Issue	Positivism	Postpositivism	Critical Theory	Constructivism	Participatory
Ontology: dealing with the nature of being	Naive realism - "real" reality but apprehendible REALIST: Reality exists independent of observer's perceptions and operates according to immutable natural laws that often take cause/effect form. TRUTH is defined as that set of statements that accurately describe reality.	Critical realism - "real" reality but only imperfectly and probabilistically apprehensible	Historical realism - virtual reality shaped by social, political, cultural, economic, ethnic, and gender values; crystallized over time	Relativism - local and specific co-constructed realities RELATIVIST: There exists multiple, socially constructed realities ungoverned by natural laws -- causal or otherwise. TRUTH is defined as consensus construction of the combined quantity and quality of info that provided the most powerful understanding that leads to action.	Participative reality - subjective-objective reality, co-created by mind and given cosmos
Epistemology: dealing with the nature of knowledge, its presuppositions, foundations, extent and validity	Dualist/objectivist (Knowledge is a phenomenon that exists external to the observer; the observer maintains a distance and studies the phenomenon (sometimes referred to as empiricism)); findings true	Modified dualist/objectivist; critical tradition/community; findings probably true	Transactional/ subjectivist (Knowledge is created by inquiry through a dynamic interaction with the environment; knowing and being are the same thing); value-mediated findings	Transactional/ subjectivist; co-created findings	Critical subjectivity in participatory transaction with cosmos; extended epistemology of experiential, propositional, and practical knowing; co-created findings
Methodology	Experimental/ manipulative; verification of hypotheses; chiefly quantitative methods	Modified experimental/ manipulative; critical multiplism; falsification of hypotheses; may	Dialogic/ dialectical	Hermeneutical/ dialectical HERMENEUTIC (interpretation): seeks a dialectic (a	Political participation in collaborative action inquiry; primacy of the practical; use of language grounded

				dialogue among differing views) that creates an ongoing process of iteration/analysis/ critique/reiteration/r eanalysis, etc. that leads to a joint construction of a case. The goal is understanding.	in shared experiential context
	INTERVENTIONIST seeks to control variables and neutralize contexts. The goal is to explain how something "really works" in order to predict and control.	include qualitative methods			
Nature of Knowledge	Verified hypotheses established as facts or laws	Nonfalsified hypotheses that are probable facts or laws	Structural/ historical insights	Individual and collective reconstructions sometimes coalescing around consensus	Extended epistemology: primacy of practical knowing; critical subjectivity; living knowledge
				VARIATIONS: Action Research: solution to a local problem at a local site. Policy Studies: formulation, implementation & effectiveness	
Knowledge accumu-lation	Accretion - "building blocks" adding to "edifice of knowledge"; generalizations and cause-effect linkages	Accretion - "building blocks" adding to "edifice of knowledge"; generalizations and cause-effect linkages	Historical revisionism; generalizations by similarity	More informed and sophisticated reconstructions; vicarious experience	In communities of inquiry embedded in communities of practice
Goodness or quality criteria	Conventional benchmarks of "rigor": internal and external validity, reliability, and objectivity	Conventional benchmarks of "rigor": internal and external validity, reliability, and objectivity	Historical situatedness; erosion of ignorance and misapprehension; action stimulus	Trustworthiness and authenticity including catalyst for action	Congruence of experiential, presentational, propositional, and practical knowing; leads to action to transform the world in the service of human flourishing

Values	Excluded - influence denied	Excluded - influence denied	Included - formative		
Ethics	Extrinsic - tilt toward deception	Extrinsic - tilt toward deception	Intrinsic - moral tilt toward revelation	Intrinsic - process tilt toward revelation	Intrinsic - process tilt toward revelation
Inquirer Posture	"Disinterested scientist" as informer of decision makers, policy makers, and change agents	"Disinterested scientist" as informer of decision makers, policy makers, and change agents	"Transformative intellectual" as advocate and activist	"Passionate participant" as facilitator of multivoice reconstruction	Primary voice manifest through aware self-reflective action; secondary voices in illuminating theory, narrative, movement, song, dance, and other presentational forms
Training	Technical and quantitative; substantive theories	Technical; quantitative and qualitative; substantive theories	Resocialization; qualitative and quantitative; history; values of altruism, empowerment and liberation	Resocialization; qualitative and quantitative; history; values of altruism, empowerment and liberation	Co-researchers are init facilitator/researcher a in the process; facilitat competence, democrat
	QUANTITATIVE METHODOLOGY Influenced by psychological research tradition Emphasis is on designing experiments, doing research with groups of students, and testing hypotheses using measurement and statistics. Numerical reporting Quantitative analysis Emphasizes explaining		**QUALITATIVE METHODOLOGY** Influenced by anthropological research traditions Focuses on a particular event, group of people, process, institution, or concept in a case study design Rich contextual descriptions Qualitative analysis Emphasizes understanding		