



The Foundations of Social Research: Meaning and Perspective in the Research Process

Michael J. Crotty

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Foundations of Social Research: Meaning and Perspective in the Research Process

Michael J. Crotty

The Foundations of Social Research: Meaning and Perspective in the Research Process Michael J. Crotty

Choosing a research method can be bewildering. How can you be sure which methodology is appropriate, or whether your chosen combination of methods is consistent with the theoretical perspective you want to take? This book links methodology and theory with great clarity and precision, showing students and researchers how to navigate the maze of conflicting terminology. The major epistemological stances and theoretical perspectives that colour and shape current social research are detailed and the author reveals the philosophical origins of these schools of inquiry and shows how various disciplines contribute to the practice of social research as it is known today.

The Foundations of Social Research: Meaning and Perspective in the Research Process **Details**

Date : Published October 15th 1998 by Sage Publications Ltd (first published September 1st 1998)

ISBN : 9780761961062

Author : Michael J. Crotty

Format : Paperback 256 pages

Genre : Reference, Research, Philosophy, Psychology

 [Download The Foundations of Social Research: Meaning and Perspec ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Foundations of Social Research: Meaning and Persp ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Foundations of Social Research: Meaning and Perspective in the Research Process Michael J. Crotty

From Reader Review The Foundations of Social Research: Meaning and Perspective in the Research Process for online ebook

Stephen says

READ SEP 2008

Good foundational resource for any beginning researcher.

Jogar01 says

Good discussion on the four dominant research paradigms. A good read to understand the type of research that is produced and the researcher's position. I stand in the critical paradigm (if I have to choose one this is it) that seeks to transform the world in communion with others. The reading is helping me to understand the foundation of the other paradigms (positivism/postpositivism, interpretivism, and deconstructionism). Crotty's discussion of Marx falls short; he only focuses on economics as if Marx's entire concern was on economics. Also, his sources for this discussion are few: a book with selected writings, the Communist Manifesto, The Poverty of Philosophy, and the Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844. Unless you are already versed in Marx's work, you will leave thinking that Marx's only concern is economical, as was the case with most of the students in class.

Karla Marie says

had to read it for school...bleh

Biên Tr?n says

Nice book!

Greg says

This book is a decent introduction to the ideology of the social sciences. It provides, as the author puts it, a scaffolding that permits a new researcher to understand their own frame of reference and the frame of reference of others in the social sciences. It is not complete by any means and needs to be supplemented with other texts, but it does deal in outline with the various claims made by different philosophical traditions. The book starts with positivism and uses it as a foil for the rest of the book. It covers in outline all the major movements you will find in contemporary social science.

Perhaps the most important elements you will learn from the book is that research in all traditions since philosophical pragmatism (Pierce, James, Dewey) and Marxism, which birthed the main paradigms, are implicitly or explicitly about affecting social change using research products. The book is strongest

discussing paradigms from pragmatism and the Marxist legacy as interpreted in the Frankfurt School. It is weakest in discussing post-modernism.

Note: positivism, whether post-positivism, or not, gets a pretty bad rap in the book, which is probably true in some social science fields but not others. Positivism is utterly dead in anthropology, and there a huge division between behavioral and evolutionary/genetic psychologists and social psychologists. Positivism is still a dominant paradigm in political science in the United States, based on the number of quantitative papers published.

Sarah says

If only I had been assigned this book as a first semester PhD student...

Dedy says

A very useful book for researchers. It provides strong philosophical background in doing both quantitative and qualitative research and shows the way you will step easily and beautifully while studying something.

Deepthi Iyer says

When I started off in qualitative research this was the most simple, useful and easy-to-understand textbook explaining the various paradigms. This is still my first go-to textbook for Qual research.

Jennifer says

Crotty presents the four research paradigms in an easy-to-read format. He clearly explains ontology, epistemology, positivism/post-positivism, and constructionism. The Critical theory section is a bit weak, especially the feminist chapter because Crotty relies heavily on Tong's work. Getting through the post-modern section is tough, but that is to be said of anything attempting to explain post-modernism and research from that paradigm.

Elizabeth says

Really solid text that spells out the major qualitative research paradigms. I didn't read the entire thing - or even all the assigned readings - but I'm pleased that I bought this one.

Kimberly Read says

I am not a fan of this book. It contains a great deal of information, but it is hard to access because the

author's presentations are disorganized and circuitous. It certainly provided an interesting perspective on various philosophies unpinning research frameworks. However, it is for the initiated and not the novice.

Ruchi says

I surely recommend it for first year PhD researchers. It is a great book that helps to get a clear idea of the basics of methodology in social research.

Caron says

So far, a good start...

Mark says

Comprehensive (and sometimes dense) articulation of the historical origins and contemporary perspectives of the major paradigms which govern how we discover and understand the world. Crotty's inclusion of the contemporary debates surrounding the paradigmatic assumptions of positivist, post-positivist, constructivist, interpretivist, critical, transformative, feminist, Marxist, modernist, and post-modernist paradigms (among others) effectively situate the underlying philosophies of social research as an ongoing conversation. A great resource; I also found it helpful to read this non-linearly.

Shannon Trefts says

Very informative, but also VERY dry.
