

CHAPTER 4

UNDERSTANDING RESEARCH PHILOSOPHY

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this chapter the student should:

- Understand the philosophical underpinnings of research and research methodologies.
- Understand the different world views represented in the different philosophical approaches.
- Understand the use of theory in the generation of knowledge.
- Understand the importance of theory in research.
- Understand how to apply theory in their own research.
- Be able to create a theoretical framework, the second of the four frameworks.
- Understand the links between research, theory and knowledge.

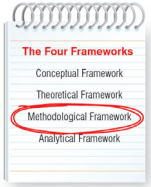
RESEARCH SKILLS

At the end of this chapter the student should, using the exercises on the accompanying online platform, be able to:

- Explain the philosophical underpinnings of sample research projects.
- Outline an appropriate theoretical framework for a given project.
- Critique a proposed theoretical framework.

The aim of this chapter is to explore the philosophical underpinnings of research and research methodologies.

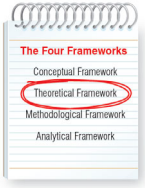
RESEARCH DIARY ACTIVITIES



ACTIVITY 4.1

Can you write a brief account of the philosophical underpinnings of Carol's (page 101) and Fiona's (page 102) research projects. Use the discussion of these projects in Chapter Four of the textbook to help you with this exercise.

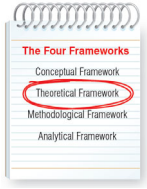
ANSWER:



ACTIVITY 4.2

Chose either Carol's research project (page 101) or Fiona's research project (page 102) and briefly outline an appropriate theoretical framework of the project of your choice.

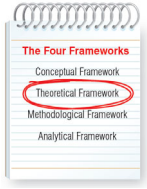
ANSWER:



ACTIVITY 4.3

Read again the journal article presented in the Real World Research textbook on page 73 of the textbook. The article is entitled 'Research Ethics as Practice'. Read the synopsis in the textbook and then source again the original article and read that. Note in your research diary, as you read, the things that strike you about the theoretical framework presented in the article. Note the structure of the theoretical framework and its content. Identify the argument being made in the theoretical framework; note how the argument is made and how it is presented.

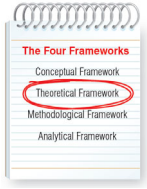
ANSWER:



ACTIVITY 4.4

Read again Jack's research proposal (page 59 of the textbook). In your research diary, write a brief critique of the theoretical framework (the sample literature review) presented in the proposal.

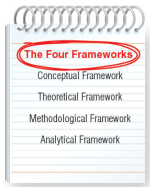
ANSWER:



ACTIVITY 4.5

In your research diary, write a brief outline of the theoretical framework you are developing, or you plan to develop, for your own research project. Outline, explain and justify the key decisions you have made in relation to the theoretical framework.

ANSWER:



YOUR RESEARCH DIARY

Please use this section to start your own Research Diary and keep accurate records of your research as it progresses

DATE:

RESEARCH ELEMENT/ASPECT:

Detail the topic or section of research being undertaken

SOURCE:

Record website addresses, book citations, library references, contact details etc.

SUMMARY:

Reflect on your experiences, thoughts, ideas and developments

NOTES:

Make general notes on your research, for example questions for further reflection and/or investigation, your thoughts, your observations and plans for future research.