

---

- + • **UNDERSTANDING**
- **TRADITIONAL AND**
- CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES**


Richard C. Clark

Community Psychology

2/7/2023

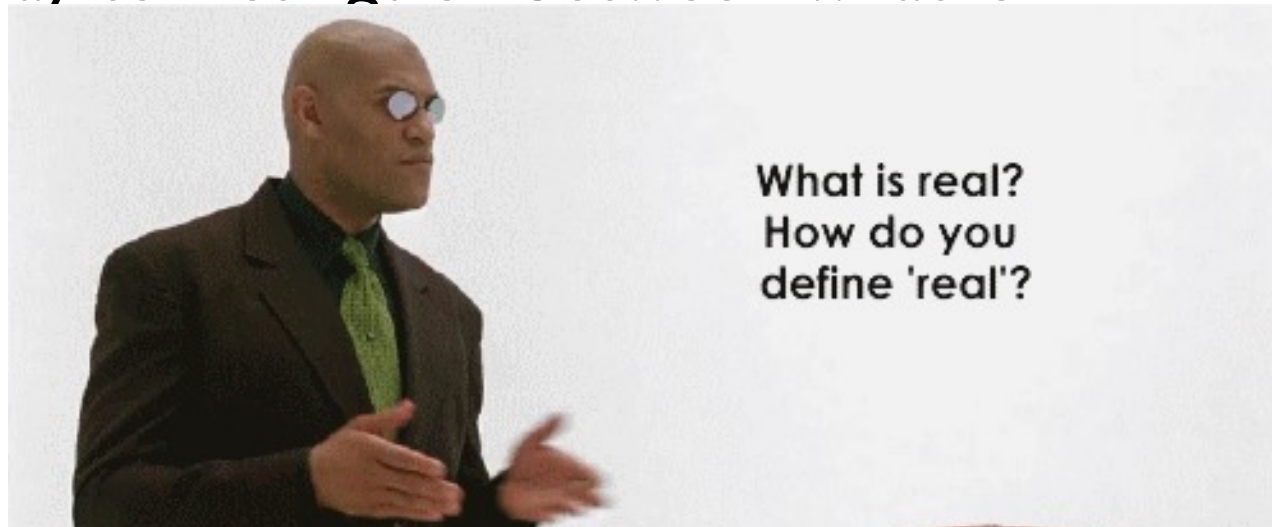


# Announcements

- Radical Honest statements due Friday! (24hr grace period)
  - Will post assignment 2 details this week
  - Final requirements may update a little bit. Nothing major.
- 

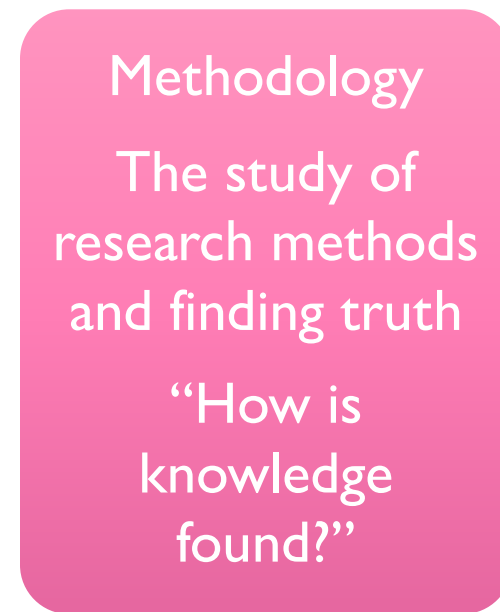
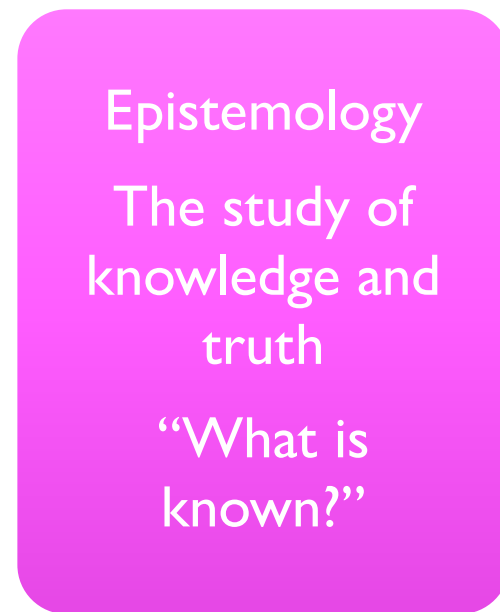
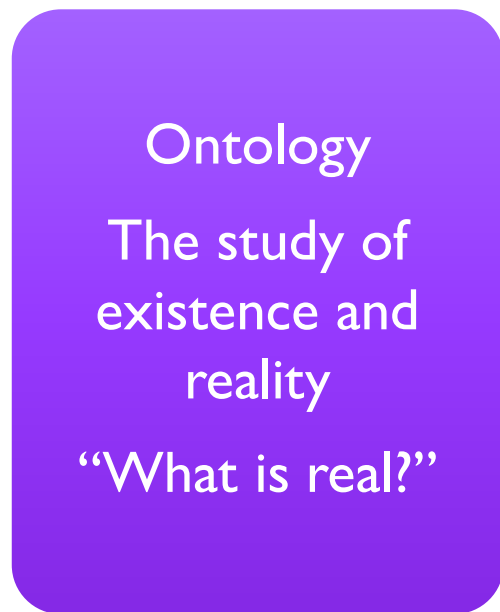
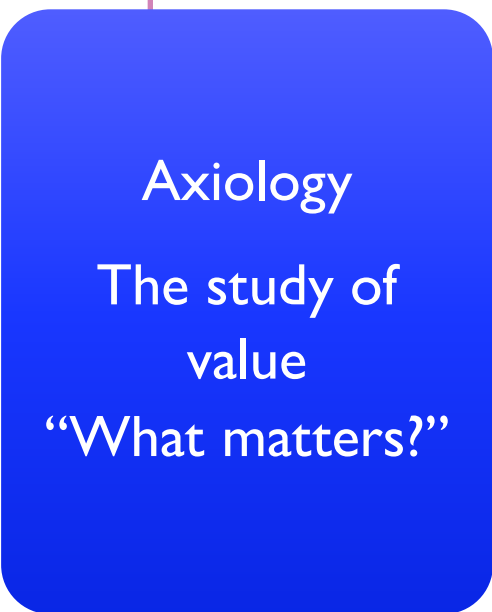
# Activity: What do you believe?

- In small groups discuss/debate the following questions:
  - What should people care about most? In other words what values should everyone in the world share?
  - Do you believe that there is one reality something true for all or is reality more personal and subjective? Why?
  - What do you think is the best way to distinguish between what is true and what is false?



# What is a Research paradigm

A Research Paradigm is a set of philosophical beliefs and customs held by a researcher around certain axiological, ontological, epistemological, and methodological questions.



Paradigm	Ontology	Epistemology	Question	Method
Positivism	Hidden rules govern teaching and learning process	Focus on reliable and valid tools to undercover rules	What works?	Quantitative
Interpretive/constructivist	Reality is created by individuals in groups	Discover the underlying meaning of events and activities	Why do you act this way?	Qualitative
Critical	Society is rife with inequalities and injustice	Helping uncover injustice and empowering citizens	How can I change this situation?	Ideological review, Civil actions
Pragmatic	Truth is what is useful	The best method is one that solves problems	Will this intervention improve learning?	Mixed Methods, Design-Based

# What's that paradigm?!

“Human beings are social creatures. I believe that as human beings live and experience the world they develop their own unique worldviews. I love asking people about themselves, their experiences, and their views. I know if I’m able to ask enough people I’ll be able to see a fuller picture of reality!”

Axiology

Ontology

Epistemology

Methodology

INTERPRETIVISM  
CONSTRUCTIVISM

# What's that paradigm?!

“It is our job as scientists to uncover the truths of this world.  
Knowledge can only be attained through tried and true  
experimentation. Question, test, analyze, repeat enough times  
and we'll be able to verify what we know.”

Axiology  
Ontology  
Epistemology  
Methodology

Positivism

# What's that paradigm?!

“The proof is in the pudding. Debating over what's real or what's fake is a waste of time. We need to find effective solutions to the worlds current issues. The only way to do that is to implement solutions and evaluate if they work.”

Axiology  
Ontology  
Epistemology  
Methodology

Pragmatism



# What's that paradigm?!

“This country thrives on violence and hierarchy. We’ve been at war for centuries fighting for freedom, meanwhile most of the folks that live here have never been free. We need to dismantle injustice at its source, if we ever want real change to come. In order to do that we must think of new ways to resist.”

Axiology  
Ontology  
Epistemology  
Methodology

Critical

# Comparing Traditional & Critical community psych research

## Traditional

- Mostly positivist, post-positivist, or pragmatic
- Focuses on present visible circumstances of the community
- Researcher is mindful of their place but not reflexive
- Researcher focuses on inequality and addressing current needs of community.

- Problem focused
- Community Centered
- Utilize a variety of methods
- Utilize a variety of sources and fields to inform work
- Believe truth lies within the community

## Critical

- Researcher is focused on contextual and historical factors
- Interrogates power, privilege, oppression within the research and issue itself
- Highly reflexive researcher. Mindful of positionality.
- Researcher seeks to problematize norms and standards

# Critical vs. Radical

## Critical

- To challenge normalized and uninterrogated ways of knowing
- To ask what it is, why it is, who benefits, who is harmed
- To understand and create alternatives.

## Radical

- To believe in fundamental or revolutionary change
- Going to the root of an issue and destroying the source
- Completely dismantling old systems, ideologies, institutions, and conditions to make way for new ones

NOT MUTUALLY  
EXCLUSIVE

---

+  
•  
○

# UNDERSTANDING TRADITIONAL AND CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES PT. 2

Richard C. Clark

Community Psychology

2/9/2023



# Announcements

# Follow that thought

Take a second to think of some thought pattern or behavior that you've engaged in since you were young.

Discuss how this pattern plays out and where you feel it comes from.

# Reflexivity in Research

Reflexivity is the process of examining both oneself as researcher, and the research relationship. Self searching involves examining one's "conceptual baggage," one's assumptions and preconceptions, and how these affect research decisions, particularly, the selection and wording of questions. Reflecting on the research relationship involves examining one's relationship to the respondent, and how the relationship dynamics affect responses to questions.

# Let's get reflexive

- Who are you? (Name, identities, background, upbringing, family, relationships, communities you belong to, etc.)
- What wells or sources of knowledge do you draw from to inform the way you think and understand the world?
- How do they shape how you think? What you want? What you think matters?
- What are some experiences that you believe influence who you are?
- How do these experiences help shape how you think?
- What biases do you hold? How do they manifest IRL?



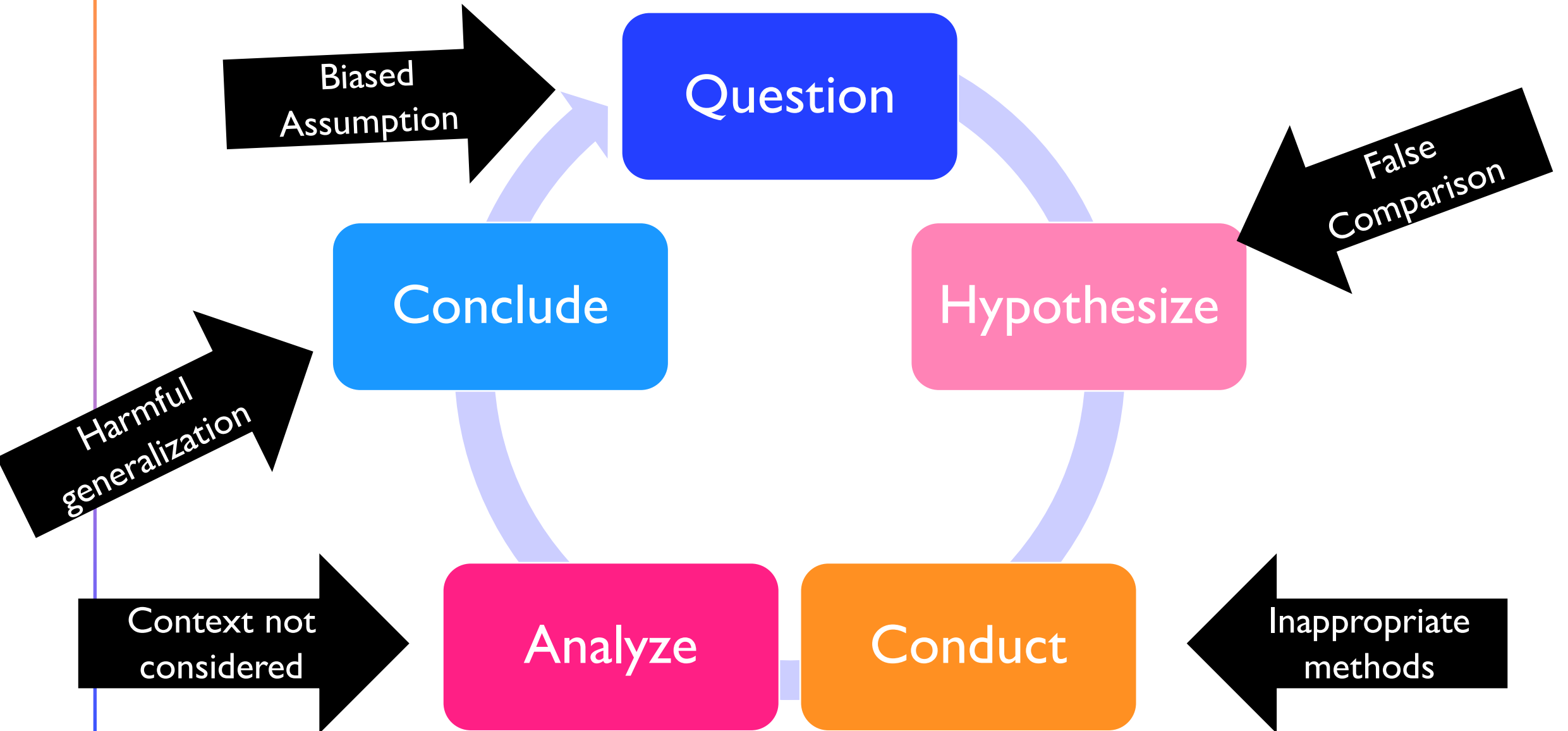
# Why Reflexivity is important

- We all hold biases and internalized ideas that influence the way we think and move through the world.
- In order to notice how these things influence our thinking they must be named and understood.
- In finding this understanding we can begin to see how systemic variables play a role in creating these biases and internalized ideas.
- With all of this understanding one's power as a researcher and person can be challenged (in a good way).
- Ultimately, this leads to better and more meaningful research.

# What is problematizing?

- Problematizing goes a bit beyond social critique to actually name and challenge certain norms and standards.
- Recognizes the process of normalization always involves creating the standards in which lead to something being centered while “othering” and marginalizing all that do not meet those standards
- So when problematize a research attempts to challenge the flow of power
- Problematizing is one way of interrogating systemic oppression and privilege in research
- Research problematize throughout the research process to help keep the project honest and critical.

# Problematizing in the research process



A community psych researcher notices that the violence against Black trans women is gaining attention in the media. Her area of research has typically revolved around queer cis women as such she hasn't worked with this particular population before. She decides an ethnographic research project is best for her because she can get to know the community better, understand the issue more deeply, and hopefully think of new solutions to prevent violence from continuing. Throughout her ethnography she finds that many Black trans women are engaged in survival sex work. She also notices that it is predominantly during sessions that these women face violence. She decides to write the paper up and submit it for publication. She brings her findings back to the community. The main conclusion of her research states that Black trans women are victims of violence disproportionately because of their more risky behaviors such as being engaged in sex work.

Can you see any issues with this research project? What is being normalized? What are the potential impacts of this research project?  
What more would you like to know?

# Reflexivity and Problematizing

In order to do either of these you must have respect for the lives of others, an openness to difference, a willingness to critique yourself and others. You need to be able to sit in and wrestle with discomfort. Finally, you need believe in and think critically about the systems of power that surround us all.

# Final Takeaways

- A true critical perspective is fluid, open to being challenged, and most importantly ever evolving.
- Critical perspectives believe that is important to resist the standardization of community psych research because the context of every community and issue is different.
- Those with more money, access, resources, and/or education to not “Know better” when it comes to community issues having a critical perspective can sometimes lead to this mindset