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PROCESS RESEARCH METHODS PDW
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DISCUSSING EMPIRICAL ORGANIZATION PROCESS STUDIES:
A Summary of Key Design Issues

Clive Smallman
Lincoln U., NZ

A Note On Referencing

- I started out with annotations on the slides recording the various sources of my points, however the slides quickly became illegible. Consequently, I have simply added a list of my sources at the conclusion of the presentation.
- I am developing a paper out of this checklist and I welcome your comments.

Research Approach

		ONTOLOGY	
		Object	Process
EPISTEMOLOGY	Variance method	I	IV
	Process narrative	II	III

Research Approach

- A *type I* project constitutes a variance study of the behaviour of organizational entities by causal analysis of independent variables that explain behaviour of an entity (dependent variable). The author needs to go back and rethink both their ontological perspective and epistemology. From the process perspective this is a fundamental research design flaw.
- A *type II* project constitutes a process study of the behaviour of organizational entities narrating a sequence of events, stages or cycles of change in the development of an entity. From the process perspective, the epistemology is appropriate to a process study, but it may pay the author to go back and rethink their ontological perspective.
- A *type III* project constitutes a process study of organizing by narrating emergent actions and activities by which collective endeavours unfold. This is process research at its 'purist'.
- A *type IV* project constitutes a variance study of organizing by dynamic modelling of agent-based models or chaotic complex adaptive system. The ontology is appropriate to a process study, but the author needs to go back and rethink their epistemology.

Research Design

- Is the study concerned with how or why an organization process unfolds?
- Is the study concerned distal or deeper causation?
- Does the study engage with actors in their context and look at the organizational process from the perspective of the subject rather than the researcher?

Research Design

- Does the inquiry focus on a good particular story?
- Does the study intend to offer one or more plausible models or stories?
- Is the timing of the observations real-time?
- Is the field research design parallel, synchronic, diachronic?

Research Design

- Is the sample heterogeneous?
- Does the study focus on temporal sequencing and the dynamics of process?
- Will the study allow the development of data that is sufficiently granular (rich)?

Research Design

- Are the investigative procedures 'open-ended and rigorous'?
- Is the work properly contextualised?
- Does it do 'justice to the complexity of the social setting under study'?

Data Analysis

- Is the analytic approach suited to the research design?
- Are the issues to be analysed well-defined (is the analytical approach congruent the research question)?
- Is the approach to the selection of incidents for analysis logical or plausible (do they correspond to the selection of analytical issues)?
- Is the coding approach logical, that is are concepts or event indicators constructed from activities or incidents?

Data Analysis

- What strategies have been used to tabulate and organize field data?
- Which of the following strategies have been used for theorizing from the data?
 - Narrative
 - Quantification
 - Alternate templates
 - Grounded theory method
 - Visual mapping
 - Temporal decomposition
 - Comparative case

Data Analysis

- Does the analytical approach 'focus upon the contextual and processual elements as well as the action of key players', so enabling the composition of 'a story about people, social process, and situations' that is logical or plausible?
- How can the approach to composition be improved?
- Has the analysis been appropriately validated? In other words have the findings been largely substantiated or crystallized through methodological, analytical or theoretical means?
- Is the approach focused upon the development of situated knowledge of a well-defined social problem?

Overall

- Is the study methodologically rigorous?
- Do you think that the findings are credible (the extent to which the theories are warranted)?
- Does the research advance knowledge or improve practice, which entails moving beyond common sense interpretations of observed phenomena to rigorously developed valid theoretical explanations?
- Do you think that the theory will be intelligible to, relevant to and usable by actors involved in the process?

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