

Paradigms and Cadastral Research

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Land Governance and the Environment – Building the Capacity
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- World View
 - Paradigm – a framework of basic assumptions
 - Grand theory – generalisations that transcend the border of disciplines
 - Formal – generalised substance - explain an area of inquiry
 - Substantive theory – thesis, antithesis, synthesis; first level
 - Hypothesis / Research question – proposition stated for verification or falsification
 - Proposition – suitable statement of a concept for testing
 - Concept – move from the phenomena itself to data, bound by definitions and symbols.
 - Definition
 - Symbol
- Phenomena

Glazier and Grover 2002





Die Ou
Losieshuis
Klaus & Cecile Dankheid



SMIRNOFF
SPIN

Judy Amos
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OVERSTRAND



Silva & Stubjær (2002)
Most common Methodology

- Case studies

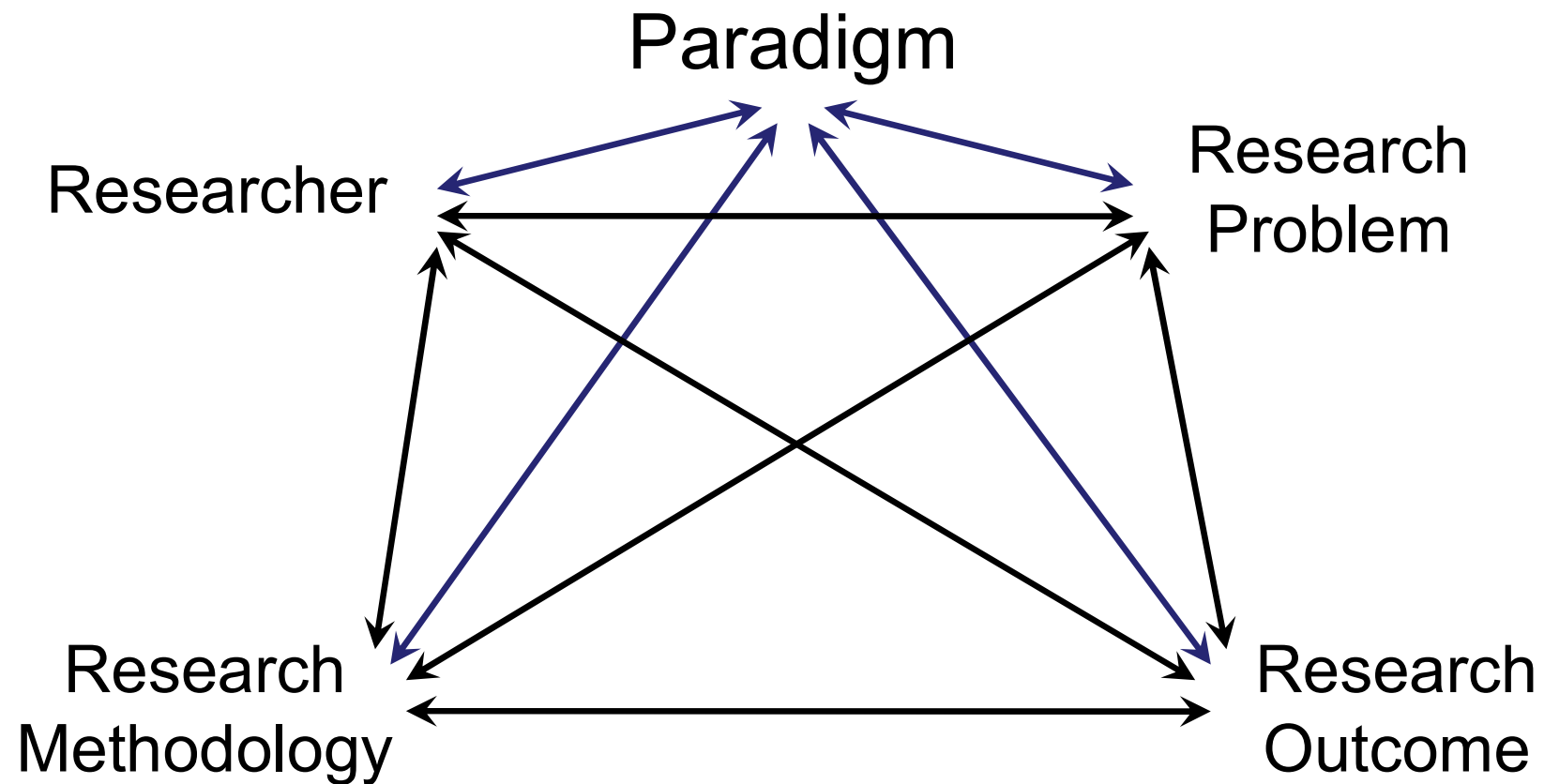
Methods

- Documentary research
- Questionnaires
- Interviews
- Comparative analysis
- Participant observation

Other Methodologies:

Ethnography
Grounded Theory
Information Systems
Methodologies
Systems Theory

Research Design



Four Paradigms

Postpositivism

Empirical approach

Social Constructivism

Humans and their interaction with the world

Advocacy

Marginalised people

Empowerment / Collaboration

Pragmatism

Problem focussed

Practical solutions

Postpositivism

Assumptions:

Effect follows cause (deterministic)

Problems can be reduced to parts (reductionism)

“Truth” can never be determined

Research:

Theory and hypotheses testing - deductive

Objective researcher –recognises world view and bias of researcher

Outcome:

Explain causal relationships

Social Constructivism

Assumptions:

- Variety of perspectives

- Meaning constructed through interaction

Research:

- Focus of historical and cultural aspects

- Acknowledges researcher bias

Outcome:

- To describe subjective patterns of meaning

Advocacy

Assumptions:

- Inseparability of research and politics
- Inclusion of marginalised people

Research:

- Participatory research

Outcome:

- Empowerment of community
- Action agenda

Pragmatism

Assumptions:

- Real world focussed

- Not overly concerned with questions about reality

Research:

- Mixed methods

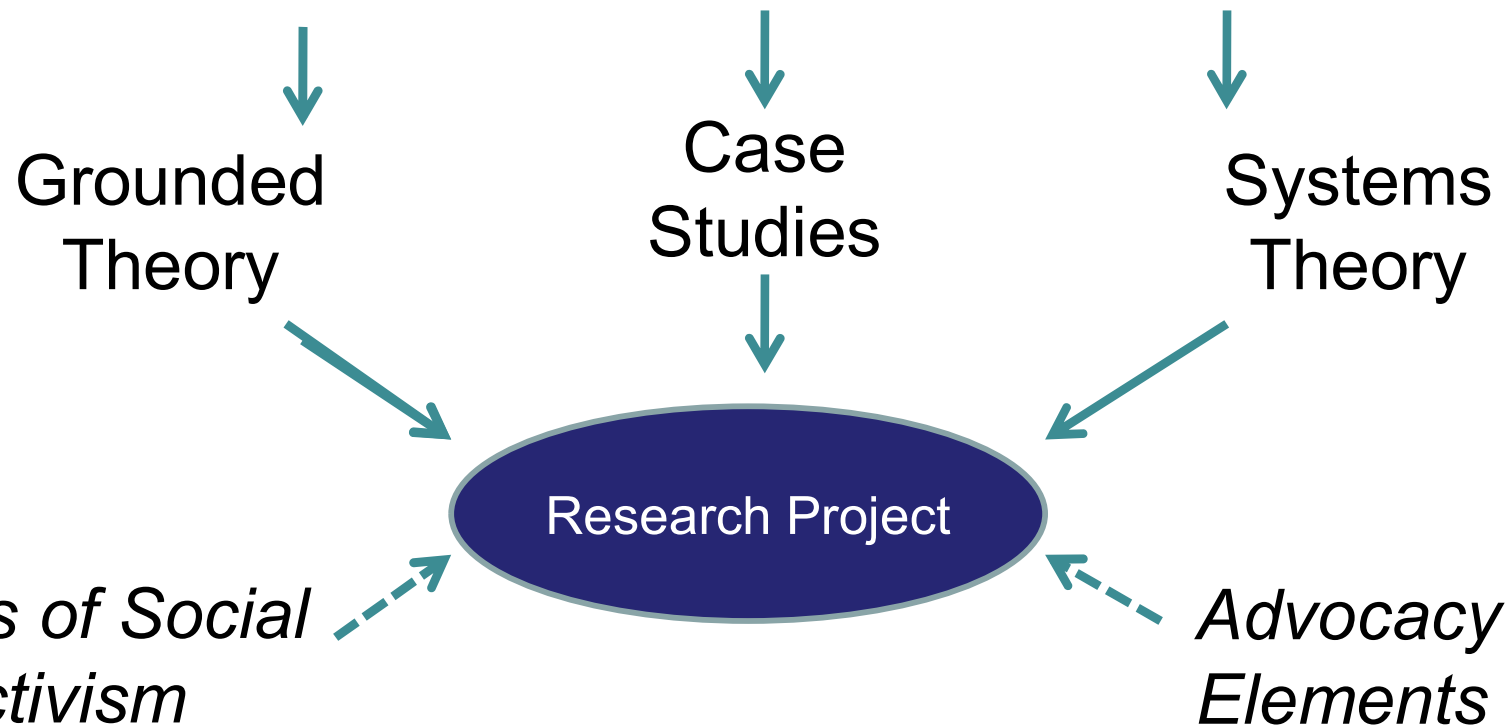
- Any method, technique or paradigm that works

Outcome:

- Practical solutions but strong theoretical basis and understanding of theory. Not a practical solution based on “I’m practical and unconcerned with theory”.

Pragmatism

Qualitative & Quantitative







Applying Pragmatism

- Informal settlements
- Life histories
- Workshops
- Literature
- Officials
- NGO's
- Policy makers
- Workshops on registration options
- Develop hypothesis – speculative, persuasive, conclusive
- What's the big picture?



- Aerial surveys
- Positivist view – x number of encroachments, therefore fixed boundaries are inappropriate.



Diverging views – (1) paradigm needs to be explicit (2) you can mix paradigms

Researchers need to make a contribution to developing a theoretical framework for cadastral research

Pragmatism can provide an initial framework but dont get caught in the "practical and ignore theory" trap

Silva, MA & Stubkjær, E 2002, 'A review of methodologies used in research on cadastral development', *Computers, Environment and Urban Systems*, vol. 26, no. 5, pp. 403-23