ontological and epistemological conundrums students and researchers often face in the domain of qualitative research. Through a critical engagement with the most popular/prevaling paradigms and frameworks, it will be argued that the way these have been construed represent a rigid conceptual organisation of ideas, and as such, are limited in capturing philosophical diversity. In addition to providing a new conceptual skeleton for mapping the main epistemologies, Dr Pernecky will challenge the notion of methodological superiority, and emphasise that there is no ‘better’ way to do qualitative research. Rather, qualitative inquiry is characterised by different research aims, philosophical assumptions, varying levels of usefulness, and range of attitudinal factors.

More info / Registration: http://bru-unide.iscte.pt/?pt=seminar_series
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