

The Wrap Up

Harry Sminia

Sheffield University Management School
h.sminia@shef.ac.uk

Overview

- How to recognize process research?
- What characterizes different process researchers?
- Where does that leave the aspiring process researcher?

Process research is

<u>TYPICAL</u>	<u>ATYPICAL</u>
longitudinal	comparative (but still compares chunks of time)
case study / studies	survey of event sequences
in depth (multiple methods)	appropriately limited
inductive and deductive	deductive

Event

An actor does something

- There is an actor doing it
- It is in context
- It has an effect
- They assemble into a process

Process Research

Research Question		<i>How [.....]?</i> <i>(referring to course and/or outcome)</i>
Process Theory		<i>[.....]</i>
Research Answer		<i>By way of [.....]</i>
Nature of Explanation		<i>Generalist ← ? → Contextualist</i>
Research Quality	Internal Validity	<i>Real process or Interpretation of Process?</i>
	External Validity	<i>Timeless or Temporary?</i>

Research question

	<i>How [.....]?</i> <i>(referring to course and/or outcome)</i>
Van de Ven	<i>How do innovations develop over time?</i>
Barley	<i>How does new technology affect day-to-day activities?</i>
Pettigrew	<i>How do context, process, and content combine to explain outcome?</i>
Jarzabkowski	<i>How do strategists do strategy?</i>

Answer

	<i>By way of [.....]!</i>
Van de Ven	<i>By way of four process motors but not operating as powerful at the same time</i>
Barley	<i>By way of re-establishing recurrent patterns of interaction</i>
Pettigrew	<i>By way of a generative mechanism</i>
Jarzabkowski	<i>By way of engaging in practices</i>

Process theory

	<i>[.....]</i>
Van de Ven	<i>Meta theory of innovation and change</i>
Barley	<i>Structuration Theory</i>
Pettigrew	<i>Structuration Theory</i>
Jarzabkowski	<i>Activity Theory / Structuration Theory</i>

Nature of explanation

	<i>Generalist ← ? → Contextualist</i>
Van de Ven	<i>Generalist ←</i>
Barley	<i>→ Contextualist</i>
Pettigrew	<i>→ Contextualist</i>
Jarzabkowski	<i>→ Contextualist</i>

Internal validity

	<i>Real process or Interpretation<u>S</u> of Process?</i>
Van de Ven	<i>Emphasis on re(constructing) what actually went on → Real process</i>
Barley	<i>Emphasis on re(constructing) what actually went on → Real process</i>
Pettigrew	<i>Recognition that every participant experiences her / his own process → Interpretation<u>S</u></i>
Jarzabkowski	<i>Emphasis on re(constructing) what actually went on → Real process</i>

External validity

	<i>Timeless or Temporary?</i>
Van de Ven	<i>Ambition to produce findings that last for some reasonable amount of time</i>
Barley	<i>Ambition to produce findings that last for some reasonable amount of time</i>
Pettigrew	<i>Recognition of temporariness of findings / Appeal to users</i>
Jarzabkowski	<i>Ambition to produce findings that last for some reasonable amount of time</i>

Your name

Research Question	<i>How [.....]? (referring to course and/or outcome)</i>	
Process Theory	<i>[.....]</i>	
Research Answer	<i>By way of [.....]</i>	
Nature of Explanation	<i>Generalist ← ? → Contextualist</i>	
Research Quality	Internal Validity	<i>Real process or Interpretation<u>S</u> of Process?</i>
	External Validity	<i>Timeless or Temporary?</i>



Where does that leave the aspiring process researcher?

- Be consistent
- Let a process theory work for you
- Collect events
- Be inspired