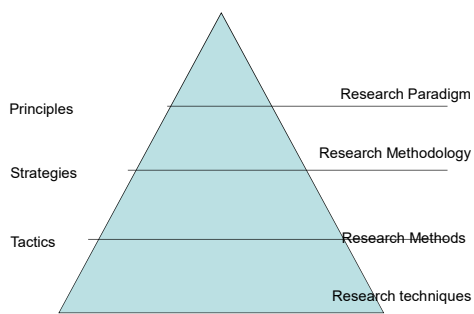## Ethics in Social Research

- *Discipline of 'what's good or bad', 'what's moral' etc.*
- Principles
  - Humans should be protected from being used as 'guinea pigs' in scientific research
  - Avoid harming innocent people
  - General consent of stakeholders and research participants
  - Protecting the rights of the research participant

Ethics in Social Research

- Ethical Practice
  - Voluntary Participation
  - Informed consent
    - Procedure
    - Risks
  - Captive research participants
    - Right to service
    - No risk of harm
      - Physical
      - Psychological/psycho-social
  - Confidentiality of information
    - Anonymity

Research Strategy (1)

Interpretive-Historical Research

Principles — Research Paradigm

Strategies — Research Methodology

Tactics — Research Methods

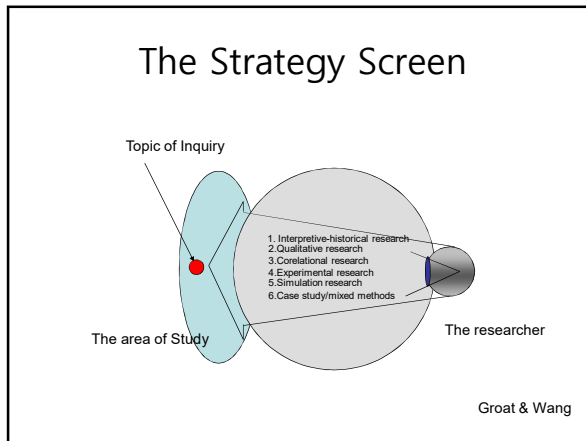Research techniques

The Research Pyramid

Research Strategies

- Various Research Strategies
  - Interpretive-Historical Research
    - Archival Studies
  - Qualitative Research
    - Grounded Theory, Ethnography, Interpretivism and Phenomenology
  - Co-relational Research
    - Survey Research
  - Experimental and Quasi-experimental Research
    - Causal Relation
  - Simulation and Modeling Research
  - Case Studies

Choice of Strategy

- **Pluralistic view of strategies**
- **Overlapping suitability of strategies**
- **Avoiding gross misfit of strategy to (i) research questions (ii) control over events and environment, when needed**

 and (iii) focus on the contemporary, when needed.

Strategy	Form of research Question	Requires Control over behavioral events?	Focus on Contemporary events?
Experiment	How, Why	Yes	Yes
Survey	Who, What, Where, How many, How Much	No	Yes
Archival Analysis	Who, What, Where, How many, How Much	No	Yes/No
History	How, Why	No	No
Case Study	How, Why	No	Yes

The Strategy Screen

Topic of Inquiry

1. Interpretive-historical research
2. Qualitative research
3. Corelational research
4. Experimental research
5. Simulation research
6. Case study/mixed methods

The area of Study

The researcher

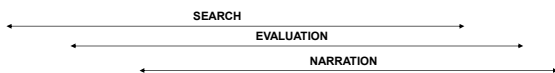Groat & Wang

Presentation

- Introduction to the methodology/strategy – Example and Potentials of use in ESSD
  - From Ghatta to Micro-hydro - the changing rural energy scene
  - Keeping warm in Kathmandu Morning – A case of Makal
- Its important features/process
- Its Strategic aspects: Knowledge forming and understanding of reality/ Epistemology Ontology
- Methods/Tactics/Techniques
  - Data collection
  - Data Analysis
  - Drawing Conclusions
- Strengths and weaknesses
- Intro: KK SRT

The term: 'Interpretive-historical'

- Study of social-physical phenomena within complex contexts
  - Seeking to explain those phenomena in narrative form, holistic fashion
  - Instances where the phenomena is a past condition, relative to the researcher
  - Hence titled
  - Very similar to qualitative research, except that the latter deals with contemporary socio-physical phenomena
  - Involves (1) searching for evidence, (2) collecting and organizing that evidence (3) evaluating it and (4) constructing a credible holistic narrative

Organization of Interpretive Research

DATA/EVIDENCE	IDENTIFICATION/ ORGANIZATION	EVALUATION	NARRATION
Manuscripts Autobiographies Newspapers Unpublished records Documents Buildings Arts Crafts Festivals…	Identifying sources Fact Gathering Filing/organizing data Note taking Observation	Description Analysis Assessment Evaluation/ verification Triangulation	Description Emplotment Story

SEARCH

EVALUATION

NARRATION

The 'Interpretive-historical' Process

- Sources of Data/Evidence
  - Manuscripts, Autobiographies, newspapers, unpublished records, documents, correspondence, diaries, personal materials, photographs, buildings, artwork, crafts, etc.
- Identification/Organization
  - Identifying sources, Fact gathering, Filing/organizing data, Note taking, observation
- Evaluation
  - Description, analysis, assessment, evaluation of truth/verification, triangulation
- Narration
  - Description, emplotment, story

The 'Interpretive-historical' Process

- Interpretation is active through out the process of Evidence collection, Organization, Evaluation and Narration
  - Processes go parallel, evidence collection may be active even while the story is being narrated
    - The four stages are not 'discreet' phases

Strategy: Narrative and Analysis in 'Interpretive-historical' Research

- Narrating history: validity through true sequence of flow and the interconnectedness of contents
- Describing events as they occurred in the actual flow of time
- Narrative – necessarily involves two situations separated by time, an incident with a beginning and an end, narrated 'objectively' – distance in time and observation using 'eyes of people in the past'

Paradigmatic Basis for I-HR (Narration and Analysis)

- The idea of History as a series of narrative constructions
- Literary metaphors in narratives
  - History as a species of the genus Story
  - Emplotment – not just collection of discreet narratives
  - An account with a beginning, a development and a conclusion
- The role of imagination and comprehension
- Analysis and verification – part of the continuum of empirical space and time. Textual authentication, validity of factual inferences and weighing of alternative interpretations
  - Accuracy and believability

Epistemological Basis for I-HR (Interpretation)

- Causal explanation of history: Hempel's idea of a 'Covering law' for social phenomena/ as in the natural: wide general laws as yet not discovered? > history based predictions? History repeats itself? Eg. > Earthquake/flood etc?
  - Karl Popper; small scale cause-effect relations not 'prophecy'
- History as the movement of Absolute Spirit
  - Hegel's history as an ongoing evolution of a communal consciousness- historical periods in architecture
  - Modernism – rooted on Technology and not Space or Society
  - Le corbusier – Building as a machine to live
  - Sigfreid Giedion- Space, Time and Architecture

Epistemological Basis for I-HR
(Interpretation)

- Structuralism – human systems of meaning, aesthetics(?), language etc. self-contained, self regulating and self-transformative – all cultures will develop according to such organic/organizing structures
  - Meaning as relation between entities
  - Building as container of human activities, modifier of climate, cultural symbol and consumer of resources like materials, energy etc.
  - Language with the advent of computers: mouse, memory, surf!
- Post-structuralism – reality and human nature as a byproduct of discourse and practices
  - not linked as universal systems but as a text with differing topical foci in society and time > history as a unique time as was
  - **History as a complex reality described through parsed discourses**

Methods & Techniques: Data Identification, Organization and Evaluation/Analysis in I-HR

- Identification
  - Primary/Secondary; published/unpublished; books/periodicals; official/qolloquial; catalogues/encyclopedia; etc.
- Organization
  - In Researcher's mind: Accuracy; Love of order; Logic; Imagination; honesty
  - Compilation: by topic, by time, by internal logical order
  - Note-taking: relatedness of events
  - Composing, verification, scope, scale.
- Evaluation/Analysis
  - Authenticity, Attribution, Clarification, Difference between now and then, Fact versus Idea, Bias, Self-criticism, Alternative interpretations, Empathy, Oversimplification
  - Triangulation

Methods & Techniques: Data Identification, Organization and Evaluation/Analysis in I-HR

- Types of Evidence:
  - Deterministic – **able to place the object in time and place firmly eg dates, inscription, photographs, artifacts,** etc
  - Contextual – no east gate of Kailashkut bhavan,
  - Inferential – Sri kalaha abhimani, wrote book on sabda vidhya
  - Recollective evidence (interpretation of the interviewee: memories)- validity/credibility in question > needs to be corroborated

Strengths and Weaknesses of I-HR

- Strengths: Only strategy for past events; can inform other strategies using narratives
- Weaknesses
  - Greatest limitation is that the object of enquiry cannot be empirically available.
  - Dependence on emplotment and literary construction
  - History veering on to story?
  - Historical imagination and accuracy
  - Fitting into 'one historical world' is not easy in practice