

Conceptual Issues in Research Methodology

1. Objectives

This course is about research methodology, i.e., not about specific research methods, but about the conceptual foundations of what we can consider "scientific" and what should not be considered to be so. We will review some of the philosophical underpinnings of current practice, and discuss most of the basic issues on clinical, empirical and theoretical methods, their relative importance and how they are used in the world of management.

2. Contents

It is an introduction to the subject in 8 sessions

3. Methodology

Seminar discussions and lectures.

4. Grading

Students will be asked to turn in a paper on either (1) applying the concepts of the course to a specific article in a critical way, or else (2) giving their *personal* overview of the course (basic concepts, and what they found interesting and what they did not, how does it relate to their own research area...)

1st Year MRM 2019

Precourses

5. Course Outline

SESSION	TITLE	ACTIVITY
1	Introduction	Rosanas, Josep M., <i>Methodology and Research in Management</i> , International Journal of Management and Economics, 36, 2012. Wells, H. G., <i>The Country of the Blind</i> R. Anthony, <i>The wizard who oversimplified</i> C. Christenson, <i>To tell the truth</i>
2	A little bit of history of the hard sciences. Models and reality. Hard Sciences and social sciences. Naïve views on the development of science: naïve empiricism.	A brief account of the development of the hard sciences (lecture) Friedman, M. 1953. <i>The Methodology of Positive Economics</i> . In <i>Essays in Positive Economics</i> , U. Of Chicago Press Hayek, F.A. 1989. The pretence of knowledge (Nobel Lecture). <i>American Economic Review</i> , vol. 79 no. 6, December. Haack, S. "Science, Scientism and Anti-Science in the Age of Preposterism" in <i>Manifesto of a Passionate Moderate</i> 1998, Chicago, University of Chicago Press.
3	The scientific view of the world: the Vienna Circle	Godfrey-Smith, Peter, 2003, "Theory and Reality: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science", Chicago, The University of Chicago Press, Chapters 1 to 3.
4	The rational approach. Falsification	Godfrey-Smith, Peter, 2003, "Theory and Reality: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science", Chicago, The University of Chicago Press, Chapter 4
5	Paradigms and scientific revolutions	Godfrey-Smith, Peter, 2003, "Theory and Reality: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science", Chicago, The University of Chicago Press, Chapters 5 and 6
6	Scientific research programs. Critique of scientific rationality	Godfrey-Smith, Peter, 2003, "Theory and Reality: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science", Chicago, The University of Chicago Press, Chapter 7
7	How can science grow? Causal, Functional and Intentional Explanations	Christenson, C. 1976. Proposals for a Program of Empirical Research into the Properties of Triangles", <i>Decision Sciences</i> , vol. 7, pp. 631-648 Donaldson, G 2000. "The Practice of Clinical Research" Rosanas, J.: 2007. On the Methodology of Management Research, WP 642, IESE, Universidad de Navarra

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8	Methodological critique of current literature	Ordoñez, Bazerman, et al. Goal Gone Wild Locke & Latham replies. Donaldson, Thomas, 2012, The Epistemic Fault Line in Corporate Governance, <i>Academy of Management Review</i> , 37 (2). Locke, Edwin, 2007. The Case for Inductive Theory Building, <i>Journal of Management</i> , 36 (6). Novy-Marx, Robert, 2014, Predicting anomaly performance with politics, the weather, global warming, sunspots, and the stars, <i>Journal of Financial Economics</i> .
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Complementary Bibliography for session 2:

Mason, S., *A History of the Sciences*, MacMillan

Complementary Bibliography for sessions 4 to 7:

Chalmers, Alan, 1976, *What is this thing called science*, Brisbane, University of Queensland Press.

Ayer, A.J., 1959, *Logical Positivism*, New York, The Free Press.

Popper, Karl, *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*, 1959, London, Hutchinson.

Kuhn, Thomas, 1962, "*The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*", Chicago, University of Chicago Press.

Lakatos, Imre, *The Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.