**Research paradigms**

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| Research Paradigm | Description | Ontology | Epistemology | Methodology |
| Positivism/post positivism | Often referred to as experimental, quasi-experimental, correlational, causal comparative, quantitative types of research. | One reality; knowable within probability. | Objectivity is important; researcher manipulates and observes in dispassionate, objective manner. | Quantitative (primarily), interventionist, decontextualized. |
| Interpretive/Constructivist | often referred to as naturalistic, phenomenological, hermeneutic, symbolic interaction, ethnographic, qualitative | Multiple, socially constructed realities | Interactive link between the researcher and participants, values are made explicit, created findings | Qualitative (primarily), hermeneutical, dialectical, contextual factors are described |
| Emancipatory | often referred to as naturalistic, phenomenological, hermeneutic, symbolic interaction, ethnographic, qualitative | Multiple realities shaped by social, political, and cultural, economic, ethnic, gender, and disability values | Interactive link between researcher and participants, knowledge is socially and historically situated | More emphasis on qualitative (dialogic) by quantitative design could be used; contextual and historical factors are described, especially as they relate to oppression |