

Fichamento do texto *Introduction to methodology in the social sciences and humanities*, disponível em <http://www.saplei.eesc.usp.br/sap5865/2007/index.htm>

O artigo é direcionado para alunos das ciências sociais e humanas, principalmente aqueles que estão iniciando um pesquisa, através de um introdução resumida sobre estruturas metodológicas de pesquisa e a partir de exemplos de como a teoria se manifesta na pesquisa das ciências sociais.

Introdução:

“(...) the assumptions social science researchers make when they produce knowledge are grounded in ongoing unresolved theoretical and philosophical questions. This means that social science researchers cannot afford to take anything as given.”

Questões sobre o papel de um pesquisador e como proceder com sua pesquisa:

“What is reality? Ontological issues are concerned with what we believe to exist and what we believe we can investigate. For example, what is the subject-matter of disciplines like psychology, sociology, economics ('society', 'class', 'economy', 'individual', 'mind')? Do these things really exist? Are there real spatiotemporal objects that exist independently of the concepts and language with which we understand them?”

“What is the role of values and ethics? Axiological issues are concerned with the nature of value and with what kinds of things have value. For example, what is good, beautiful, ethical, moral? What is ultimately worthwhile for its own sake? Are values absolute or subjective?”

“What are reliable techniques for collecting data about claims? Data-collection issues are concerned with the techniques used to collect data. For example, should I use a survey questionnaire, in-depth interviews, document analysis or an observational case study? Is quantitative data better than qualitative data because it is more 'objective'?”

“What is the language of research? Rhetorical issues are concerned with how we talk about and write up research. For example, is writing in the third person more 'objective' than the first person?”

Breve resumo de alguns conceitos:

“Methods: 'the techniques or procedures used to gather and analyse data related to some research question or hypothesis' (Crotty, 1998:3)

Methodology: 'the strategy, plan of action, process or design lying behind the choice and use of particular methods, and linking the choice and use of methods to the desired outcomes' (Crotty, 1998:3). This includes not only the practical aspects of the research such as method and action plan, but also the philosophical and theoretical perspectives of the researcher.

Paradigm: 'A general organizing framework for social theory and research. It includes basic assumptions, underpinning questions asked, research practice and theory, and approaches or methods for finding the answers to questions' (Neuman, 2000:515).

Research design: The research plan that is devised to obtain answers to the research questions. The research design can encompass the research aims, hypotheses or questions, the methodology, methods of data collection, and the strategies used to analyse the data. The research design tells the reader what you did, how you did it, and why you did it in this way. In this section of your thesis or research proposal you explain and justify the theoretical and philosophical assumptions underpinning the research, and the methods or strategies adopted.

Theoretical perspective: 'the philosophical stance informing the methodology and thus providing a context for grounding its logic and criteria' (Crotty, 1998:3)."

Considerações importantes:

Sobre paradigma teórico:

"Researchers do not choose their theoretical paradigm depending upon the nature of their question or methods. All researchers have a theoretical orientation, typically given by the disciplines and literatures they have been exposed to. Your theoretical leaning shapes the questions you ask and the research you are doing. For this reason, a shift in theoretical orientation in the process of your research will usually lead to a major reframing of your research question and a transformation of the research design."

Inter-trans-disciplinariedade

"The social theory that underpins research in the social sciences and humanities grows out of wider philosophical debates and crosses discipline boundaries. This can often explain research collaboration among scholars from different disciplines, as well as disagreement and rivalry among scholars within the same discipline.

While there are significant areas of overlap between methodological frameworks, each has its own inherent logic. This means that methodological frameworks are not easily reconciled, and you should be wary of attempts to 'combine' them. This does not mean that you cannot borrow insights and ideas from a wide range of appropriately referenced sources. What you cannot combine are conceptually incompatible ideas.

On the other hand, each approach has developed within a dialogue of scholars, and there are many areas of shared understanding. Methodological paradigms are best understood as overlapping concentric circles, rather than as stand alone pillars. Concepts within social theory and philosophy are only meaningful in relation to one another. It is impossible to learn about your own approach, without learning about at least some of the others."

Texto – observações relevantes do autor

Texto – minhas observações