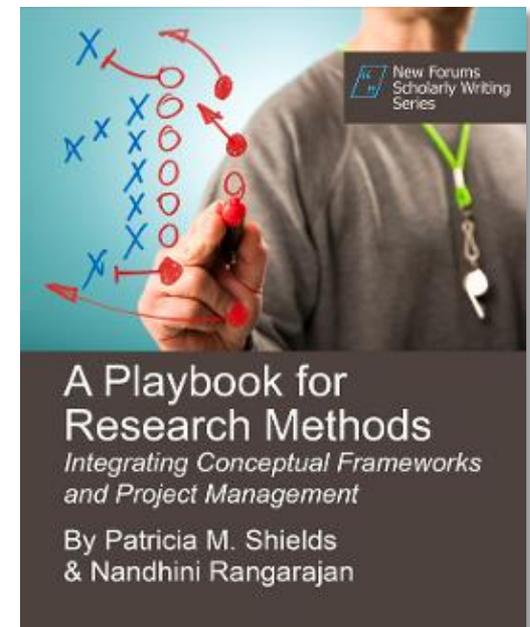# A Research Playbook:
Tools to Manage the Process While Enhancing Coherence and Creativity

Patricia M. Shields, PhD
Professor
Political Science
ps07@txstate.edu

September 17, 2018
4 – 5:30

New Forums Scholarly Writing Series

A Playbook for Research Methods
Integrating Conceptual Frameworks and Project Management

By Patricia M. Shields
& Nandhini Rangarajan

Introductions

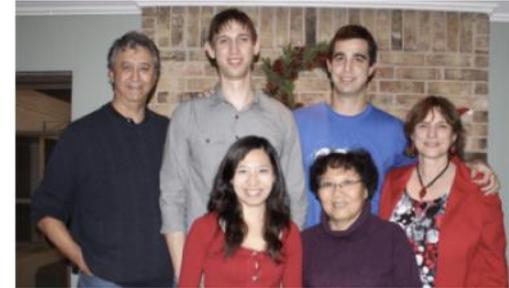
Name
Degree Sought
How far along

Thesis or Dissertation
How far along

Welcome
– Live streaming students too

BA & MA Economics
PhD Public Administration (1977)

- 4 books
- 70 journal articles & book chapters
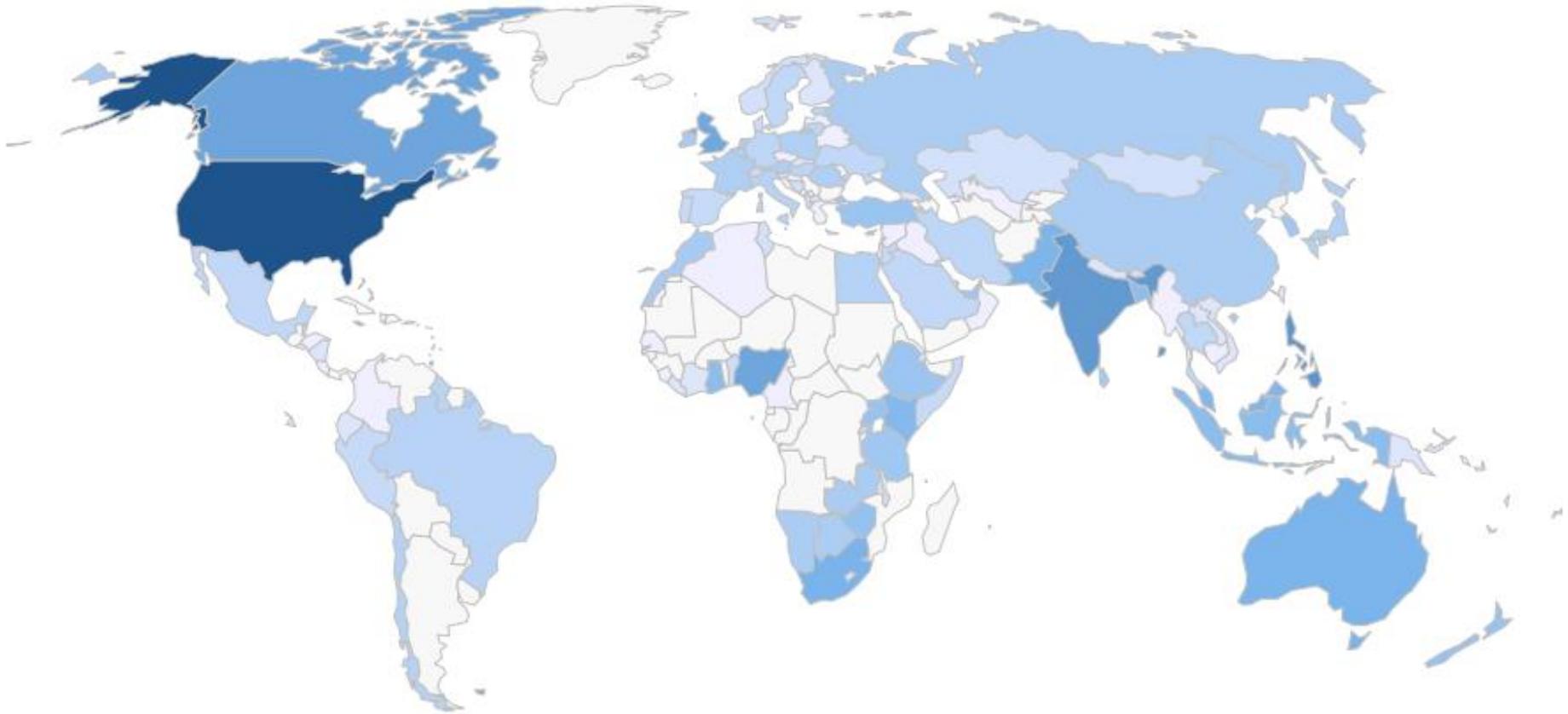
Supervise - Student Research
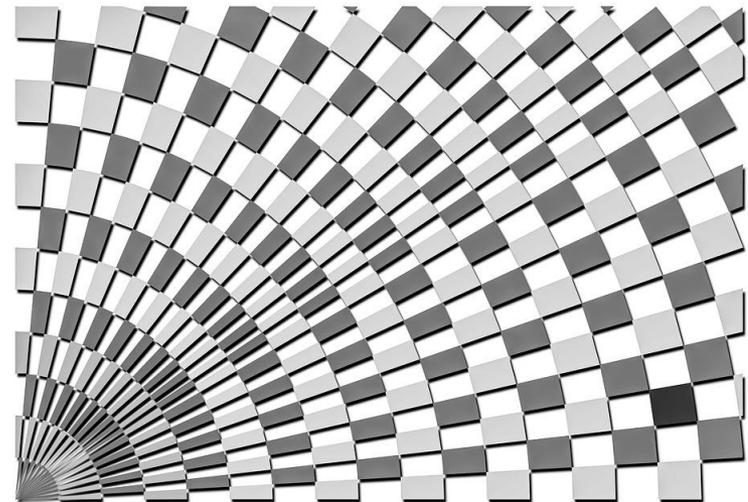
400++ Applied Research Projects
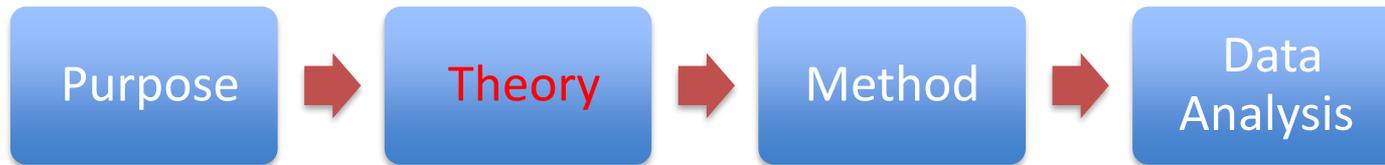
- Award Winning (national, regional)
- Cited (Journals, Books, United Nations Reports, Dissertations, Policy documents)
- Widely Downloaded

Million ++

TEXAS★STATE
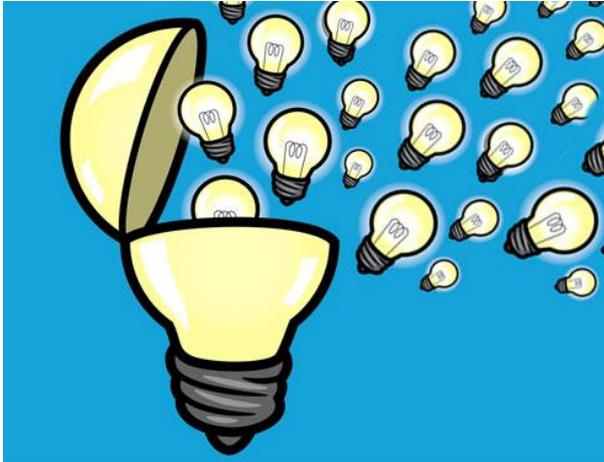UNIVERSITY

Views by Country last thirty days

A Research Playbook:
Tools to Manage the Process While Enhancing
Coherence and Creativity

New or novel ideas

New or novel connections

C – creative - Major breakthroughs

c – creative – Minor breakthroughs

Process filled with light bulb moments

Taxonomy of Cognitive Domain

Remembering	Retrieving, recognizing, recalling
Understanding	Constructing meaning from written communication through interpreting summarizing, inferring
Applying	Using information/ideas in new context
Analyzing	Breaking material into parts and determining how the parts relate (classifying)
Evaluating	Making judgments based on criteria and standards
Creating	Putting elements together to form a **coherent** whole

Path of learning or understanding while doing a paper

Equilibrium with greater complexity

Equilibrium
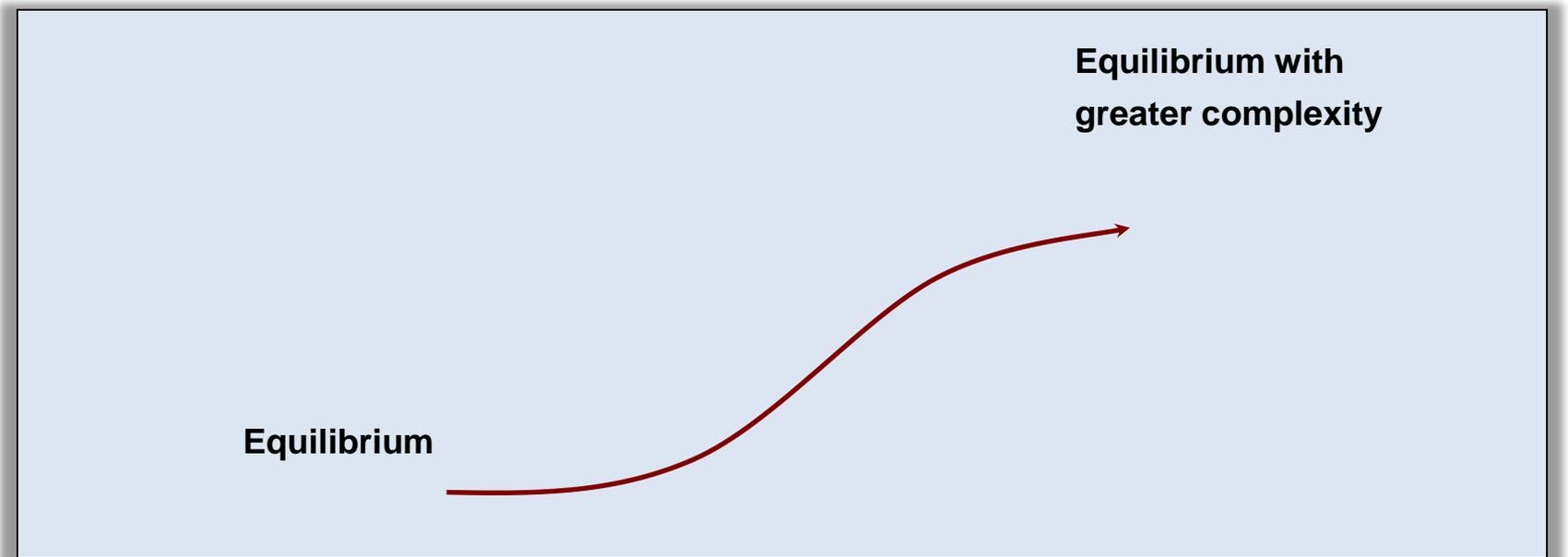
As scholar confronts the unexpected while doing the reading- confusion-doubt

Tools to manage the 'doubt and confusion' stage

Equilibrium with greater complexity

Equilibrium

Tools to bring order to outer world and focus to bring coherence to creative process.
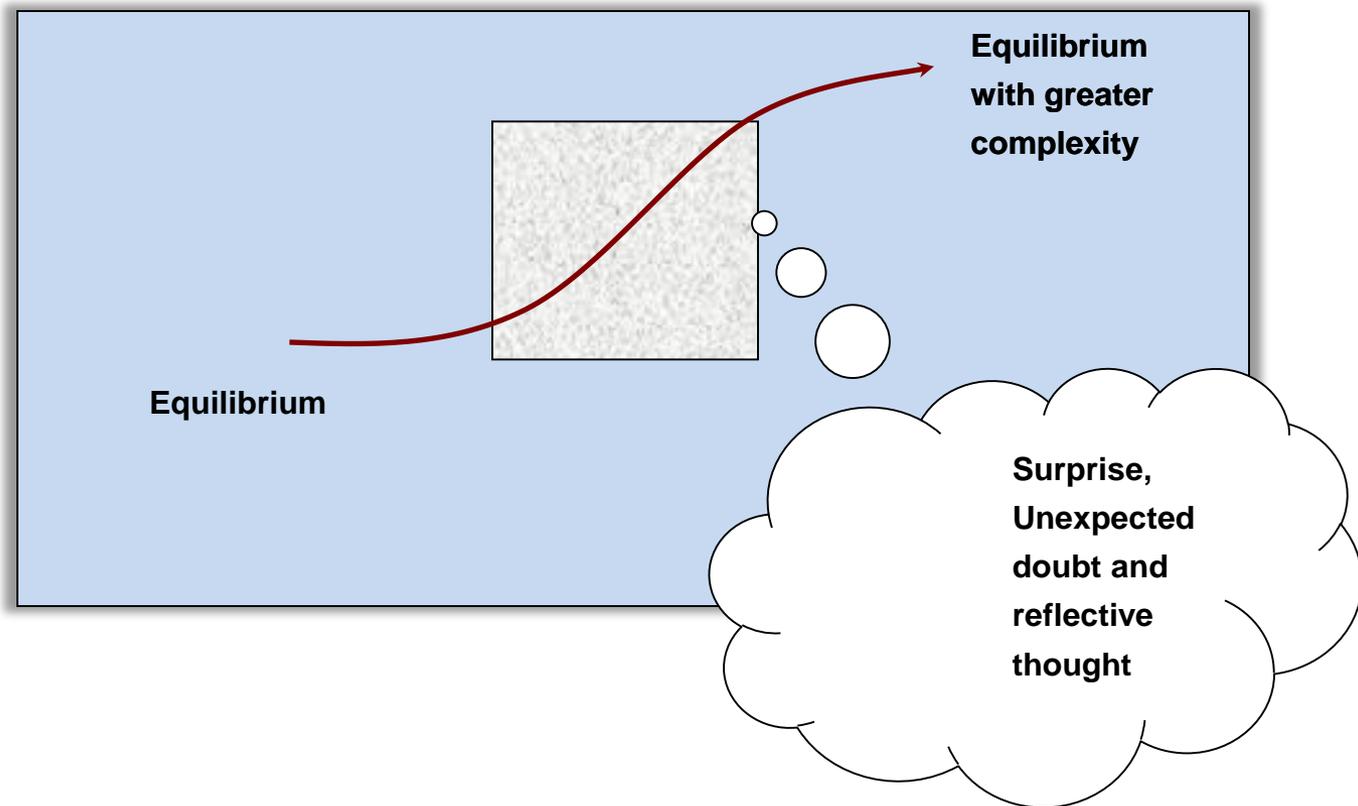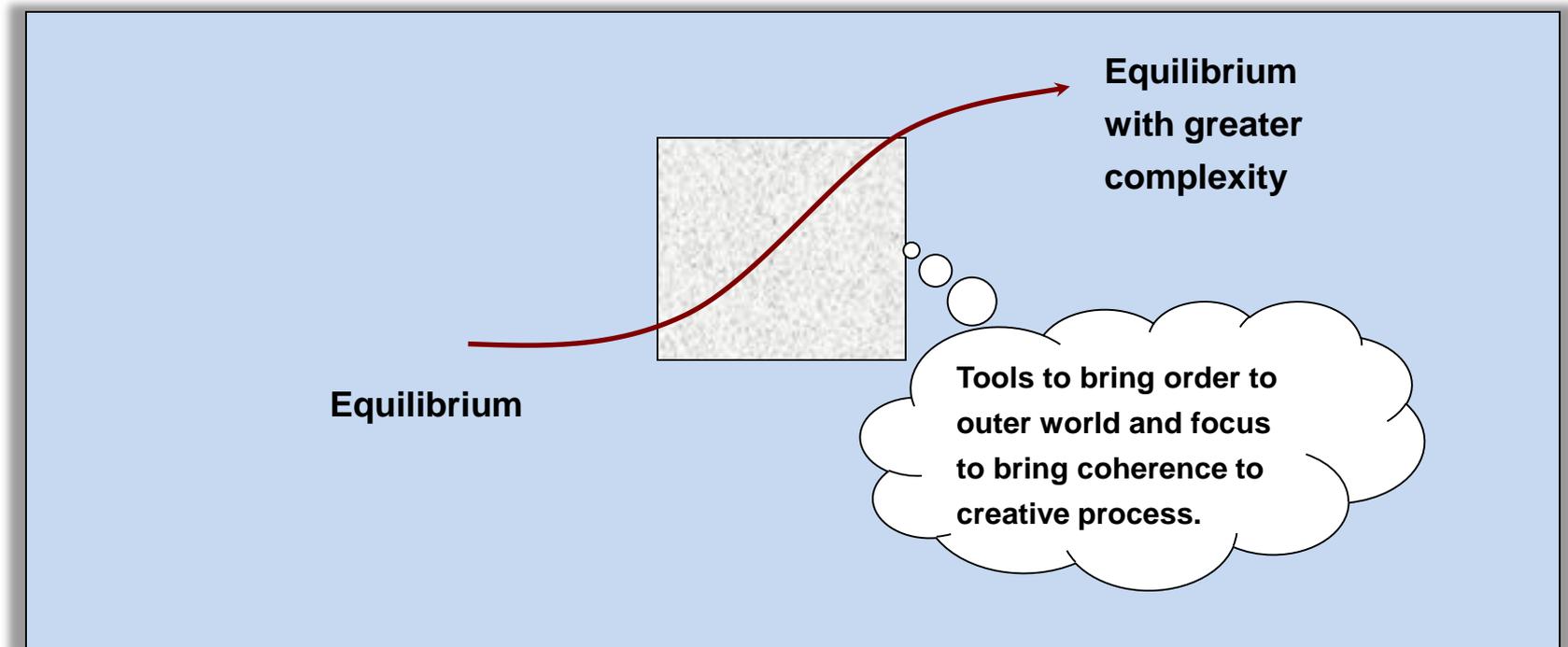
Transformations of Inquiry

Inspiration

Build basic skills
Use tools to complete task

Tools of Scholarly Research

1. Step by Step Notebook

   Project Management

   Time, Materials, Ideas

2. Conceptual Frameworks

   Organize Ideas and Data
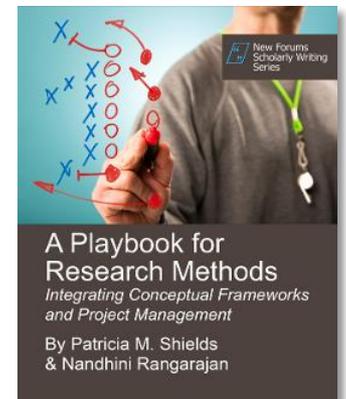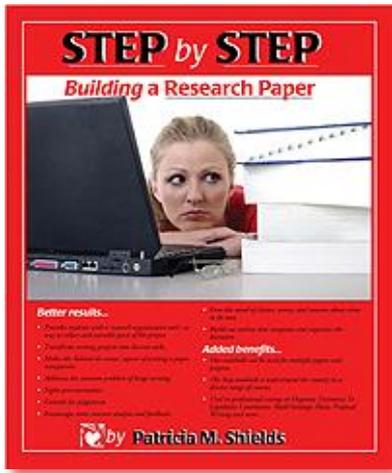
Football Player Students

Notebook -

"Its my Playbook Dr. S"

Aside from project management

Build Skills

1. Reading Comprehension
2. Writing
3. Discipline
4. Organization –time, ideas

Common Problems

- Can't find time to work on it for more than an hour

- After a while I lose my place and forget what I originally wanted to do

Build Skills

Project Management **System**

Organizing
- Materials
- Time
- Ideas

Strategic
2+ steps ahead

Addresses Binge Writing
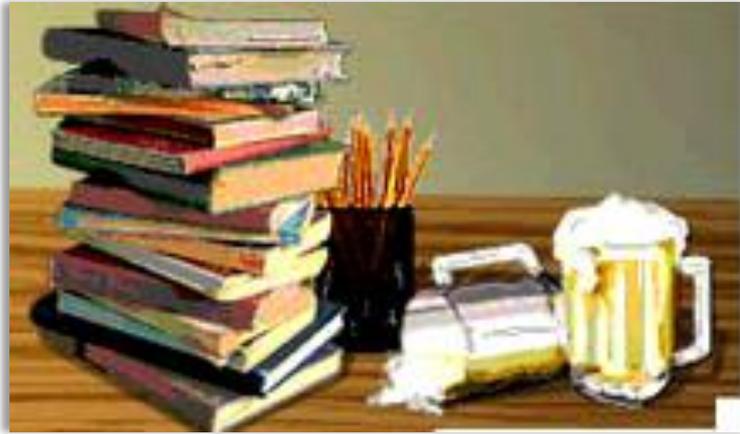
- Common Form of Writer's Block

- Wait till the last minute to do the paper

- Stress, sleeplessness

- Poor quality work

Organizes Materials

Tabs

- Things – to – do
- Notes
- Calendar
- Outline
- Draft
- Sources

Like a Playbook

https://1drv.ms/f/s!AlajKjDNj2KdgSGVyrpahzb2FqDZ
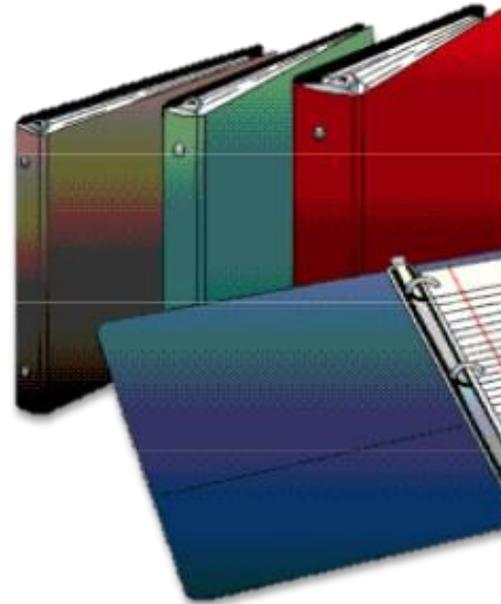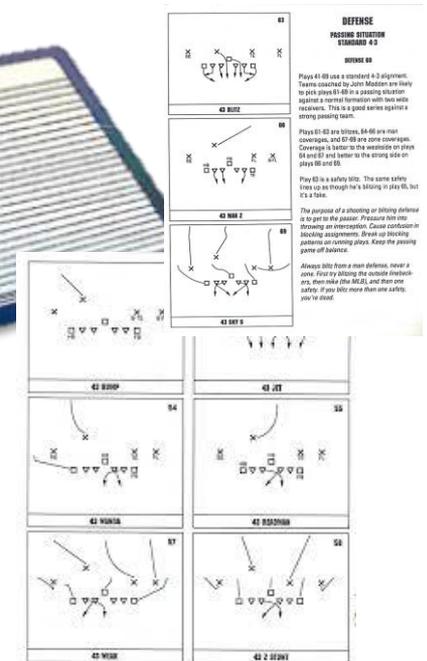
One Note electronic version

Things-To-Do List — Tab

- Project oriented - tasks for paper only
- Breaks the many tasks into small manageable pieces (15 minutes - hour)
- Keeps track of book chapter, articles etc.
- Links to notes
- **Emphasizes scholarly reading**
- Addresses procrastination - easy to return to work after a break

Things-To-Do List Emphasizes Reading and Thinking

Important to read widely.
Important to comprehend deeply.

Ideas for paper come from the literature and thoughts of scholar.

A persons writing ability is constrained by their reading **comprehension**.

It is impossible to write clearly about a subject you do not understand.
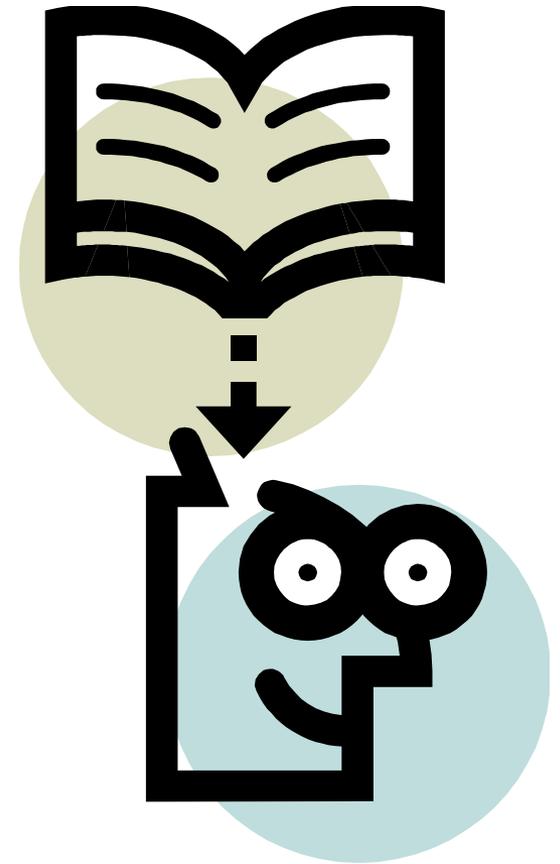
Things-to-do list
reinforces author's name

Date completed	
2/3/04	6. Read **Feaver**
2/10/04	7. Take notes **Feaver**
2/4/04	8. Read **Cottey et al**
2/9/04	9. Take notes **Cottey et al**
2/6/04	10. Read ch.1 Wilson
2/18/04	11. Take notes Ch.1 Wilson
2/6/04	12. Skim Ch2. Wilson
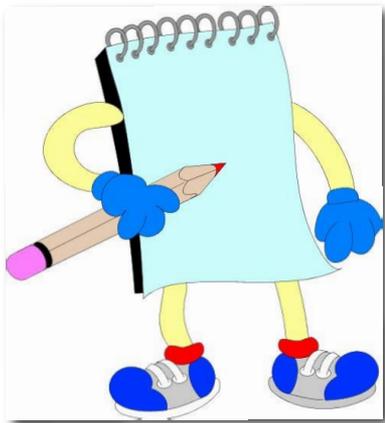
Notes - Tab

- Keep detailed notes in this section.

- Organize alphabetically by last name of author.

- Develops habit of writing.

- Builds reading comprehension.

- Ties directly to the integrated outline.

- **Essential part of process - this is where the student really learns the new material.**

Tips on Note-taking

- Be self-reflective when taking notes.
  - ✓ Do you really understand what the material?
  - ✓ Less you understand the more detailed the notes should be.
  - ✓ Notes can be take on computer or by hand.

- Be sure the author's last name, year and page are on every page of the notes. Strategic!

Think while you take notes
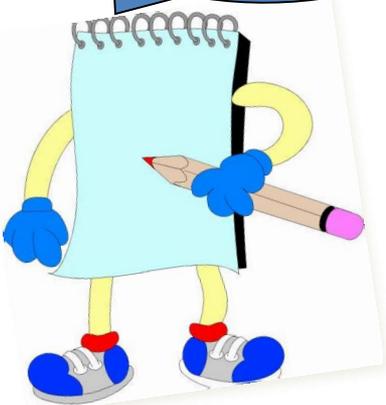
Cottey et al 2002

p. 31

Says too concerned in lit about "threat of praetorian military intervention in domestic policies."

p. 32

Should "reconceptualize in terms of democratic governance of the defense & security sector."

Shifts focus to "the wider problem of the democratic mgt and implementation of defense & security policy."

PART OF BUREAUCRACY - job to implement policy

Organizes Ideas - **Innovation**

Integrated Outline

- Before writing begins the outline incorporates the reading, notes, interviews

- **Entire notebook builds to create the outline**

- **Conceptual Frameworks (p. 85 playbook)**

Outline - Tab

Integrated Outline

- ✓ Outline that incorporates all of the notes.

- ✓ Begin drafting paper after integrated outline is complete

- ✓ Fewer frantic searches.

Integrated Outline example

Armed Forces and
International Security

Global Trends and Issues

Jean Callaghan, Franz Kernic (Eds.)

Lɪᴛ
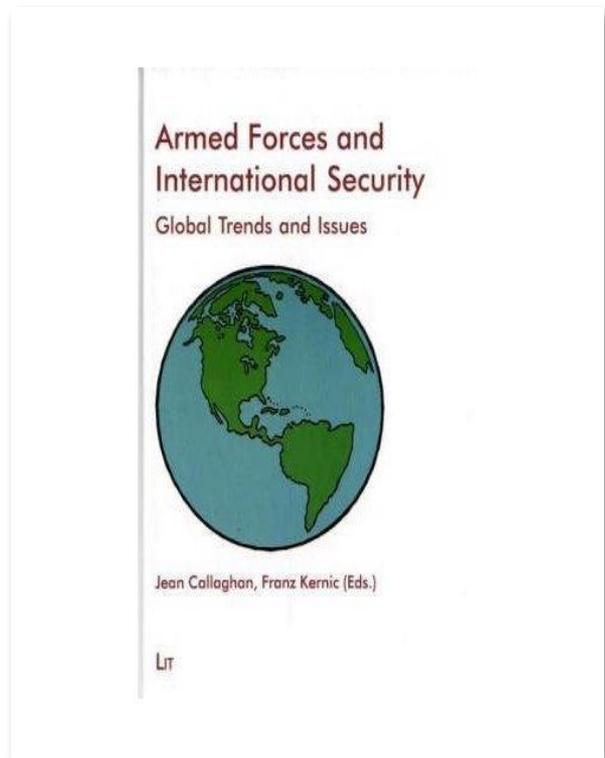
2003

Chapter - The Bureaucracy in Military Sociology (8 -10 pages)

Purpose : "This chapter examines the intersection of military sociology and bureaucracy."

Example - Integrated Outline   Step 1

The Bureaucracy in Military Sociology

I. Intro

    A. Set the stage/Weber ideal

    B. Purpose statement: **This chapter examines the intersection of military sociology and bureaucracy**

       1.   Define mil sociology

       2. Interdisciplinary study bureaucracy

II. Military Bureaucracy

    A.   Unique Definition-War

    B.   Authority

    C.   Leadership decisions

III.   Recent Trends

    A. Bureaucracy and civil-military relations

       1. Mature democracies

       2. Emerging democracies

    B. New Roles

IV. Conclusion

Cottey et al 2002

p. 31

Says too concerned in lit about "threat of praetorian military intervention in domestic policies."

p. 32

Should "reconceptualize in terms of democratic governance of the defense & security sector."

Shifts focus to "the wider problem of the democratic mgt and implementation of defense & security policy."

PART OF BUREAUCRACY - job to implement policy

Integrated Outline Step 2

The Bureaucracy in Military Sociology

I. Intro

    A. Set the stage/Weber ideal (Weber, Merton)

    B. Purpose statement: **This chapter examines the intersection of military sociology and bureaucracy**

        1. Define mil sociology**(Siebold, H-J & Moskos)**

        2. Interdisciplinary study bureaucracy

        Socio-**(Mills)**

        Political Sci **(Allison)**

        Policy science **(Wilson)**

II. Military Bureaucracy

    A.   Unique Definition - War **(Janowitz & Little p.27-28)**

B. Authority (**J&L p.27-28**)

C. Leadership decisions **(Allison)**

III. Recent Trends

    A.   Bur & Civil-military relations

        1.mature democracies **(Feaver)**

        2.emerging democracies **(Cottey et al pp31-32)***

    B.New Roles **(Mora, Parchomenko)**

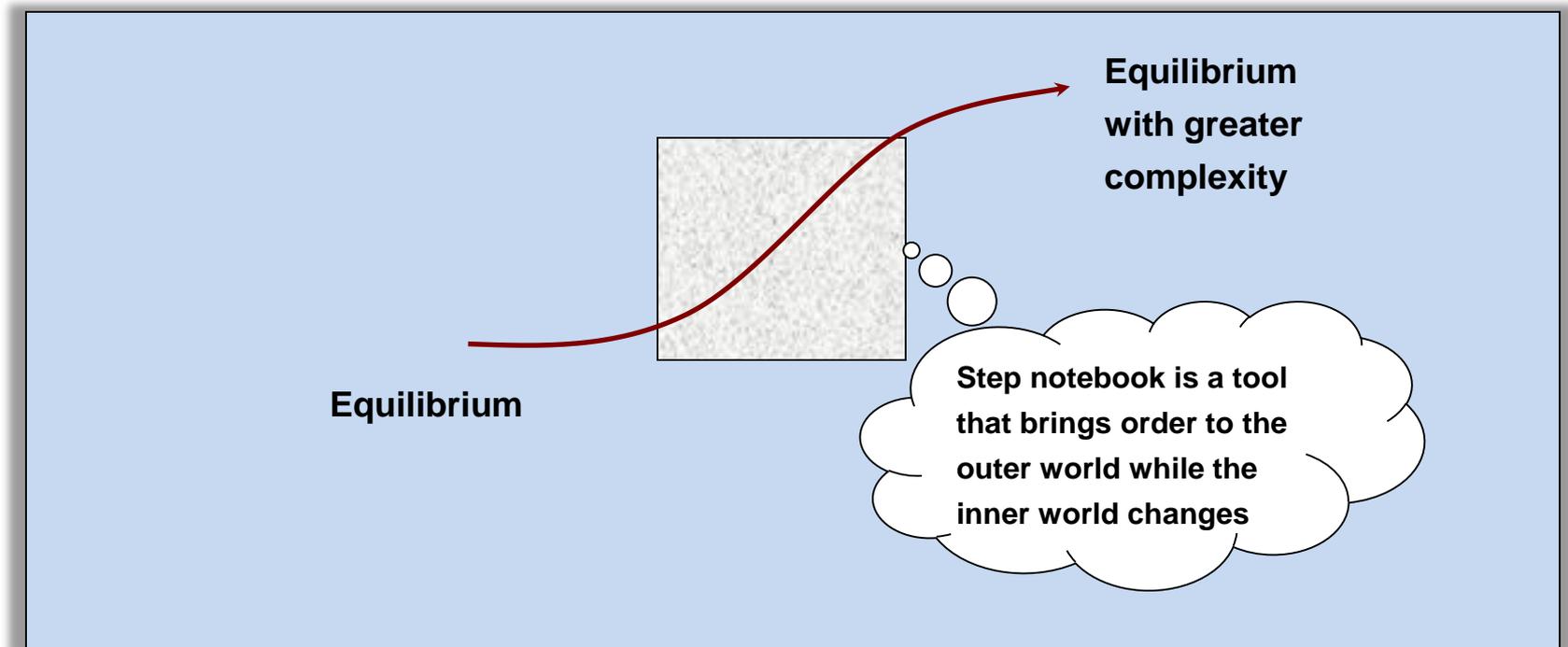**IV. Conclusion**

*Paragraph slide 27 "Example"

Example
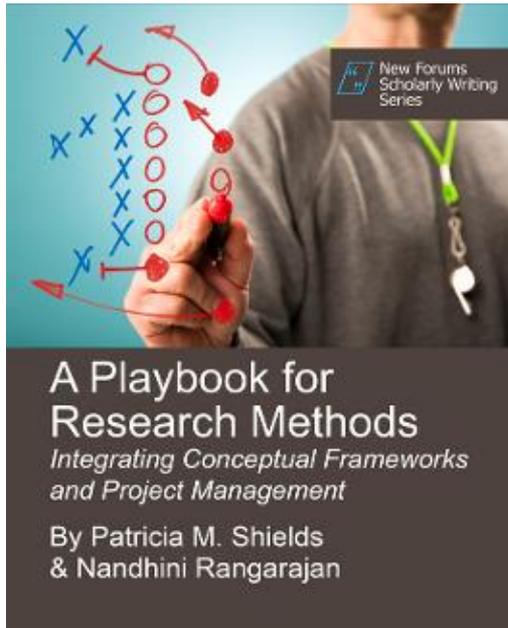## *Paragraph with embedded references*

Cottey et al. (2002) examine civil-military relations in the emerging democracies of post-communist Eastern Europe. Like **Feaver** (1996) they believe there is too much concern in the literature over the "threat of praetorian military intervention in domestic policies" (**Cottey et al. 2002:31**). They call for a reconceptualization of civil-military relations "in terms of the governance of the defense and security sector" and the "wider problem of the democratic management and implementation of defense and security policy" (**Cottey et al. 2002:32**).

Drafts - Tab

- Early drafts are kept here.

- Sculpture example.

- Edit on hard copy and then make the corrections.

- Aesthetic, calm location

Reminder: https://1drv.ms/f/s!AlajKjDNj2KdgSGVyrpahzb2FqDZ

OneNote Electronic Version
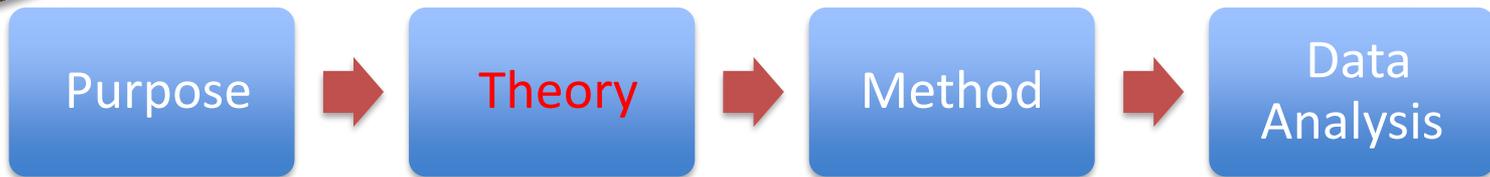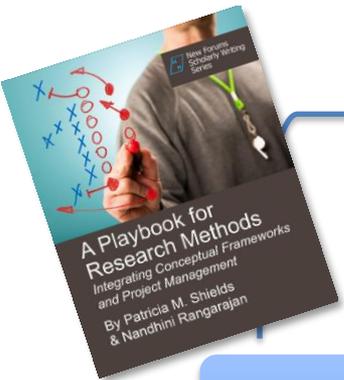
Notebook is a tool to manage the 'doubt and confusion' stage

Transformations of Inquiry

PART II. Conceptual Frameworks

Steps in Research Process

Project to Manage

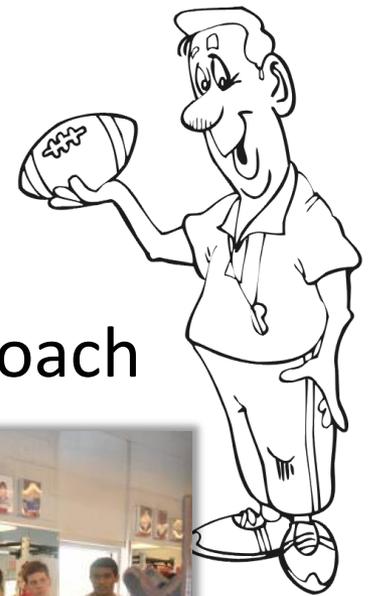Purpose → Theory → Method → Data Analysis

Conceptual Frameworks

Role of Theory
Connections between Steps

Coherence

Football Metaphors
– doing empirical research

Coach

Scout

Play

Training

Astonishment

Why?

STEP by STEP
Building a Research Paper

by Patricia M. Shields
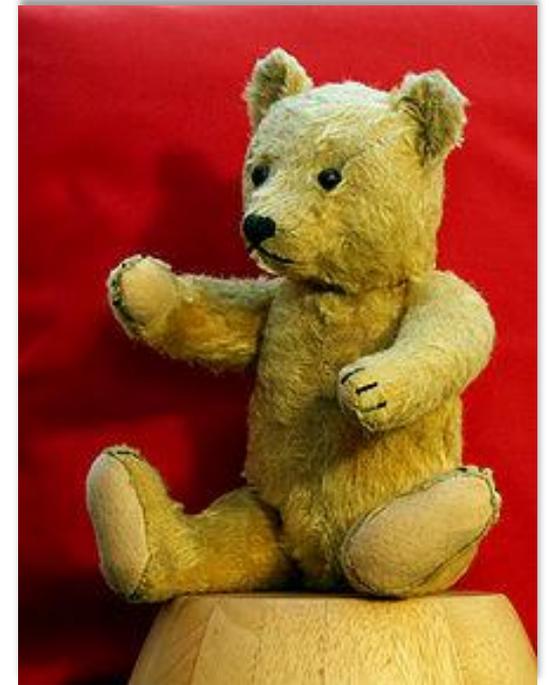
Organizes
- Time
- Materials
- Ideas

In Process Builds:
- Reading skills
- Thinking skills
- Writing skills

What is Theory?

"Theory can be defined as a coherent group of general propositions or as a verified **explanation** accounting for known facts or phenomena (theory of relativity or gravity) Theories are used to **explain** reality or make **predictions**." Johnson, 2010, p. 17
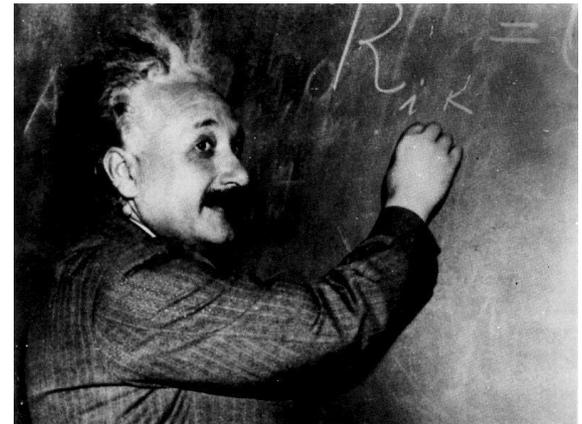
Theory:

summarizes a hypothesis or group of hypotheses that have been supported with repeated testing. A theory is valid as long as there is no evidence to dispute it. Hence, theories can be disproven. If evidence accumulated to support a hypothesis, then the hypothesis can be accepted as a good **explanation** of a phenomenon. **One might say a theory is an accepted hypothesis**.

Steps in Research Process

How do I communicate??

| Purpose | → | Theory/hypotheses | → | Method | → | Data Analysis |
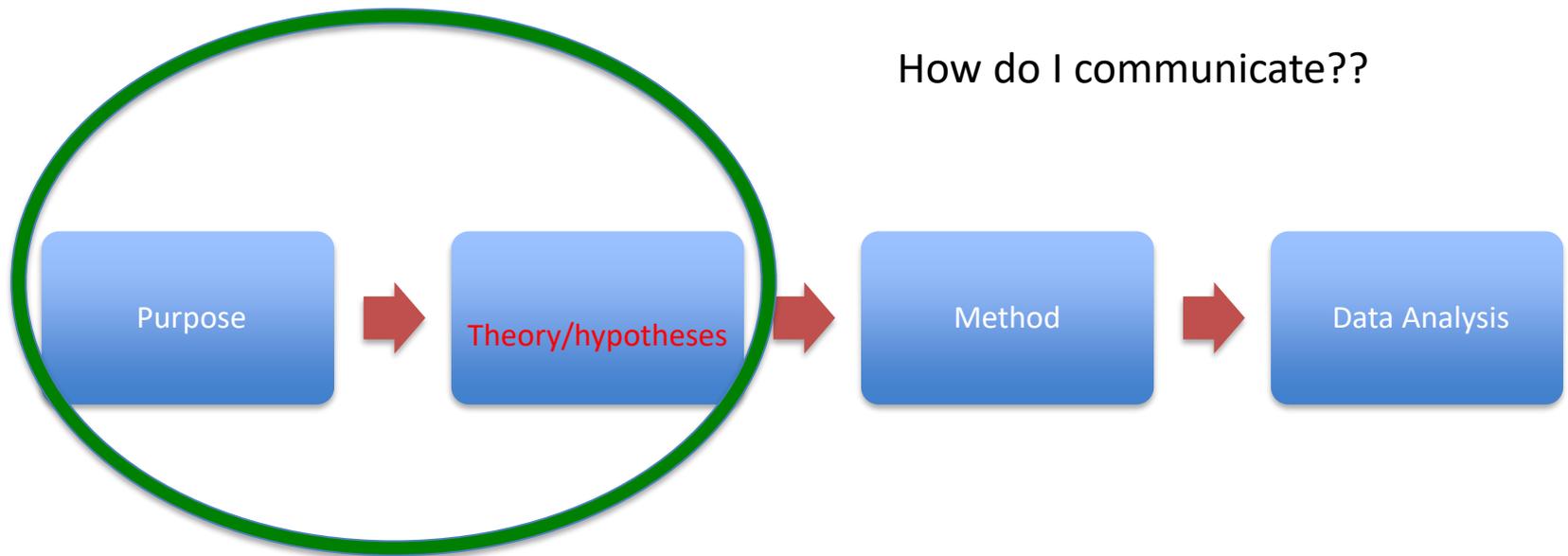
Conceptual Framework

Type of **theory**

Plays are mental images/ideas that organize what players do on the ground in a particular situation
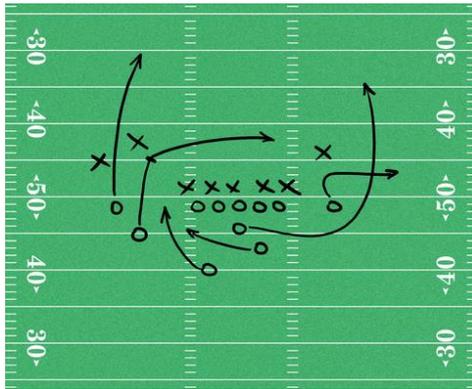
Plays do not make sense without a **purpose**

Plays are a kind of close to the ground Theory
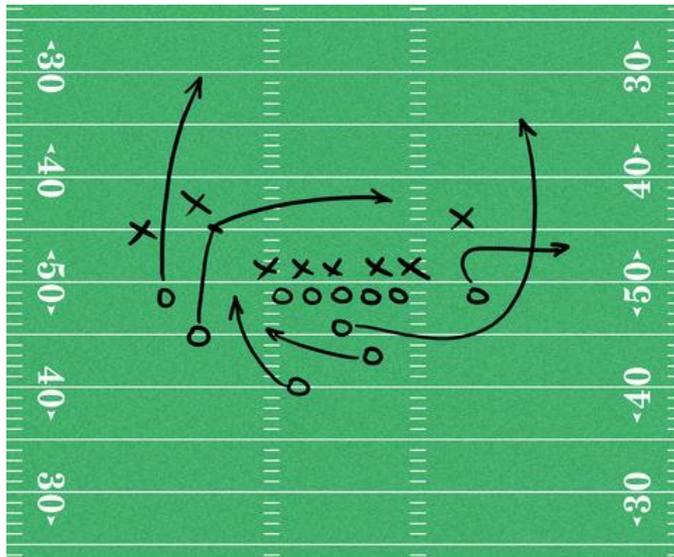
purpose

Long or short yardage

Play

ideas that organize player actions

How men move on ground

Movement of players on ground

Results

Actual yardage gained

Research Process Taking into account Traditional Research notions of Theory

Research Purpose

Explanation

Theory -- Conceptual Framework

Hypotheses

Methodology

Data Collection Techniques

Statistics

Analyzing and organizing data
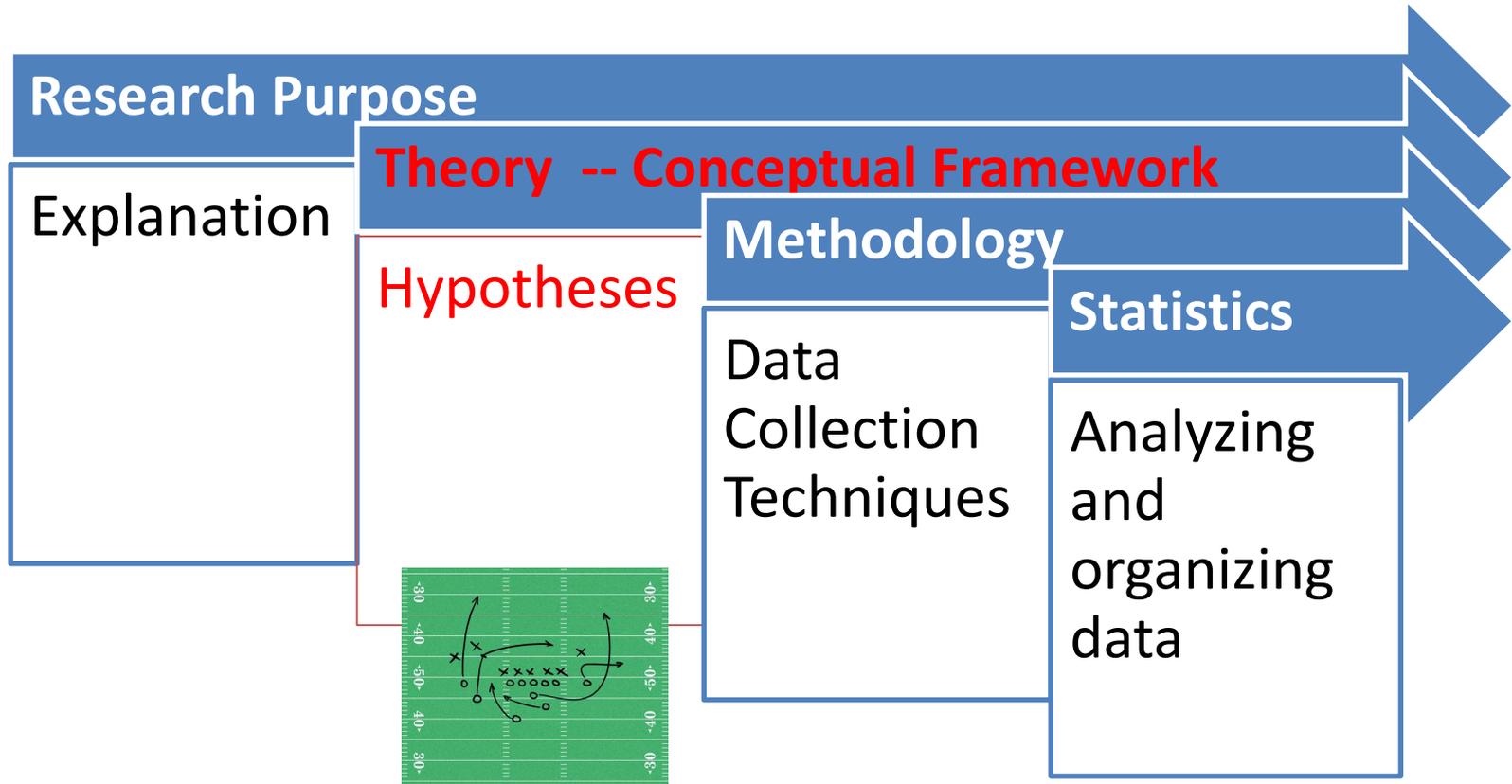
Conceptual framework – close to the data theory

Steps in Research Process

Purpose → Conceptual Framework → Method → Data Analysis
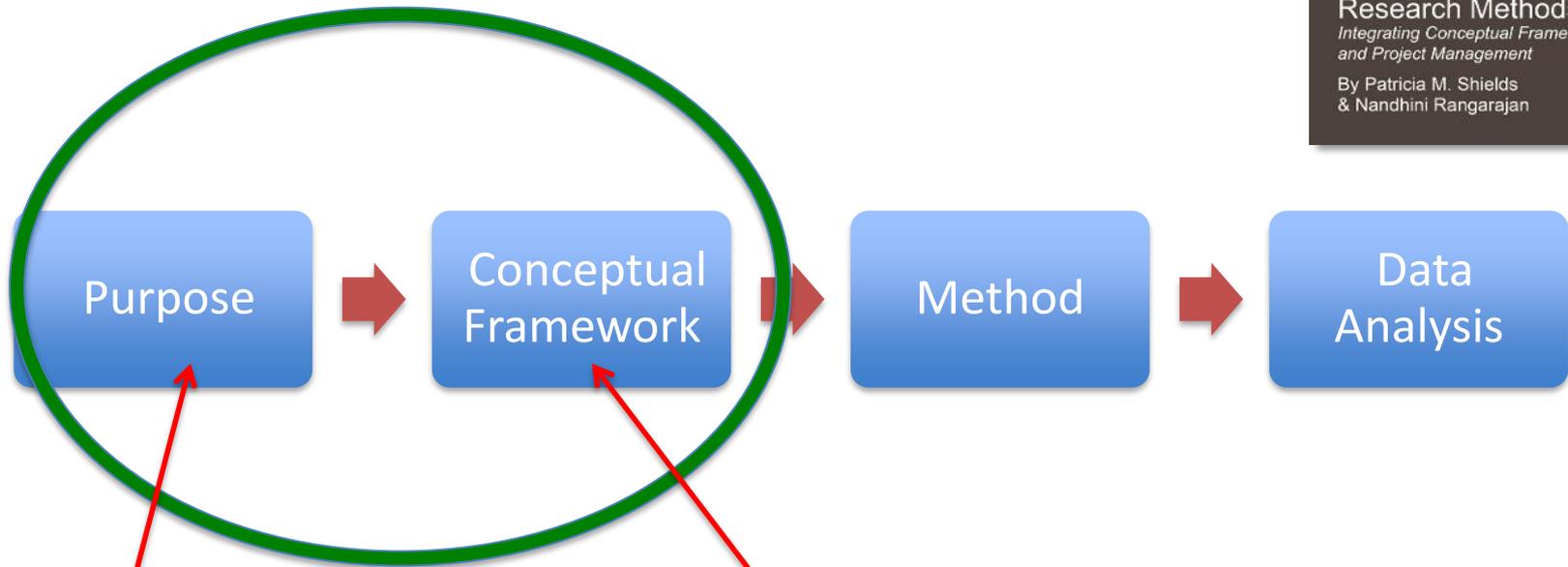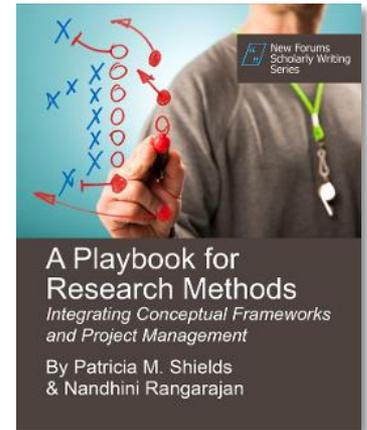
Emphasizes finding crafting research purpose/question

Emphasizes building a Framework – literature review

A Playbook for Research Methods
Integrating Conceptual Frameworks and Project Management

By Patricia M. Shields & Nandhini Rangarajan
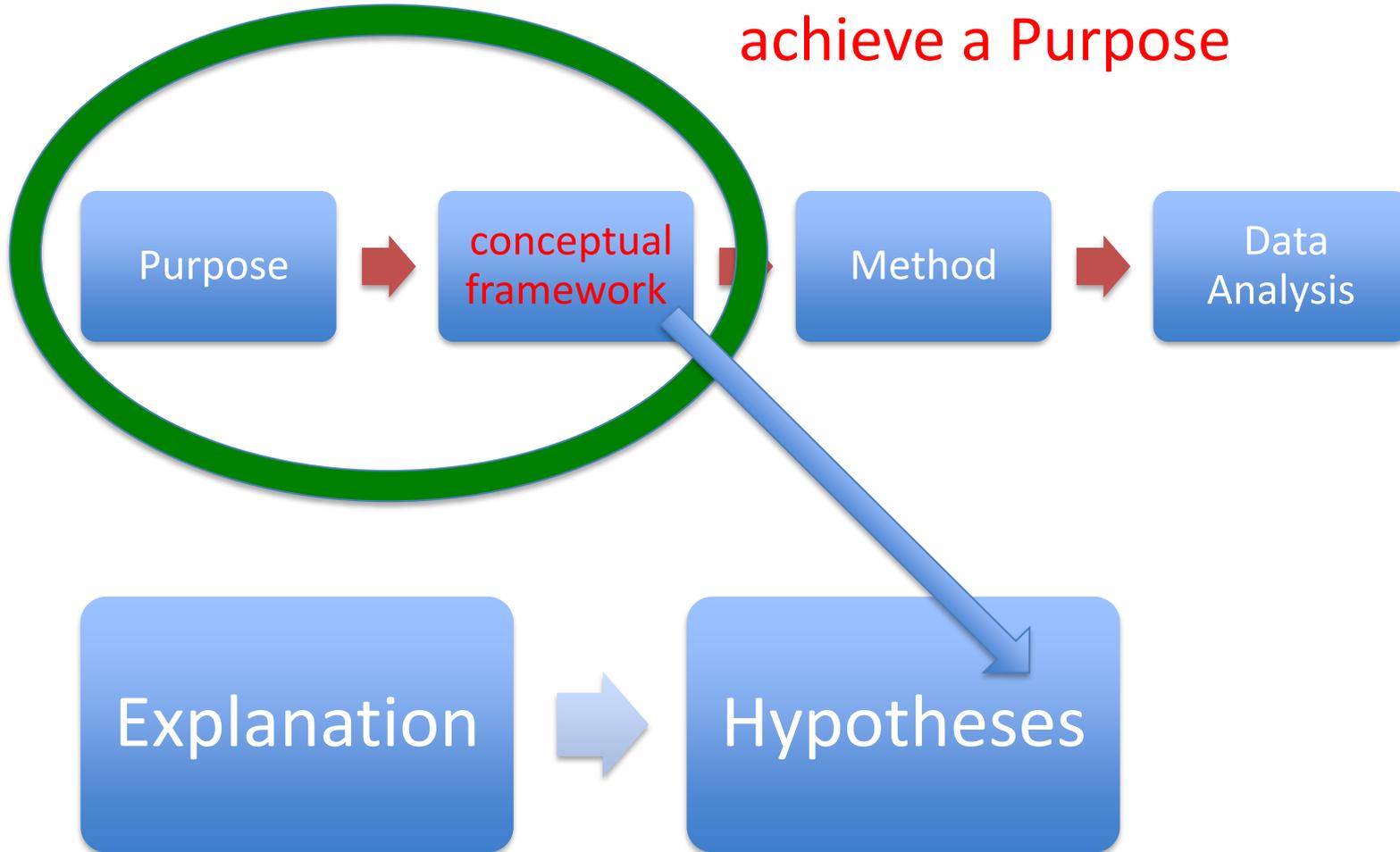
What Explains the level of Wages?

Explanation
What explains wages?

Hypotheses
Education
Intelligence
Job tenure

Theory

Conceptual Framework
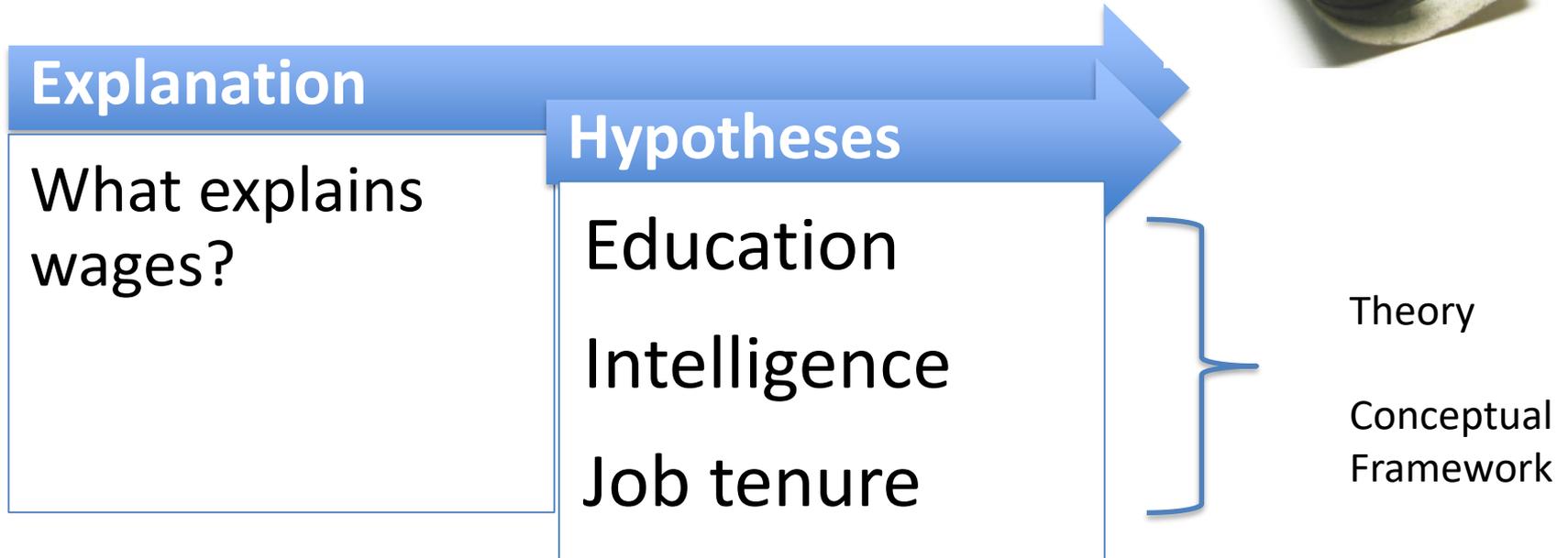
H1: As education increases wages increase

H2: As intelligence increases wages increase

H3: As job tenure increases wages increase

Explanation	Hypotheses	Method
What explains wages	Education Intelligence Tenure	Operationalize variables Survey

RESTATE HYPOTHESES

Dependent variable – Wages (Hourly rate of pay $)

Independent variables Education (years of school completed) H1
Intelligence (IQ score) H2
Tenure (months on the job) H3

Purpose

Explanation
(what explains wages)

Hypotheses

1: education
2: Intelligence
3: tenure

Method

Operationalize variables

survey

Statistics

Statistics used to test H1; H2; H3 (Regression; Correlation..)
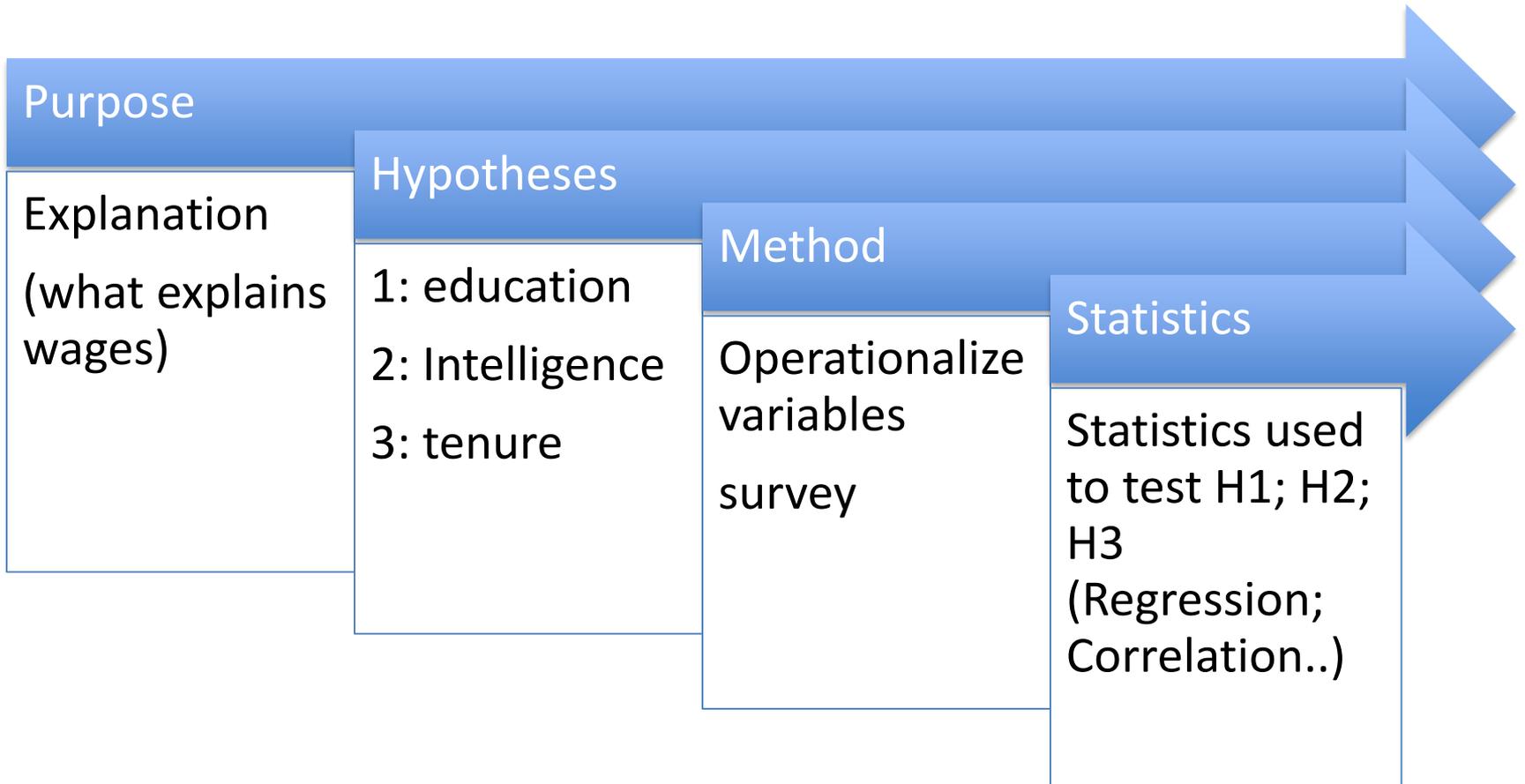
There can be many types of purposes -- and Frameworks

Many Plays
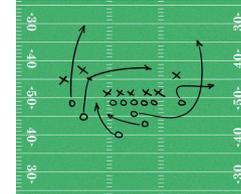
Purposes

Explanation

Description

Exploration

Decision making

Gauging

Conceptual Frameworks

Hypotheses

Categories

Working Hypotheses

Models of operations research

Practical Ideal Type

Purpose	Conceptual framework	Method	Data Analysis
Explanation	Hypotheses	**Quantitative** Survey Existing data Experimental design	Multivariate **statistics** Regression, t-tests, correlation, ...
Description	Categories	Survey (**Quantitative**) Content Analysis	Descriptive **Statistics** Mean, median, mode
Exploration	Working Hypotheses	**Mostly Qualitative** Case study, interviews, focus groups, direct observation...	**Evidence** analyzed by working Hypotheses
Gauging	Practical ideal type	**Mostly Qualitative** Case study, interviews, focus groups, direct observation...	**Evidence** analyzed by criteria of practical ideal type
Decision Making	Models of operations research	Cost benefit analysis, cost effectiveness analysis, linear programing	Depends on the technique used

Purpose	Conceptual framework	Method	Data Analysis
Explanation	Hypotheses	Survey Existing data Experimental design	Multivariate statistics Regression, t-tests, correlation, …
Description	Categories	Survey Content Analysis	Descriptive Statistics Mean, median, mode
Exploration	Working Hypotheses	Mostly Qualitative Case study, interviews, focus groups, direct observation…	Anything goes Evidence analyzed by working Hypotheses
Decision Making	Models of operations research	Cost benefit analysis, cost effectiveness analysis, linear programing …….	Depends on the technique used
Gauging	Practical ideal type	Mostly Qualitative Case study, interviews, focus groups, direct observation…	Evidence analyzed by practical ideal type category
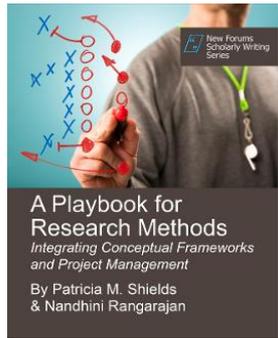
Traditional Methods Texts

A Playbook for Research Methods
Integrating Conceptual Frameworks and Project Management
By Patricia M. Shields & Nandhini Rangarajan

New Forums Scholarly Writing Series

Conceptual Framework Table

Links framework to Literature

Operationalization Table

Links framework to modes of data collection

Handouts

What explains home fires?

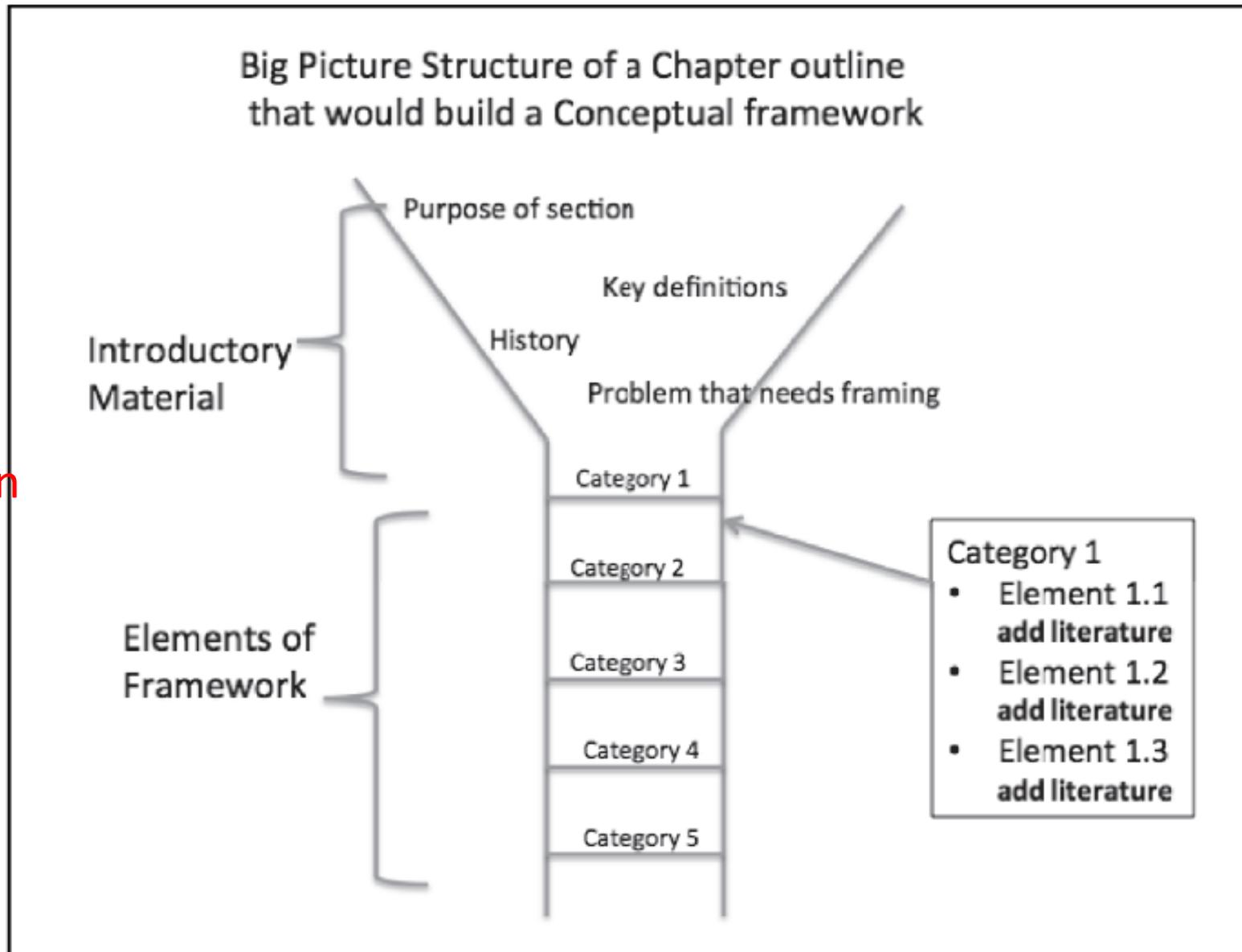## College graduates attitudes Toward high stakes testing.

Explanatory Research -- Studies with Findings

Table 7.1 Factors Explaining Residential Fire across Eight Studies (Huang 2009, p. 26)

Study	Year	Dependent variable — Residential fire Rate	Independent Variables that achieved statistical significance used in studies on residential fire*														
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Schaenman et al	1977	Intra-city	+	-	+												
Karter & Donner	1978	Intra-city	+			-	+	-	+								
Donnell	1980	Intra-city	+						+								
Munson & Oats	1977	Intra and inter-city	+				+	-		-	+	+	-	+			
Gunther	1981	Intra-city								-				+			
Fenner	1990	Intra-city	+				+										
Goetz	1991	Intra-city							+	-		+		-			
Jennings	1996	Intra-city		-					+	-							+

*Independent variable codes 1= Poverty rate; 2= Parental presence; 3= Under-Education; 4=Family Stability; 5= Crowdedness; 6= percent owner; 7= Vacancy Rate; 8 = Income; 9 = Unemployment rate' 10 = Percent of non-white; 11 = Housing Conditions; 12 = Temperature; 13 = Property Value; 14 = Age of Structure; 15 = Population under age 5

Figure 7.4 The Shape of an outline incorporating the Conceptual Framework

Big Picture Structure of a Chapter outline that would build a Conceptual framework

Purpose of section

Key definitions

History

Introductory Material

Problem that needs framing

Category 1

Elements of Framework

Category 2

Category 3

Category 4

Category 5

Category 1
- Element 1.1 **add literature**
- Element 1.2 **add literature**
- Element 1.3 **add literature**
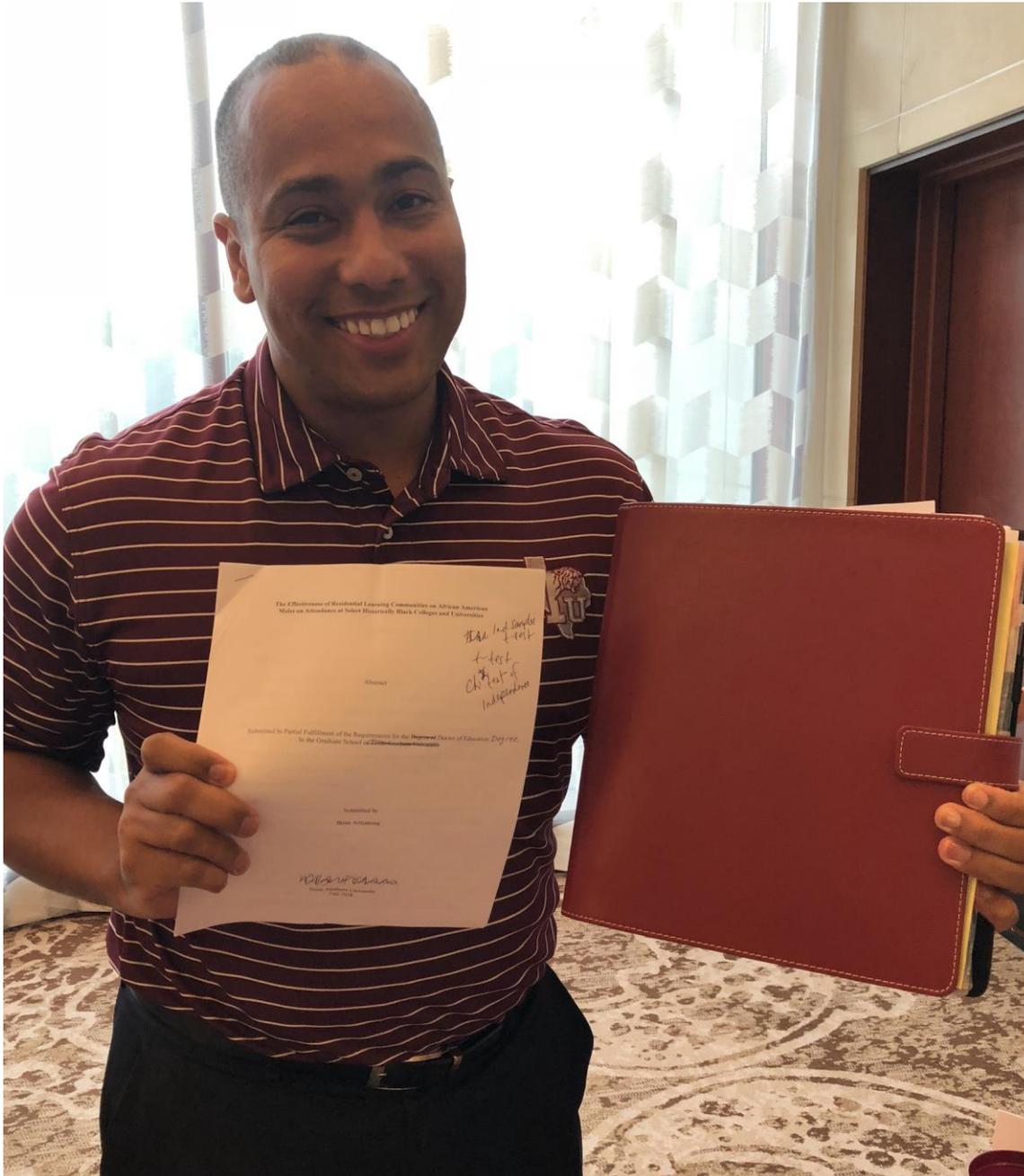
Featherston Handout

p. 85

Where do Conceptual Frameworks come from??

- Literature Review Chapter

  Project Management skills

- Creativity Chapter

  Like coach that **creates** Plays

New Forums Scholarly Writing Series

Former Student

Brought his notebook
To event.

Work on paper during
Down time.

September 2018

John Dewey

William James

Classical Pragmatism as intellectual source for workshop
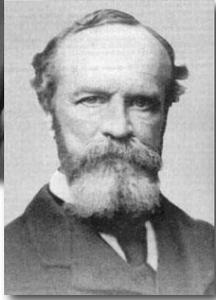
Dewey, John. 1910. *How We Think*. New York: D.C. Heath Co.

Dewey, John. 1938. *Logic: the Theory of Inquiry*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

James, William. 1907. *Pragmatism: A New Name for an Old Way of Thinking*. New Your: Longmans.

Kaplan, Abraham. 1964. *The Conduct of Inquiry: Methodology for Behavioral Science*. Scranton, PA: Chandler Publishing.

Emphasis on Tools of Inquiry

A Playbook for Research Methods
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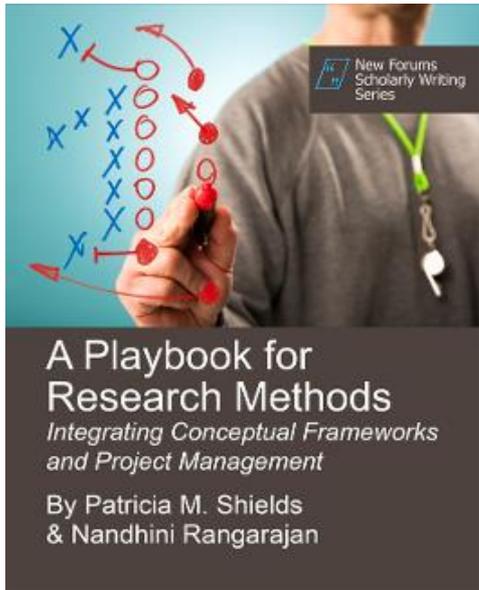
Drawing

Questions????

Bibliography

Bloom B. S. 1956. *Taxonomy of Educational Objectives, Handbook I: The Cognitive Domain.* New York: David McKay Co Inc.

Gray, T. 1998. *"Your Students can too Write - And You Can Show Them How." Journal of Criminal Justice Education.* 9: 131-153

Shields, Patricia M. 2006. *Step by Step: Building a Research Paper.* Stillwater OK: New Forums Press.

Useful Web Sites

- Provides guidelines for writing a prospectus that use conceptual framework table and operationalization table.
  http://uweb.txstate.edu/%7Eps07/documents/prosdirect.pdf

- Examples of prospectus organized by type of conceptual framework
  http://uweb.txstate.edu/%7Eps07/documents/proexam.pdf

- Syllabus of class that gets students ready to write their Applied Research Project
  POSI 5335 Problems in Research Methodology
  http://uweb.txstate.edu/~ps07/documents/sy35fa99.pdf

- Syllabus of class where students write their Applied Research Project
  POSI 5397 Applied Research Project http://uweb.txstate.edu/~ps07/documents/sy97fa99.pdf

- 480 + Texas State student papers http://ecommons.txstate.edu/arp/

- Shields Home Page http://uweb.txstate.edu/~ps07/

Classical Pragmatism Sources

Shields, Patricia M. 2008. Rediscovering the Taproot: Is Classical Pragmatism the Route to Renew Public Administration. *Public Administration Review*. (68)2: 205-221.

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